

PPCA Inputs for COP 30 Presidency Consultation on a Roadmap for Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels in a Just, Orderly and Equitable Manner

At COP30, many countries suggested that a roadmap could support implementation of the GST commitment to transition away from fossil fuels in energy systems in a just, orderly and equitable manner. At the end of COP30, the Brazilian Presidency undertook to work with governments, industry and civil society to take forward development of a roadmap. The Presidency has now asked parties for input. This note sets out reflections on issues that governments may wish to cover in their submissions and on material that could be useful for responding to the four questions circulated by the Presidency.

Why include a focus on coal?

Coal is the most polluting fossil fuel and globally still accounts for 40% of emissions from the energy sector. Major real-world progress has been made on the coal-to-clean transition, e.g., with [renewables overtaking coal](#) as the primary source of power globally last year and coal-fired power generation [set to decline](#) from 2026 onward. As the world approaches this structural decline of coal, we need a clear roadmap for managing the socio-economic impacts of this shift. Delivering the coal-to-clean transition can increase energy security and economic resilience, and bring important health benefits, but at the same time, it poses complex challenges. Coordinated, proactive global planning is essential to deliver a managed transition that maximises the benefits while minimising disruption.

How will the roadmap help?

The roadmap could play an important role in accelerating the transition by outlining key milestones and stages that parties can progress through as they transition, in line with their national circumstances. This could include analysis of the different phases of the transition, indicative timeframes, policies, financing and technical support needed to enable each stage and existing experiences and lessons learnt. It could also build on the country partnership work the PPCA is currently developing and work done by BOGA through the BOGA partnership fund, to pull together a platform to help countries connect with the support they need.

What role can the PPCA play?

With a membership of 65 governments, 52 subnational governments, 66 businesses and financial institutions with over \$12 trillion of assets under management, the PPCA represents a significant reservoir of experience and expertise. Previously, PPCA members have worked together to help secure the GST commitment to accelerate the phase down of unabated coal; to develop a [plan to accelerate coal transitions](#); to collect and share experiences, including through the [PPCA Solutions Bank](#); and to pioneer new solutions, including through the PPCA Solutions Dialogues and Coal Transition Commission reports. This year, the PPCA is working with a few countries to support them in developing plans for implementing NDC commitments on coal transition. The work the PPCA has done to date can be drawn on to inform the roadmap, and the PPCA can continue to serve as a platform for solution building to tackle outstanding challenges at the national and global level.

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

The IEA and others have done significant work to model Paris-aligned coal phase-out pathways. Under the IEA’s net-zero scenario, no new unabated coal should be built, and unabated coal should be entirely phased out by 2040. Based on the data from the World Energy Outlook 2025, total global electricity generation from unabated coal must decrease by at least 75% from current levels by 2035 to stay on track for net zero by 2050. The PPCA Declaration recognises that to meet the Paris Agreement, analysis shows that coal phase-out is needed no later than 2030 in the OECD and EU, and no later than 2040 in the rest of the world.

Getting on this pathway requires understanding and addressing the barriers preventing a transition away from coal. For example, the IEA has developed a ¹[\[2\]](#), highlighting countries’ and regions’ exposure to coal transition risks. They identify the key risks as being economic dependence, the share of coal in energy supply, demand growth and assets lock-in. The consultations that the PPCA has supported with governments, finance and utilities through its Solutions Dialogues and the work of the Coal Transition Commission reinforce this conclusion that key barriers are **community and regional dependence on coal, maintaining energy security in the face of rising energy demand and difficulties retiring very young coal power plants.**

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

The PPCA launched a [solution plan to accelerate coal transitions](#) at COP30. The plan is based on the recommendations of the Coal Transition Commission, a PPCA initiative co-chaired by France and Indonesia since COP28, which brings together governments and public and private finance to develop recommendations to accelerate coal-to-clean transitions. The plan identifies three key levers to accelerate the implementation of the transitioning away from fossil fuels/coal phase-down commitments:

1. Supporting governments to develop and implement strong enabling policies and transition plans informed by their national circumstances:

This includes supporting the development of power sector and just transition plans, policies committing to no new coal, including addressing planned but not yet built assets, phasing out of existing coal, and measures that strengthen energy security through the build-out of clean alternatives, grid modernisation and flexibility.

2. Scaling finance for the just coal-to-clean transition:

This includes building confidence that investing in coal-to-clean transitions can deliver real impact when appropriate guardrails are in place; strengthening coordination among governments, public and private financial institutions and

¹ IEA, Accelerating Just Transitions for the Coal Sector (2024)

international initiatives; exploring innovative financial mechanisms which can be leveraged as tools to share risks and cover the costs of coal-to-clean transitions.

3. Accelerating project pipeline development:

This includes supporting the development of coal transition projects by strengthening the coordination across governments, utilities and other power sector stakeholders, international organisations, initiatives, civil society and the private sector; developing technical understanding and practical experience of deploying different policy and financial levers to ensure energy security and affordability while rapidly decreasing emissions from existing coal power plants, focusing on early retirement as the primary lever, and preventing the buildout of new coal.

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

The 2024 [Coal Transition Commission report](#) sets out steps for governments, international organisations and financiers to create an enabling policy environment, scale up finance for the coal-to-clean transition and build a pipeline of projects. The key recommendations are summarised in the plan to accelerate transitions from coal, which was launched at COP30. The report also maps existing initiatives supporting the coal-to-clean transition and includes case studies and lessons learnt.

The [PPCA Solutions Bank](#) sets out case studies from PPCA members across the world which highlight solutions to the key challenges of delivering a just transition, maintaining a reliable supply of electricity and retiring young coal power plants. Other case studies can also be found in the [PPCA 2022 Report](#).

The PPCA also convenes Solutions Dialogues and technical workshops, bringing together countries, technical experts and partners to share practical experience and technical expertise on coal transition, supporting peer learning and helping governments identify workable policy and implementation approaches.

(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?

A clear message that has come through the PPCA Solutions Dialogues and the work of the Coal Transition Commission is that no one size fits all – solutions need to be adapted to the very different circumstances of countries and regions. To support the task of identifying, in broad terms, how solutions can be adapted and shared across different contexts, the [Coal Transition Commission report](#) developed a series of energy system archetypes and recommendations on how policy and finance solutions can be adapted to these archetypes. This year, the PPCA is working on a Coal Transition Toolkit to help governments and other stakeholders to think about what stage they are at in their transition pathway and how they might approach the question of sequencing.