

Contribution from the Just Transition Alliance Regarding the Transition Away from Fossil Fuels
Roadmap

A) the COP 30 Presidency Roadmap on the Transition Away from Fossil Fuels in a Just, Orderly and Equitable Manner

(a) What are the most critical barriers — whether physical, economic, financial, institutional, technological or social— preventing a transition away from fossil fuels?

The Just Transition Alliance views fossil fuel subsidies, reliance on debt and market-based mechanisms for financing, the failure to make polluters pay for their climate debt, the exclusion of impacted groups from decision-making, and siloed, single-policy approaches to fossil fuel phaseout, without systemic and intersectional analyses, as the main barriers to preventing a transition away from fossil fuels.

(b) What potential levers, whether economic, financial, institutional, social or technological, exist for accelerating the implementation of the transitioning away commitment?

Fossil fuel subsidies must be redirected towards just transition measures to ensure that those most harmed can overcome social and economic barriers to participate in policy and decision-making for a robust, materially experienced just transition. The UNFCCC and all international climate decision-making processes must: enable participatory governance over funds; provide new and additional non-debt-creating, differentiated, and direct access to funding for impacted groups; reject market-based and false-solution approaches to funding; reduce barriers to resource and technology transfers; and avoid creating new debt burdens. A just transition that transforms the global political economy and financial architecture will require large financial transfers and reparative funding from the Global North to the Global South and the Global South within the Global North.

Affected groups demand the right to articulate their own needs, which are distinct from each other, and to lead the governance of funding decision-making bodies. Institutional arrangements must be designed and implemented to enable the participation of affected groups, including, but not limited to, waste pickers, peasant, landless, and small-scale farmers, workers, small-scale fishers, Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendants, youth, women, non-binary peoples, migrants, occupied communities, and those impacted by systematically induced vulnerabilities. Coordination across institutional arrangements, the adoption of scientific integrity policies, and protocols for the ethical use of Indigenous Peoples' knowledge are needed.

Utilizing an intersectional, multi-sector lens and integrating the leadership and expertise of climate-impacted groups will generate effective just transition policies. By only attending to a single issue, we risk replicating the same harms with a green veneer. Extractivism, racism,

occupation, colonization, imperialism, gender-based violence, disability injustice, economic oppression, & more must be addressed to actually move toward systemic transformation. Just transition extends beyond the energy sector and must include areas such as plastics, food systems, water, and just economic systems for a global moratorium on all new exploration and extraction of fossil fuels.

(c) What country, regional or sector roadmap experiences, best practices, and lessons learned can be shared?

A just transition is based on the [principles of environmental justice](#) and [Bali principles of climate justice](#), which call for the reduction of consumption, thereby reducing the need for continued mineral extraction for so-called green economies that reproduce colonial and capitalist exploitation and extraction. FPIC, UNDRIP, and UNDROP must be embedded in just transition policies in order to protect the rights of Indigenous Peoples, peasants, and other people working in rural areas and to facilitate the transition to just food systems.

Subnational just transition projects led by workers and communities at the forefront of fossil-fuel-related pollution should be studied and replicated in similar contexts. The Just Transition Alliance produced a case study on Los Jardines Institute's (LJI) grassroots coalition building in Albuquerque, New Mexico. We found that local coalition-building and organizing have ensured the allocation of resources to advance a just transition and blocked the use of resources for fossil fuel projects, such as Hydrogen Hubs, which are greenhouse gas-intensive and would have relied heavily on water in an arid region. In doing so, the cases of the LJI, the Justice 40 coalition, and the New Mexico No False Solutions coalition provide models for bottom-up, community-led action to reduce the threats posed by the climate crisis.

(d) How can a just, orderly and equitable transition best reflect the diverse realities of countries at different stages of development and with different degrees of dependence on fossil fuels?

Just transition-centered compensation must meet the self-identified needs of groups impacted by the climate crisis and environmental justice in the Global North and Global South. National just transition plans must be tailored to specific, sub-national contexts and coordinated through the Just Transition Mechanism. Expert groups within the Just Transition Mechanism should include climate-impacted peoples and provide guidance on just transition projects. Polluting countries and corporations must pay for their ecological debt, respecting the polluter pays principle and the principle of Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC). Further, protectionist measures, trade barriers, and intellectual property restrictions that obstruct technology transfers and international cooperation for just transitions must be eliminated.