

# **Equal Right Contribution to the COP30 Presidency Roadmap on Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels in a Just, Orderly and Equitable Manner**

**Submitted by:** Equal Right

**Date:** March 2026

**Abstract:** Equal Right submits this contribution in response to the COP30 Presidency's open call for inputs to the Roadmap on Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels in a Just, Orderly and Equitable Manner. Drawing on our experience advancing equitable climate finance across the Global South, this submission identifies the most critical barriers to a just fossil fuel transition and proposes two concrete, complementary solutions - Cap and Share and the Solidarity Mutirão - that together address both the structural mechanics and the political conditions required for a fair and effective transition. These approaches are rooted in redistribution, human rights, and climate justice, and are designed to ensure that the transition away from fossil fuels strengthens rather than deepens global inequalities. This submission calls on the COP30 Presidency and the UNFCCC Secretariat to incorporate these approaches into the Roadmap as it is developed ahead of COP31 in November 2026, and to create the institutional conditions for their adoption by member states.

## **Part I – Critical Barriers to a Just, Orderly and Equitable Transition**

---

### **1. Structural Economic Dependence on Fossil Fuels**

Many countries, particularly across the Global South, remain structurally tied to fossil fuel production and extractive economies. Territories critical for climate stability have been incorporated into these extractive models over decades, generating persistent social and economic inequalities for local communities. Political resistance to transition policies is deeply rooted in this dependence, especially where no viable alternative exists for livelihoods, public revenues, or foreign exchange. The transition cannot succeed unless it offers credible, concrete economic alternatives to the communities and countries most exposed.

### **2. Absence of Enforceable Supply-Side Mechanisms**

Despite increasing global commitments, fossil fuel production and investment continue to expand. The absence of legally binding mechanisms to phase down production - as opposed to voluntary pledges - reveals a fundamental gap between climate ambition and structural change. Without enforceable supply-side constraints, demand-side and technology measures alone are insufficient to deliver the absolute emissions reductions the Paris Agreement requires. The credibility of any transition roadmap depends on closing this gap.

### **3. Inequitable Distribution of Transition Costs and Benefits**

The costs of transitioning away from fossil fuels fall disproportionately on workers, communities, and countries that are already among the world's most marginalised and least responsible for historical emissions. Current climate finance flows remain dominated by loan instruments, complex conditionalities, and market mechanisms that generate returns for financial institutions rather than resources for communities. Redistributive mechanisms that direct value from polluters to affected communities and countries are absent from the current architecture of international climate finance.

### **4. Fragmented International Cooperation and Marginalisation of Global South Voices**

International cooperation frameworks remain fragmented, under-resourced, and insufficiently responsive to the perspectives and priorities of the Global South. The design of transition pathways is still predominantly shaped by high-income country governments and institutions, limiting the

legitimacy and practical relevance of proposed solutions for the countries most affected. South-South cooperation - which could generate powerful shared strategies grounded in lived experience of inequality, ecological pressure, and extractive dependence - remains systematically underfunded and underutilised.

## **Part II – Concrete Solutions for an Equitable Transition**

---

### **Solution 1: Cap and Share - An Enforceable, Redistributive Supply-Side Mechanism**

**Thematic pillars:** Pillar 2 – Transforming Fossil Fuel Supply and Demand; Pillar 1 – Reducing Economic Dependence on Fossil Fuels

**Level of implementation:** Global / International

A credible transition away from fossil fuels requires mechanisms that do not merely incentivise change at the margins, but structurally limit extraction while generating the resources needed to support communities, territories, and equitable alternative economies. Cap and Share is a policy framework designed to do precisely this: it sets binding, internationally coordinated caps on fossil fuel production, makes polluters pay through permit auctions, and redistributes the resulting revenues directly to communities and ecosystems - including those most affected by both climate change and the costs of the transition itself.

Cap and Share addresses two failures simultaneously: the absence of enforceable supply-side constraints on fossil fuel production, and the absence of redistributive mechanisms that direct value from extraction toward communities and territories. By combining a hard production ceiling with a universal redistribution of auction revenues, it ensures that the economic value generated by limiting fossil fuel extraction flows to those who need it most, rather than remaining with fossil fuel corporations or being recycled into public budgets through opaque channels.

Beyond regulating extraction, Cap and Share functions as a financial architecture capable of capitalising complementary mechanisms. Auction revenues can be channelled into dedicated Just Transition funds, community-led territorial transition programmes, and international solidarity instruments - including the Journey Fund, which supports direct community-level economic security in territories under extractive pressure. A bilateral pilot between two willing countries - for example, a Global North country with significant historical emissions and a Global South country with high extractive dependence - could demonstrate viability at scale ahead of COP31, while a plurilateral 'climate club' of early adopters could begin building the international coordination infrastructure required for broader adoption.

#### **Recommendation to the COP30 Presidency and UNFCCC Secretariat:**

Equal Right calls on the Roadmap to formally include Cap and Share as a named supply-side policy instrument for member state consideration, and invites the UNFCCC Secretariat to commission independent technical feasibility modelling ahead of COP31. We further recommend that the Roadmap encourage a coalition of willing countries to initiate bilateral or plurilateral pilot frameworks, with progress to be reviewed at COP31.

#### **Actors responsible:**

- National governments establish production caps, regulatory frameworks, and permit auction systems, and commit to redistributive use of revenues.
- International organisations and the UNFCCC Secretariat support coordination, treaty design, and transparency mechanisms.
- Civil society organisations contribute to policy design, monitoring, and accountability.

- Research institutions provide modelling, impact assessment, and evidence to support iterative policy improvement.

#### **Required instruments:**

- Legally binding international agreements or bilateral/plurilateral treaties establishing fossil fuel production caps.
- Permit auction systems with transparent, publicly accountable revenue collection.
- Redistributive revenue mechanisms with direct linkage to community-level and territorial transition programmes.
- Monitoring, reporting, and verification frameworks to ensure compliance and equity of distribution.

#### **Key milestones:**

- 2026: Advance international policy dialogue on Cap and Share; build a coalition of willing countries; develop model treaty language and pilot frameworks; UNFCCC Secretariat commissions technical feasibility study.
- COP31 (November 2026): Present policy frameworks to the UNFCCC; make the case for integration into the post-COP31 implementation agenda; seek formal mandate for further development.
- 2027–2028: Initiate bilateral or plurilateral pilot programmes linking production caps to redistributive revenues; generate evidence on fiscal and community impacts.
- 2028–2035: Expand adoption among wider coalitions; integrate Cap and Share revenues into national and international Just Transition finance mechanisms.
- 2035–2050: Consolidate as a core pillar of the international fossil fuel phase-out architecture, supporting equitable global transition.

#### **Gender-responsive and human rights-based approach:**

Redistributive mechanisms ensure that revenues generated from limiting fossil fuel extraction benefit society as a whole, with particular attention to communities most exposed to extractive harm - including women and marginalised groups who disproportionately bear the costs of both fossil fuel dependence and climate change. Universal redistribution reduces structural inequalities and supports inclusive participation in the design and governance of transition pathways.

## **Solution 2: The Solidarity Mutirão - A South-South Platform for Equitable Climate Finance**

**Thematic pillar:** Pillar 3 – Strengthening International Cooperation

**Level of implementation:** Global / South-South

The transition away from fossil fuels is not only a technical or financial challenge - it is a political one. It requires building the coalitions, narratives, and institutional capacity that can make equitable transition pathways politically actionable, particularly in the Global South. The Solidarity Mutirão is Equal Right's primary vehicle for this work: a structured, multi-stakeholder process that convenes policymakers, civil society organisations, Indigenous Peoples' representatives, researchers, and financial institutions to advance equitable climate finance instruments rooted in redistribution, human rights, and climate justice.

#### **The Political and Policy Context**

The Global South is at a critical juncture in addressing economic inequality, protecting its environment, and providing leadership on climate issues. With deep-rooted social disparities and extractivist economic models, many Global South countries face accelerating climate and ecological

crises - even as they bear the least historical responsibility for the emissions driving those crises. At the same time, the Global South - and Brazil in particular - has pioneered equitable social and economic policies, perhaps best reflected in solidarity economy models and innovative cash transfer programmes like Bolsa Família, as well as public wealth funds designed to manage and redistribute natural resource revenues directly to citizens.

These experiences offer a powerful, transferable foundation. It is time to rethink the current debt-driven, exclusionary model of international climate finance, and to build a more solidary, redistributive approach that allows communities to manage resources, participate fully, and strengthen national sovereignty. To address the intersectionality of the climate crisis, economic inequality, and extractive dependence, climate finance must become an instrument of redistribution and community empowerment.

The Global South's long-standing policy innovation in social policy, solidarity economy, and climate governance provides a unique vantage point. These experiences offer transferable lessons for countries facing similar challenges of inequality, ecological degradation, and fossil fuel dependence. The Mutirão seeks not only to strengthen domestic policy innovation but also to inform and catalyse South-South cooperation - helping to articulate shared strategies for financing climate and economic justice across diverse national contexts.

### **What the Mutirão Does and How**

The Solidarity Mutirão operates at the intersection of research, coalition-building, and strategic political engagement. Rather than advancing abstract principles, it identifies specific policy instruments already embedded (or partially embedded) in national institutional landscapes and examines what equity looks like in each case: who controls resources, who benefits, and what political trade-offs are involved. Crucially, these instruments are presented as coherent packages - strengthening political defensibility and reducing the risk that individual mechanisms can be dismissed, diluted, or co-opted.

The Mutirão brings together a deliberately diverse set of actors: government officials working on climate and social policy, civil society organisations representing territorial and community interests, Indigenous Peoples' leaders, academic researchers, and aligned international partners. This combination is essential: it ensures that proposals are simultaneously technically grounded, politically backed, and institutionally actionable. The result is not a report or a convening, but a sustained political network capable of defending equitable climate finance proposals through electoral cycles, institutional transitions, and changing international contexts.

### **Phase 2 - Regional Scale: A South-South Platform**

The Solidarity Mutirão's ambition is not to export the Brazilian experience, but to build collective political capacity to design, defend, and advance redistributive climate finance across diverse contexts: how do redistributive mechanisms gain political traction? How do institutional pathways enable or block resources from reaching Indigenous peoples and marginalised communities? How is equity shaped by histories of racial injustice and territorial dispossession? And how can regional cooperation expand the fiscal and political space for equitable climate policies?

By documenting how equitable climate finance can be designed, defended, and adapted across diverse contexts, the Mutirão aims to build a South-South pathway that can inform work across the Global South through shared principles and adaptive learning. The goal is not a single replicable model, but a living political infrastructure - sustained relationships, shared analytical frameworks, and coordinated advocacy capacity - that enables diverse countries and communities to advance equitable climate finance in ways that reflect their own political cultures, institutional capacities, and social understandings of justice.

This infrastructure is essential for the fossil fuel transition roadmap. Without it, the transition risks being designed by and for the Global North, with Global South countries positioned as recipients of externally defined solutions rather than architects of a genuinely equitable global pathway. The Mutirão is Equal Right's contribution to ensuring that the voices, experiences, and policy innovations of the Global South are central to the transition architecture being built between now and 2050.

### **Recommendation to the COP30 Presidency and UNFCCC Secretariat**

The Roadmap should formally recognise South-South cooperation on equitable climate finance as a structural component of just transition governance - not a peripheral add-on - and commission the UNFCCC Secretariat to establish a dedicated South-South knowledge exchange mechanism on redistributive climate finance instruments. Equal Right recommends that the Roadmap invite member states to support and resource multi-stakeholder processes such as the Solidarity Mutirão as part of their national just transition contributions, and that COP31 include a dedicated space for presenting South-South learning and policy innovations from the Global South. We further call on the COP Presidency to integrate the principle that Global South governments should be architects - not merely recipients - of the transition architecture into the Roadmap's governance framework.

### **Actors responsible:**

- Equal Right and similar NGOs/CSOs lead the Solidarity Mutirão process in their regions, developing research, building coalitions, and facilitating political engagement across national contexts.
- The UNFCCC Secretariat establishes institutional mechanisms to channel and amplify South-South learning into official Roadmap implementation frameworks.
- National governments participate in structured dialogue and commit to integrating equitable climate finance instruments into their nationally determined contributions and transition plans.
- Civil society and Indigenous organisations contribute territorial knowledge and accountability.

### **Required instruments:**

- A UNFCCC-mandated South-South knowledge exchange mechanism on equitable and redistributive climate finance, supported by the Secretariat.
- Dedicated space at COP31 and subsequent COPs for presenting Global South-led policy innovation on just transition finance.
- South-South dialogue platforms, research collaborations, and knowledge-sharing networks, supported by flexible multi-year funding.
- Integration of Mutirão outputs into the Roadmap's official implementation tracking architecture.

### **Key milestones:**

- COP31 (November 2026): Present South-South learning and regional coalition recommendations; seek UNFCCC institutional recognition of South-South equitable finance cooperation as a component of the Roadmap implementation framework; advocate for a formal mandate to develop these mechanisms further.
- 2027–2030: Consolidate a durable regional political platform for equitable climate finance; expand to additional Global South regions.
- 2030 and beyond: Scale South-South cooperation mechanisms into a durable global infrastructure for equitable climate finance, informing the next generation of climate agreements and implementation frameworks.

### **Gender-responsive and human rights-based approach:**

The Mutirão places structural equity at the centre of its analytical and political work. It explicitly addresses how histories of racial injustice, territorial dispossession, and gender inequality shape communities' ability to participate in and benefit from climate finance. International cooperation initiatives emerging from the Mutirão are designed to prioritise inclusive participation, structural representation of the Global South, Indigenous Peoples, women, and marginalised communities in climate governance and decision-making.

### **Part III – Coherence and Integration**

---

Cap and Share and the Solidarity Mutirão are not independent proposals - they are complementary elements of an integrated strategy. Cap and Share provides the structural mechanism: the hard production ceiling and redistributive revenue architecture that makes an equitable transition financially and institutionally possible. The Solidarity Mutirão provides the political condition: the coalitions, narratives, and cross-border advocacy capacity that make such mechanisms politically viable and defensible, particularly in the Global South.

Together, they represent Equal Right's vision of what a genuinely equitable fossil fuel transition roadmap must contain: not only technical solutions, but the political infrastructure to advance and sustain those solutions through the contested terrain of international climate governance. The COP30 Presidency Roadmap, to be presented at COP31 in November 2026, has a unique opportunity to set the terms for this work - by naming redistributive mechanisms, mandating South-South cooperation processes, and creating the institutional conditions for Global South governments to be architects of the transition rather than its subjects. Equal Right stands ready to contribute technical inputs, facilitate multi-stakeholder dialogue, and support the integration of these approaches into the Roadmap and its implementation.

**Contact:** [info@equalright.org](mailto:info@equalright.org) | [www.equalright.org](http://www.equalright.org)