

Views on the COP30 Presidency Roadmap for Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels in a Just, Orderly and Equitable Manner (paragraph 28.d/GST1)

Introduction

Members of the Community of Practice on Environment, Climate, Conflict, and Peace (ECCP) welcome the COP30 President's initiative to develop a Roadmap on Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels in a Just, Orderly and Equitable Manner, pursuant to paragraph 28(d) of the first Global Stocktake.

The ECCP is a network of more than 1,300 individuals across over 400 organisations worldwide, working on environmental peacebuilding, conflict-sensitive conservation, and climate security. While this submission does not represent the views of all members, many have come together to submit these views from the perspective that transitions away from fossil fuels will not be orderly or equitable if they fail to account for the dynamics of conflict, fragility, and insecurity that shape energy systems in many parts of the world.

This submission responds to questions (a) through (d) of the President's invitation.

(a) Critical Barriers

We draw attention to barriers that are often underrepresented in transition discussions:

- **Conflict and fragility:** Approximately 2 billion people live in countries affected by conflict, fragility, or violence. In these settings, the institutional prerequisites for managed energy transition — stable governance, functioning regulatory systems, secure investment environments, and civic space — are severely compromised. Transition strategies that assume institutional stability will bypass the places most in need of support.
 - **Fossil fuel dependency as a conflict driver:** In many fragile states, fossil fuel revenues are central to political settlements, patronage systems, and armed group financing. Transitioning away from these revenues without addressing the underlying political economy risks destabilising fragile peace arrangements or triggering new forms of violent competition for remaining resources.
 - **Fossil fuel subsidies:** Global fossil fuel subsidies reached an estimated \$7 trillion in 2022 (IMF). These subsidies distort energy markets, divert public resources from health, education, social protection, and climate adaptation, and create powerful vested interests that resist transition. Subsidy reform is a necessary enabler of just transition, but must be pursued with attention to the distributional impacts on vulnerable populations and the potential for social unrest.
 - **Civic space restrictions:** In many fossil fuel-dependent countries, civil society organisations, journalists, and human rights defenders face repression when advocating for transition. Without protected civic space, the participatory processes essential to just transition cannot function.
 - **Climate-security nexus:** Climate impacts — droughts, floods, resource scarcity — are compounding existing fragility and conflict risks in many fossil fuel-producing regions. Delayed transition accelerates these impacts, creating feedback loops that make future transitions more disruptive and costly.
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- **Transition job opportunities and quality:** It is estimated that over 12 million jobs may be lost from the fossil fuel industry as a result of energy transition. In fragile settings, unemployment is on the ascendency as a result of climate variability. Energy transition holds enormous job creation avenues, yet in informal economies in the global south, some indigenous job value chains may lose out, especially those within coal and wood fuel production. There is also the uncertainty over how low-carbon energy employment avenues may be able to substitute fossil fuel jobs. Moreover, less than 1% of employees in carbon-intensive sectors end up in green jobs between 2005 and 2021, risking job transition redundancy.

(b) Levers for Acceleration

- **Conflict-sensitive transition planning:** Embed conflict analysis into national transition plans, NDCs, and NAPs. This means assessing how energy system changes may affect power dynamics, livelihoods, and social cohesion — not only in fossil fuel-producing regions but in downstream communities dependent on fossil fuel economies.
- **Fossil fuel subsidy reform with social protection:** Design subsidy reform packages that redirect savings toward clean energy access, social protection, and economic diversification — particularly in fragile and conflict-affected settings. The international coalition to phase out fossil fuel subsidies provides a platform for coordinated action.
- **Decentralised renewable energy:** In fragile and conflict-affected states, decentralised renewable energy systems (solar mini-grids, off-grid solutions) can provide energy access without relying on centralised infrastructure vulnerable to conflict. These systems can also reduce dependency on fossil fuel imports that drain foreign exchange and entrench external dependencies.
- **Revenue diversification:** Support fossil fuel-dependent economies — particularly fragile states — in diversifying revenue sources before transition hollows out fiscal capacity. This includes technical assistance, concessional finance, and debt restructuring tailored to the specific vulnerabilities of conflict-affected states.
- **Protection of civic space:** Recognise that an open, protected civic space is a prerequisite for just transition — not a luxury. The Roadmap should acknowledge that just transitions require the participation of civil society, Indigenous Peoples, workers, women, and youth, and that this participation must be protected.
- **Transition mineral exploration:** The exploration of transitional and critical minerals may disrupt indigenous livelihoods, which may spark resistance for access and wider acceptance. The recognition requires robust, conflict-sensitive exploration governance that protects indigenous livelihoods that co-opt and train local labor to participate in the exploration value chain while operationalizing environmental safeguards.

(c) Experiences and Lessons Learned

We highlight several experiences that illustrate the conflict-transition nexus:

- **Colombia:** Colombia's leadership of the Belém Declaration on fossil fuel phase-out and co-hosting the April 2026 Santa Marta conference demonstrates how a country
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navigating a peace process can simultaneously champion fossil fuel transition. Colombia's experience offers lessons on integrating peace, justice, and climate objectives.

- **Nigeria:** Nigeria's Energy Transition Plan illustrates the challenges of transitioning a large oil-dependent economy while managing deep regional inequalities, security challenges in the Niger Delta, and the livelihoods of millions dependent on the fossil fuel value chain.
- **Iraq:** In post-conflict Iraq, where oil revenues constitute over 90% of government income, energy transition raises existential questions about state capacity, political stability, and the social contract. Transition planning that ignores these dynamics risks compounding fragility.
- **Peacebuilding and energy access:** Evidence from the humanitarian and peacebuilding sectors demonstrates that renewable energy access can serve as a peacebuilding tool — reducing resource competition, creating shared economic opportunities, and building community resilience. These lessons should inform the Roadmap's approach to just transition in fragile settings.

(d) Differentiated Pathways

The Roadmap must recognise that conflict-affected and fragile states face unique barriers to transition that are qualitatively different from those facing stable economies. We recommend:

- Developing a specific pathway category for conflict-affected and fragile states, with tailored guidance, financing instruments, and benchmarks that account for governance constraints, security risks, and the need to protect fragile peace processes.
- Ensuring that differentiated pathways do not become a justification for inaction. Fragile states should be supported, not exempted. The goal is to make transition possible in difficult settings, not to defer it.
- Integrating conflict analysis into the Roadmap's analytical framework so that geopolitical and subnational conflict risks are systematically assessed alongside economic, financial, and technological factors.
- Linking the Roadmap to the Belém Action Mechanism on Just Transition, ensuring coherence between the Presidency initiative and the UNFCCC's broader just transition framework.

Conclusion

A roadmap that is silent on conflict and fragility will be incomplete. More than half of the world's poorest people live in fragile and conflict-affected settings. These are the places where transition is hardest, where the stakes are highest, and where the risks of poorly managed transition are most acute. We urge the COP30 Presidency to ensure that the Roadmap addresses these realities with the seriousness they demand.

Members of the ECCP stand ready to contribute expertise on conflict-sensitive approaches to the fossil fuel transition.
