



JOINT SUBMISSION

Contributions to COP 30 Presidency Roadmaps for Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels *Coalition of Catholic Justice Peace and Integrity of Creation*

Introduction

This is a joint submission by the ***Coalition of Catholic Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation***, composed of [Franciscans International](#); [Social, Justice and Ecology Secretariat \(SJES\)](#) of the Society of Jesus; [Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd](#); [PROCLADE International](#); [General Secretariat of Mission of the Comboni Missionaries](#) and [VIVAT International](#).

The submission focuses on the topic of Just Transition and Different Pathways, and in particular, **Part 1 on Roadmap for Transitioning 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?

- **Economic and financial barriers:** The transition away from fossil fuels is constrained by deep economic and financial barriers rooted in a global growth model that depends on fossil-fuel extraction and endless resource consumption, particularly from the Global South. Economic interests are represented by powerful private enterprises organized under national blocs to defend their immediate economic concerns. The world's biggest banks have increased their fossil fuel financing, including ramping up finance for fossil fuel expansion and allowing huge profits for the big oil corporations. Many countries in the South remain trapped in cycles of debt, austerity, and reliance on exporting raw materials and cheap labour, leaving them with limited fiscal space to invest in transformative, people-centred transition pathways. These structural pressures are compounded by inadequate public climate finance, which is often insufficient, unpredictable, and tied to restrictive conditions that undermine rights-based, community-led approaches to transition. The economic dependency of poorer nations hinders their ability to make independent decisions.
- **Institutional and political barriers** also play a decisive role in obstructing just transitions, as decision-making power remains heavily concentrated in the hands of Global North governments, corporations, and financial institutions, marginalising the very communities most affected by the climate crisis. These power imbalances are reinforced by unjust trade and investment regimes—such as restrictive trade agreements, investor–state dispute settlement mechanisms, and systems that enable corporate impunity—which lock countries into extractivist models and severely limit their policy space to pursue equitable transition pathways. Many governments in the Global South, led by elites closely tied to financial power

and multinational corporations, continue to favor predatory extractivism, within a neocolonial framework that relinquishes the commons in pursuit of a development model based on commodity exports. At the same time, rising militarism, authoritarian governance, repression of dissent, and shrinking civic space undermine democratic control over resources and transition planning, making it even harder for workers, Indigenous Peoples, and frontline communities to shape the futures of their own territories and livelihoods. A critical failure occurs when there is a lack of strategic thinking about what is best for the common good. A lack of strong moral and ethical conviction leads to decisions that do not benefit everyone.

- **Historical and ongoing colonial and structural inequalities**—including racism, patriarchy, and class oppression—continue to shape who bears the burdens of the climate crisis and who benefits from existing economic and political systems. These entrenched power dynamics are reinforced by the persistent marginalisation of workers, smallholder farmers, Indigenous Peoples, women, youth, people of African descent and other oppressed communities, who are too often excluded from decision-making processes despite being central to real, lasting solutions.
- **Lack of organization and cooperation among non-dominant economies** to propose alternative, sustainable, and clean development models instead of replicating the consumption rates and levels of dominant countries. This weakens South–South cooperation on just transition pathways and makes it harder to articulate a shared vision for a post-fossil world grounded in solidarity and sufficiency rather than competition and extraction.
- **Systemic risk and stability concerns**: Governments and workers fear that rapid fossil fuel decline could trigger macro-economic instability, stranded assets and employment shocks, especially where fossil fuel revenues fund public services and social programmes. In the absence of credible plans for diversification, social protection and just transition, these risks are used to justify delay and incrementalism, rather than ambitious and well-managed pathways away from fossil fuels.
- **A development model** predicated on continuous economic growth and **ever-expanding energy demand**, which is fundamentally misaligned with the reality of finite planetary resources. All other barriers are embedded within a broader paradigm of an economy of extraction, unabated consumption and rising energy intensity, where efficiency gains are rapidly outpaced by increased demand (the so-called rebound effect). This growth-dependent model drives persistent reliance on fossil fuels because renewable deployment must not only replace existing energy systems but also keep up with accelerating consumption. As a result, even ambitious policies risk being undermined unless they are accompanied by structural shifts in production and consumption patterns, including demand reduction, circular economy approaches, and alternative metrics of prosperity beyond Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth. In this sense, the transition challenge is not only technological or financial, but deeply economic and cultural, requiring a rethinking of how societies define and pursue development.

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

While we note the existence of economic, financial and institutional levers aimed at supporting transitioning away from fossil fuels, they fail to integrate a community and human rights-based approach, central to ensuring the equal implementation of this commitment to all countries.

- Accelerating a just transition will require economic and financial levers, beginning with **predictable, grant-based public finance that enables Global South countries to pursue rights-based**, community-led transition pathways on their own terms. Central to this is advancing debt justice—through debt cancellation, restructuring, and an end to austerity—to free up the fiscal space needed to strengthen social protection, expand public services, and invest in transformative alternatives. At the same time, phasing out fossil fuel subsidies and redirecting public and development finance toward community-controlled renewable energy, agroecology, reskilling workers in fossil-fuel-dependent sectors and care-centered economies can shift resources away from extractivism and toward systems that sustain people and the planet. Reform of the international financial architecture, including the mandates of multilateral development banks and credit rating practices, is critical so that they support just transition strategies rather than fossil fuel lock-in and austerity.
- A just transition also depends on strong institutional and political levers, beginning with a **human rights and justice-centred Just Transition Mechanism** that is firmly grounded in human rights, social and gender justice, and genuine community leadership—aimed not merely at managing transitions but at transforming the underlying power relations that shape them. Achieving this requires reclaiming policy space from trade and investment regimes that prioritise corporate interests over people and the planet, ensuring countries can pursue equitable and democratic transition pathways. Equally essential is embedding meaningful participation and robust accountability mechanisms so that workers, Indigenous Peoples, women, youth, people of African descent and other oppressed groups can shape decisions and hold both states and corporations to account throughout the transition process.
- Social levers are equally essential for driving a just transition, beginning with strong **community leadership and democratic control** over land, energy, food systems, and local economies—areas where frontline struggles have long demonstrated the power of collective action to reshape development pathways. It is essential to guarantee communities the ‘right to say no’—that is, the right to reject large-scale extractive projects in their territories—on the basis of free, prior, and informed consent, as a legal safeguard to uphold and promote their life projects within their lands. Ensuring that workers and communities are not sacrificed in the process also requires robust social protection systems, decent work, and strengthened labour rights, so that the transition enhances livelihoods rather than deepening precarity.
- **Divestment from fossil fuels**, along with campaigns led by organized civil society and faith-based organizations, is a strategic approach to exposing the impacts of fossil fuels and calling for ethical consistency in investment practices. The transition must avoid reproducing extractivism in new forms, ensuring that the sourcing of critical minerals for renewable technologies respects ecosystems and the rights of affected communities, and does not create new sacrifice zones.
- **Conscientization and engagement**: It is essential to combat fake news and ignorance with scientific data and thorough analysis. It is equally important to encourage **civil organizations to actively participate in politics**, ensuring that politicians receive support and oversight from them rather than relying on economic and financial interest groups in particular

corporations. **Education is essential**, not only for children and youth but also for promoting civic education, reliable information, and public discourse. **Spiritual depth** is essential for all the previously mentioned concepts. Spiritual, religious and indigenous leaders play a crucial role in this process. Faith-based actors contribute by strengthening ethical discernment, fostering ecological awareness, and accompanying communities in the pursuit of justice-centred transition pathways..

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

- Experiences from Colombia, Denmark, Spain, and Chile illustrate complementary best practices for fossil fuel phase-out that align closely with the principles of the **Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty Initiative**. Colombia demonstrates political leadership in committing to halt new exploration and advocating internationally for a managed decline, highlighting the importance of integrating equity and development concerns into transition strategies. Denmark provides a clear example of supply-side policy credibility through legislated end-dates for extraction and early termination of new licensing, showing how strong policy signals can guide markets and investment. Spain offers a practical model of “just transition” implementation, with negotiated agreements that protect workers and invest in affected regions, ensuring social legitimacy. Chile complements these experiences by showing how rapid scaling of renewable energy, supported by clear regulation and private investment, can effectively replace fossil-based power generation. Together, these cases underscore key lessons reflected in the Treaty framework: the need for coordinated non-proliferation of new fossil fuel projects, structured and transparent phase-out pathways, and robust social and financial mechanisms to ensure fairness. They demonstrate that successful transitions require not only ambition but also credible policy design, inclusive governance, and international cooperation—core elements that the Treaty seeks to scale globally.
- The **Yasuní-Ishpingo-Tambococha-Tiputini Initiative** (Yasuni-ITT Initiative), in Yasuní National Park in Ecuador emerged from sustained pressure by Indigenous peoples and civil society on the Government of Ecuador to keep large oil reserves underground, in exchange for financial compensation from the international community to preserve biodiversity and Indigenous territories. It stands as an innovative example of climate justice and shared global responsibility, although it ultimately faltered principally due to insufficient international financial commitment.
- The **European Green Deal** launched by the European Union (EU) which aims to reduce at least 50% of the greenhouse gas emission by 2030, to become climate neutral by 2050. The Deal is a legally binding framework for the EU members and mandates them to shift to renewable energy and reduce the dependency to fossil fuels.

(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?

- **Common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities (CBDR-RC):**

- Countries most responsible for the climate crisis—and those that have benefited most from fossil-fuelled growth—must bear the greatest burdens of transition, including providing finance, technology, and reparations.
- Countries in the Global South must have the policy space and resources to pursue transitions aligned with their own development priorities.
- Countries which benefited from past colonial exploitation must repay their moral and financial debts to be used for climate actions.
- **Respect for different development stages and dependencies:**
 - For countries heavily dependent on fossil fuel extraction or export, transitions must be planned, gradual, and protective of livelihoods, with strong social protection, diversification strategies, and democratic participation.
 - For countries facing poverty, food insecurity, and structural adjustment, climate action cannot be separated from struggles against inequality, debt, and unjust trade. Countries lacking material or technological resources must be prioritized.
 - **No one should be left behind;** countries lacking material or technological resources must be prioritized. The Roadmap should highlight specific measures to support workers, communities and countries most exposed to transition risks.
- **Community-defined priorities and pathways:**
 - Transition pathways should be defined through the leadership of workers, smallholder farmers, local communities, Indigenous Peoples, women, youth, and other historically oppressed communities. This means recognising that “orderly” and “equitable” are not just about smooth markets, but about redistributing power and resources.
 - A just, orderly, and equitable transition can only take place if it also avoids a mere shift from fossil fuel extraction to the extraction of critical minerals for the energy transition, reproducing the same levels of impact on territories. Phasing out fossil fuels requires a deeper transformation of the energy production and distribution model, as well as a reduction in consumption and in the concentration of wealth.
- **Human rights and justice as the center:**
 - A transition is “just” only if it advances human rights, social and gender justice, and ecological integrity—rather than reproducing extractivism in new forms, such as through the (e.g. “green” land grabs, sacrifice zones for critical minerals). The Roadmap should therefore integrate human rights safeguards, gender-responsive approaches and environmental integrity criteria across all chapters and proposed instruments.

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