



THE
LUTHERAN
WORLD
FEDERATION

Department for Theology
Mission and Justice

Call for Input – COP30 Presidency Roadmap for Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels in a Just, Orderly and Equitable Manner

Written contribution submitted by The Lutheran World Federation

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The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) appreciate the opportunity to provide views to the COP 30 Presidency Roadmap on the Transition Away from Fossil Fuels in a Just, Orderly and Equitable Manner. This is crucial for achieving the deep, rapid and sustainable reductions in greenhouse gas emissions required to keep global warming to 1.5°C.

The LWF is a global communion of 154 Lutheran churches, representing more than 78 million Christians in 99 countries. Bringing together churches from diverse backgrounds and contexts, the LWF fosters unity, cooperation, and mutual learning.

The LWF affirms the urgent need to address the climate crisis. Since 1977, it has issued substantive statements on climate justice and developed resources that promote faithful care for creation. In 2015, the LWF took a significant step by announcing its commitment to fossil fuel divestment.

For decades, the LWF has been actively engaged in climate, environmental, and ecological justice. Holding consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) since 1952, and for more than ten years participating in the processes of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) as an observer, the LWF contributes to climate negotiations and related policy discussions. Climate justice, advocacy and policy engagement remain key priorities within the LWF Strategy, reflecting its ongoing commitment to protecting both people and the planet.

This submission draws on evidence gather for the publication on [Just Transition: Views from Faith-Based Communities](#)¹

Critical barriers preventing a transition away from fossil fuels

The transitioning away from fossil fuels is primarily hindered by structural global inequalities and the continued prioritization of profit-centered capitalism. Key barriers included:

- Reluctance of historically high greenhouse gases emitting countries to take responsibility for this legacy.
- Lack of accountability and transparency in the planning, implementation, and outcomes of transition-related projects such as wind or solar farms and critical mineral extraction. These initiatives are often primarily profit-driven rather than by the needs and rights of vulnerable communities.

¹ Also available in Spanish https://franciscansinternational.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/Just_Transition_ESP.pdf

- Mechanisms for meaningful participation of affected groups are often weak or absent leading to their exclusion from decision-making processes.
- The "fossilized knowledge system," characterized by the fossil fuel industry's influence on research, policy, and media, acts as a barrier to alternative paradigms
- The focus is on technical solutions, overlooking local contexts and realities, as well as ethical dimensions. This narrow approach risks exacerbating existing injustices and systemic inequalities, particularly for women, young people, Indigenous peoples, and other marginalised groups, by preventing them from contributing to the transition process.
- Focus on unethical, and false solutions that relies on unproven technologies is seen as a barrier to addressing the root causes of the climate crisis and reinforces power imbalances by enabling wealthy countries to continue polluting.

Potential Levers for Acceleration (economic, financial, institutional, social or technological)

Economic & Financial Levers

- Elimination of fossil fuel subsidies, through a deliberate, participatory, transparent and just approach. Redirecting these subsidies toward climate finance and social welfare initiatives can help mitigate adverse impacts on vulnerable populations and accelerate the shift to renewable energy.
- Financial justice support debt restructuring and, where appropriate, debt cancellation to create fiscal space for climate action and essential social investments. These measures can enable affected countries to strengthen resilience without deepening existing inequalities. At the same time, progressive taxation implemented both domestically and through multilateral frameworks should be implemented to ensure that major polluters contribute proportionately to the cost of climate mitigation. The "polluter pays" principle reinforces accountability and redistributes resources toward those most affected.

Institutional & Social Levers:

- Democratizing production and access to renewable energy: promoting decentralized, community-owned renewable energy models to reduce energy poverty and empower historically marginalized groups.
- Implementing robust accountability frameworks for the private sector and public sector, mandating human rights and environmental due diligence across transnational supply chains.

Technological & Knowledge Levers

- Amplifying Indigenous wisdom, gender transformative perspectives, and youth-led innovation that can challenge extractive paradigms and promote alternatives and foster climate justice.
- Locally driven solutions that foster ownership, promote equity and inclusion, and are supported by adequate financial resources, appropriate technologies, and capacity building can make a real difference. This approach not only help to deliver tangible social and economic benefits but also protect of livelihoods and strengthening of community resilience. Within this broader framework, nature-based solutions (NBS) can play an important role as sustainable and effective approaches to reducing emissions, enhancing resilience, and restoring ecosystems.

Roadmap Experiences and Best Practices

The following are vital as a best practice when preparing and implementing a Roadmap for Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels in a Just, Orderly and Equitable Manner:

- Adopting Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) as a non-negotiable standard for any project affecting Indigenous lands and territories, ensuring that affected communities have decision-making power over transition processes is a vital best practice.
- Engaging communities early and continuously, from policy design to implementation, and establishing clear mechanisms for accountability

- Investing in capacity building and climate education to enable communities to co-design transition pathways that reflect their needs, knowledge and aspirations.
- Ensuring that the sourcing of critical minerals and materials for renewable energy systems does not replicate extractive models that cause displacement, environmental harm, or conflict, particularly in Indigenous and resource-rich regions.
- Establishing a robust monitoring, reporting and accountability mechanisms to ensure transparency in planning, financing and outcomes, and to prevent exclusionary or profit-driven practices.
- Prioritizing policies that promote decent work, reduce inequalities, and provide targeted support for workers and communities disproportionately affected by climate change and the phase-out of carbon-intensive sectors.
- Integrating intergenerational equity and long-term perspectives into decision-making processes to ensure that today's actions safeguard the rights, well-being, and opportunities of future generations.

Ensuring a Just and Equitable Transition

To reflect the diverse realities of different countries and stages of development, a transition must be systemic and inclusive shift from a high-carbon, environmentally damaging economy to a low-carbon and sustainable one. It implies a real transformation of our economies and societies based on justice and equity for all. It can be achieved by:

- Protect the human rights and dignity of all people, ensuring that the voices of the most vulnerable are heard, and guaranteeing meaningful participation in decision-making processes.
- Promote decent work and reduce inequalities by creating fair employment opportunities while addressing poverty and social disparities.
- Aim to create decent work opportunities while reducing inequalities and poverty.
- Ensure that no one is left behind, prioritizing support for the most vulnerable workers, women, Indigenous Peoples, and those disproportionately affected by climate change.
- Embrace integral ecology, recognize and respect the interconnectedness of all creatures, and acknowledge the rights of nature.
- Adopt a decolonized approach and be deeply rooted in local wisdom, spirituality, and Indigenous knowledge systems.

For further information and clarifications, please contact Elena Cedillo Vargas – Program Executive for Climate Justice at Elena.Cedillo@lutheranworld.org