

Submission to the COP30 Presidency Roadmap on Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels

Introduction

At COP28 in 2023, Parties adopted the GST decision calling on all countries to “*transition away from fossil fuels in energy systems in a just, orderly and equitable manner, accelerating action in this critical decade, so as to achieve net zero by 2050*”. Delivering on this political commitment will require **translating global pathways into implementation of national policies that enable whole-economy transitions** away from fossil fuel-based economic systems and towards clean energy. It will also require international cooperation frameworks to manage volatility in the transition, protecting communities from economic disruption while ensuring all countries can access the economic growth, security, and industrial benefits of affordable, resilient clean energy.

In this context, **the primary objective of the COP30 Roadmap process** should be to operationalise implementation of the GST commitment in a way that is country-led and inclusive, Paris-aligned, and furthers international cooperation frameworks, recognising that many of the challenges countries face in planning and implementing transitions away from fossil fuels are inherently systemic, interconnected, and linked to global markets. This means the Roadmap should address not only energy system transformation, but also the macroeconomic and geopolitical dynamics shaping the options countries have in their transitions. At its core the **Roadmap should show that the transition away from fossil fuel dependence is firmly within countries’ own interests** for economic growth, resilience, security and affordability.

At the highest level, **the COP30 Roadmap should explicitly outline a science-led direction of travel** for the global transition away from fossil fuels. According to the IEA Net Zero pathway for limiting warming to 1.5°C, global production and consumption of coal, oil and gas must reduce steeply by 92%, 77% and 80%, respectively, by 2050¹. The Roadmap should outline solutions and pathways consistent with this global trajectory and identify overall global benchmarks for progress in 2035, 2040, 2045 and 2050, while recognising that how these global benchmarks are implemented into national policies must remain country-led and responsive to national circumstances, capacities and development needs, in line with an equitable global transition.

Finally, an essential part of developing the Roadmap **should be to ensure it has a forward path for implementation beyond COP31 and to inform the next Global Stocktake**. The Roadmap report alone will not be able to deliver the necessary implementation, but it can and should recommend and identify what institutional landing zones can take forward its conclusions as next steps. Overall, the Roadmap must catalyse an inclusive, politically credible platform for forward coordinated action, enabling ongoing exchange on solutions between countries, international organisations, and MDBs, including producer-consumer coordination, and signposting support and delivery functions to advance implementation both within and beyond the UNFCCC.

¹ IEA, 2025, [World Energy Outlook](#). Note the IEA Scenario sees some fossil fuel use remaining in non-energy sectors or abated via Carbon Capture and Storage. Remaining emissions will have to be removed via Carbon Dioxide Removal in this scenario.

This submission identifies **three key objectives** that the Roadmap is uniquely placed to deliver to address systemic barriers, foster strengthened international cooperation on implementation, and build a forward path and political platform beyond COP31:

- ▶ Embedding the transition away from fossil fuels within macroeconomic and financial governance frameworks;
- ▶ Supporting countries to develop whole-economy national roadmaps, in line with national circumstances;
- ▶ Catalyse a continued political platform for cooperation through the Roadmap and to inform the Second Global Stocktake;

Barriers to transitioning away from fossil fuels

The Roadmap should address critical structural and systemic blockers that hold back the global transition away from fossil fuels. A core value of a global process is in mobilising international coordination necessary to tackle the uneven global distribution of risks and opportunities in the transition, based on countries' different circumstances, levels of economic dependence on fossil fuels, and varying capacities to implement transition policies. Critical systemic barriers include:

- ▶ **Economic dependence on fossil fuels:** The transition away from fossil fuels is not only an energy shift, but a whole-economy transformation. In many countries, fossil fuels underpin government revenues, exports and macroeconomic stability. As demand becomes more uncertain and volatile, this creates fiscal stress, rising sovereign risk and strong incentives to prioritise short-term production over long-term transition, particularly where credible pathways for economic diversification are lacking. At the same time, the transition is likely to be faster and more disruptive than anticipated, amplifying economic shocks where countries are unprepared.
- ▶ **Limited access to finance and investment in developing countries:** Just, orderly transitions depend on access to predictable, reliable finance and investment, in particular non-debt creating finance. Fossil fuel-revenue dependent economies face risks of revenue loss, stranded assets and instability in the transition, while importing countries remain exposed to price volatility and affordability pressures. High costs of capital, debt burdens, limited concessional finance, and fragmented financial support constrain the ability of many developing economies to invest in clean energy and alternative growth models, while managing a planned transition away from fossil fuels. These constraints are particularly acute for vulnerable economies, where limited support for diversification and whole-economy transition increases the risk of instability and delayed action. Such systemic barriers require reforms across the global financial system and its institutions.
- ▶ **Fragmented international coordination to manage transition impacts:** A further barrier is the risk of system-wide economic and political volatility, as well as a lack of coordinated international approaches to manage global transition-related volatility. Fragmentation across climate, energy and financial governance, combined with limited coordination between producer and consumer countries, increases the risk of disorderly market dynamics and

geopolitical tensions. Without stronger coordination, scaled support and differentiated pathways, these dynamics risk reinforcing fossil fuel dependence and widening global inequalities.

- ▶ **Institutional, capacity, and legal barriers:** Institutional, capacity and legal constraints can further limit governments' ability to implement transition policies, identify and access available support, and translate political commitments into concrete, country-led national strategies. Key institutional barriers include gaps in cross-government coordination, which is essential to ensure long-term coherence, clarity and buy-in for transition planning. Legal barriers such as international investment treaties containing investor–state dispute settlement (ISDS) mechanisms can expose governments to arbitration risks when implementing climate policies, including fossil fuel phase-outs, creating regulatory uncertainty and discouraging ambitious action.

Key levers for the Roadmap to accelerate the transition

The following section outlines three key levers the Roadmap can uniquely advance to fulfil the objective of catalysing action on the global transition away from fossil fuels:

Embedding the transition away from fossil fuels within macroeconomic and financial governance frameworks

- ▶ A central lever for accelerating implementation is to embed the transition within macroeconomic and financial governance. **The Roadmap should outline macroeconomic pathways for a stable and equitable transition away from fossil fuels**, connecting with the Baku–Belém Roadmap on climate finance and wider efforts to reform the international financial architecture to address systemic barriers constraining country transition options. The transition is not only an energy shift but a development and macroeconomic transformation, particularly for fossil fuel–revenue dependent and import-constrained economies where fiscal systems, sovereign debt dynamics and exposure to energy price volatility will shape outcomes. Without intervention, these pressures risk reinforcing fossil fuel dependence, constraining development and increasing instability in global energy markets.
- ▶ To help governments better understand macroeconomic dimensions of the transition and identify pathways forward, the **Roadmap can catalyse a structured dialogue platform** that brings together climate and energy ministries, finance ministries and central banks, and international financial institutions, alongside relevant international initiatives such as the IEA and IRENA, as well as government-led, multistakeholder TAFF initiatives. Such a platform can enable shared macroeconomic diagnostics, including assessments of fiscal exposure to fossil fuel revenues, vulnerability to energy price volatility and investment needs for diversification and clean energy systems. Building a common evidence base will be essential to improving transparency, aligning expectations and supporting more coordinated transition pathways.
- ▶ Accelerating implementation will require **international financial system reform to urgently scale financing for the transition**. The Roadmap should **raise expectations for MDBs, NDBs and other sources of public finance to provide scaled support**, showcasing the

critical role of public finance to drive the transition so far. The Roadmap should further identify solutions – in alignment with the Baku-to-Belem Roadmap on climate finance - for international efforts to scale concessional and blended finance, develop transition-linked financial instruments, and improve access to affordable capital for developing countries. Integrating transition risks into IMF surveillance and debt frameworks, expanding transition support, and strengthening the role of multilateral development banks in supporting country platforms will also be essential to ensuring that financial flows are aligned with a just, orderly and equitable transition.²

- ▶ Finally, the Roadmap should firmly establish **ISDS reform as a necessary component of accelerating the fossil fuel transition through reducing transition-related costs and building country fiscal space to act**. Investment treaties with Investor-State-Dispute-Settlement (ISDS) pose a systemic legal barrier to fossil fuel transition planning as the threat of costly compensation claims raises the cost of implementation, can delay or deter climate action, and constrains public funds needed for the transition. Given the breadth and complexity of global investment treaty networks, with more than 2,500 treaties in force, effective reform requires coordination and cooperation among states. The Roadmap can encourage states to actively pursue reforms such as terminating or reforming ISDS in existing treaties, committing not to include ISDS in new agreements, and collaborating internationally to advance progress.

Supporting countries to develop whole-economy national roadmaps, in line with national circumstances

- ▶ International coordination is essential to address systemic and interconnected barriers, but the transition must ultimately be country-owned and reflect national circumstances and needs. The Roadmap can **provide guidance, identify solutions, and signpost partnerships and platforms for countries to develop Paris-aligned, whole-economy roadmaps** in line with countries' specific capacities and needs. Such whole-economy roadmaps can act as longer-term visions for national economic transformation through the transition, covering fossil fuel production and consumption; fossil fuel subsidy reform; just transition and diversification measures; and the expansion of renewable, energy efficiency, and electrification to scale new, resilient clean energy systems³.
- ▶ Many countries already have sectoral plans to reduce fossil fuel use or supply, including in NDCs. Rather than creating new plans, **whole-economy roadmaps can act as integrating frameworks that align existing plans across the economy** and **address gaps** to ensure a holistic transition
- ▶ **The Roadmap should clearly show that the global energy transition is already moving ahead**, and that national, whole-economy roadmaps will not need to be developed from a standing start. Many countries already have sectoral plans to reduce fossil fuel use or supply,

² E3G (2024). [An orderly and equitable global transition away from fossil fuels: An action framework to navigate economic, financial and geopolitical volatility](#). E3G, London.

³ Picciariello, A. et al, 2026, [Progressing the Transition Away From Fossil Fuels: A guide for policy-makers working on TAFF roadmaps and plans](#)

including in NDCs, power system decarbonisation plans, or heating or transport sectors. For example, at least 46 of country NDCs submitted so far include concrete plans to decarbonise the power sector.⁴⁴ **The Roadmap can aggregate and showcase the breadth of existing fossil fuel-reducing plans across countries** to demonstrate that, whether motivated by energy security, affordability, climate resilience, or a mix of political drivers, many nations are already on the path to develop domestic whole-economy roadmaps. The Roadmap can also integrate other aspects of the GST para. 28, linking the goal to transition away from fossil fuels with the goals to triple global renewables capacity and double energy efficiency by 2030; showing progress and gaps across these global goals; and reinforcing how the transition away from fossil fuels is delivered through renewables-based, flexible, efficient energy systems.

- ▶ **The Roadmap can also identify and signpost key existing delivery and support vehicles, partnerships and platforms that can help countries advance national roadmaps, while identifying gaps.** The current ecosystem to support countries in transitioning away from fossil fuels is characterised by multiple partially overlapping processes that are not always aligned or connected effectively. The absence of clear coordination mechanisms makes it difficult for governments to identify where implementation support sits. The Roadmap can help improve coherence and support countries to navigate the transition support ecosystem by signposting existing enabling platforms, from financial instruments and country platforms (linking to the Baku-to-Belem Roadmap on climate finance) and just transition mechanisms to NDC and LTS development support (i.e. through the NDC Partnership), improving coordination of real-world delivery architecture.
- ▶ The COP30 Action Agenda Activation Groups for the first time brought together government and non-party stakeholder-led initiatives on fossil fuel transition to build greater coherence and coordination. **The Roadmap can build on the Action Agenda to integrate solutions, learnings and routes to support from initiatives** such as the Powering Past Coal Alliance, Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance, Global Clean Power Alliance, Clean Energy Transition Partnership, and Coalition on Phasing Out Fossil Fuel Incentives Including Subsidies. Leveraging existing work by initiatives can reduce first mover risk and create safety in numbers, support implementation, and crucially, send political signals of delivery.

Catalyse a continued political platform for cooperation through the Roadmap and to inform the Second Global Stocktake

- ▶ The COP30 Presidency have committed to deliver the Roadmap before COP31, however, the report itself should be just the starting point for building a longer-term, **forward process to catalyse a political platform for country-led coordination on the global transition away from fossil fuels**, filling a major gap in international energy governance. Such a platform could: 1) Showcase and track key milestones outlined in the Roadmap to elevate progress and action; 2) signpost and identify country support needs as well as partnerships and delivery functions that can advance implementation; and 3) function as a political platform to enable ongoing dialogue on solutions between countries, international organisations, and MDBs, including on producer-consumer coordination. This platform could build on existing efforts to

⁴⁴ E3G, 2025, [NDC Energy Commitments Tracker](#)

bring coherence and improved coordination in the transition, such as the COP30 Action Agenda Activation Group #4 on the transition away from fossil fuels, through which multiple alliances and international organisations already collaborate.

- ▶ An ongoing political platform would strengthen coordination and transparency to facilitate and support the transition and generate momentum on collaboration to implement the Roadmap. It would allow for systematic engagement of finance and energy ministries, central banks, IFIs and MDBs to come together in dialogue to address the macroeconomic and fiscal aspects of the transition, alongside international energy organisations such as the IEA and IRENA for modelling and technical assistance, and government-led multi-stakeholder TAFF initiatives. **The COP30 Presidency can outline their vision for such a forward process in the Roadmap and recommend possible landing zones**, as well as engage early to build political buy-in for next steps, ensuring countries understand the vision for the Roadmap to translate dialogue into concrete action. They should also engage directly with the COP31 and COP32 Presidencies early on continuity in Presidency ownership of the process.
- ▶ Through this platform, the Roadmap can also establish structured space for **producer-consumer dialogue on cooperative transition pathways**, bringing together major producing and consuming economies to exchange on demand outlooks, transition plans and economic diversification strategies to manage uncertainty, reduce volatility risks and avoid new fossil fuel lock-in.
- ▶ The Roadmap should also deliver as an outcome a **means of monitoring and tracking progress on the implementation of the global transition away from fossil fuels**, in line with a set of clear, science-based interim milestones for 2035, 2040, 2045 and 2050 across metrics including supply-side shifts, demand-side displacement, just transition/equity indicators, and subsidy reform. Such monitoring should be integrated into existing processes led by the IEA, IRENA, avoiding duplication while also ensuring a dedicated approach to tracking GST implementation and providing high-level signals of both progress and where action is lacking, ultimately informing the Second Global Stocktake to enhance action over time.
- ▶ While the Roadmap is currently being developed outside the formal UNFCCC negotiated space, the **COP30 Presidency should work towards an outcome of ensuring it is responded to by Parties in the context of informing the Second Global Stocktake process**. This does not mean a negotiated Roadmap, but rather a clear signal at COP31 that anchors and enables continued consideration of the Roadmap within the broad structures of the UNFCCC, i.e. through ownership from the incoming COP31 and COP32 Presidencies.
- ▶ While the Roadmap is being developed by the COP30 Presidency, it is essential for buy-in to forward processes that it is **based on broad, inclusive country engagement**, including with vulnerable nations, fossil fuel-dependent developing countries, and major consumers. Integrating developing country needs and concerns within the Roadmap in particular will be essential for buy-in and building trust in the process beyond from first movers already embarking on the transition, and to address challenges for those most exposed to risk. Practically, this means ensuring ample direct opportunities for broad country dialogue

and engagement with the COP30 Presidency on the development of the Roadmap and the forward implementation of its recommendations.

- ▶ Given the scale and importance of the challenge, political Leaders should play an important role in developing and providing high-level signals on forward process for the Roadmap. **The COP30 Presidency should engage in a clear international rhythm of events that can provide political impetus**, and which can also bring in non-party stakeholders at key moments. These events should include climate diplomacy and energy spaces, including regional Climate Weeks such as London Climate Action Week, but should also **go beyond into financial, trade and security venues** to build whole-economy buy-in to the benefits of the transition, the actions necessary to scale progress, and the value of the Roadmap in catalysing action. The COP31 and COP32 Presidencies should be encouraged to participate in key events and to reflect their outcomes in official communications, building bridges between the Roadmap as a COP30 Presidency initiative and the ongoing UNFCCC process.