

Submission: COP30 Roadmap

Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels in a Just, Orderly and Equitable Manner



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Introduction

Stamp Out Poverty is a strategic campaigning organisation working to end the fossil fuel era, accelerate the transition to renewable energy, and ensure support reaches communities on the frontline of the climate crisis. We bring together civil society, policymakers, and grassroots movements to advance bold, practical solutions that tackle both climate breakdown and economic injustice. (stampoutpoverty.org)

We serve as the secretariat of the Make Polluters Pay international coalition and a partner of the Fossil Fuel Treaty Initiative, working to shift global policy and build the political conditions necessary for a just and equitable transition away from fossil fuels.

This submission draws on that work and experience, including our role in advancing the polluter pays principle and international cooperation on fossil fuel phase-out.

(a) Critical barriers to transitioning away from fossil fuels

The transition away from fossil fuels is being obstructed by a set of interlocking structural barriers that are economic, political, and institutional in nature.

1. Fossil fuel prices fail to reflect real costs

Fossil fuel markets systematically exclude the social, environmental, and economic costs of climate damage. Communities already face over \$200 billion annually in climate-related losses, alongside rising food, energy, and insurance costs, while fossil fuel producers continue to generate extraordinary profits. This creates a structural market distortion that artificially favours fossil fuels over clean alternatives.

2. Insufficient and inequitable transition finance

A just and orderly transition requires large-scale investment in renewable energy, economic diversification, and support for workers and communities. However, finance remains inadequate and highly unequal, particularly for developing countries facing debt burdens and limited fiscal space. This constrains their ability to move away from fossil fuel dependence.

3. Political influence and regulatory capture

Fossil fuel companies exert significant influence over policymaking through lobbying, litigation, and information control. This undermines climate ambition, delays regulation, and maintains subsidies and preferential treatment for fossil fuels.

4. Lack of international governance on fossil fuel supply

There is no comprehensive international framework governing fossil fuel production. While the Paris Agreement addresses emissions, it does not regulate supply. As a result, countries continue to expand fossil fuel production, with planned output far exceeding levels consistent with 1.5°C. This undermines global commitments and creates a production gap.

5. Absence of a managed phase-out framework

Without coordinated international mechanisms, fossil fuel decline risks being disorderly and inequitable. There is no system to ensure fair burden-sharing, manage stranded assets, or finance decommissioning, leaving vulnerable countries and communities exposed.

6. Structural economic barriers and debt dependency

Many developing countries remain locked into fossil fuel dependence due to debt obligations, volatile commodity markets, and unequal financial systems. These constraints limit their capacity to invest in alternatives and create risks of stranded assets.

7. Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) constraints

ISDS provisions in international investment agreements allow fossil fuel companies to challenge climate policies, creating a chilling effect on government action. This represents a structural barrier that cannot be resolved through domestic policy alone.

(b) Key levers to accelerate the transition

Addressing these barriers requires coordinated economic, financial, and institutional interventions at both national and international levels.

1. Operationalising the Polluter Pays principle

Applying the polluter pays principle is a critical lever to realign incentives and unlock finance:

- **Internalising costs:** Windfall taxes, extraction levies, and liability frameworks can ensure fossil fuel producers pay for climate damage, increasing the real cost of fossil fuels and accelerating the shift to clean energy.
- **Financing a just transition:** Redirecting fossil fuel profits—estimated at trillions over recent decades—towards climate finance, loss and damage, and transition support can provide the resources needed for equitable transformation.
- **Reducing political influence:** Embedding accountability reduces the social licence and influence of fossil fuel companies over policymaking.

Key instruments include:

- Windfall profit taxes and extraction levies
- Climate Superfund laws and litigation
- Removal and redirection of fossil fuel subsidies
- International solidarity levies and agreements

2. A new international governance framework: Fossil Fuel Treaty

The transition requires a dedicated international framework to coordinate action on fossil fuel supply.

A Fossil Fuel Treaty could:

- Establish binding commitments to **phase down production and end new expansion**
- Create **cooperative mechanisms**, including:

- A **Global Just Transition Fund** financed by public contributions and fossil fuel levies
- A **debt resolution facility** to address structural financial barriers
- A **buyers–sellers club** to align trade with phase-out pathways
- Provide **finance and technical support** for national phase-out and just transition plans
- Codify and clarify international obligations on fossil fuels
- Address systemic barriers such as ISDS

This would complement the Paris Agreement by addressing fossil fuels at their source and enabling coordinated global implementation.

3. National and subnational policy action

Governments at all levels play a key role in implementation:

- National governments: fiscal policy, subsidy reform, and legislation
- Subnational governments: climate litigation, regulatory innovation, and political leadership
- Cities and regions: building political momentum and implementing transition policies

(c) Roadmaps, best practices and lessons learned

Emerging experience highlights several key lessons:

- **Accountability mechanisms work:** Climate litigation and “polluter pays” policies (e.g. Superfund-style approaches) demonstrate the feasibility of shifting costs onto fossil fuel producers.
- **Clear phase-out planning is essential:** Transparent national plans reduce uncertainty, guide investment, and protect workers and communities.
- **International cooperation is indispensable:** Domestic action alone cannot address global supply dynamics, financial constraints, or trade dependencies.

- **Public finance and policy signals matter:** Redirecting subsidies and setting clear regulatory pathways accelerates private investment in clean energy.
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(d) Delivering a just, orderly and equitable transition

A credible transition roadmap must be grounded in equity and reflect diverse national circumstances.

1. Differentiated pathways and timelines

Countries with greater historical responsibility and financial capacity must transition fastest, while developing countries require flexibility and support.

2. Just transition financing and burden-sharing

Mechanisms such as a Global Just Transition Fund and polluter-funded finance are essential to ensure that costs are not borne by those least responsible.

3. Economic diversification

Transition strategies must go beyond energy systems to support broader economic transformation, particularly in fossil fuel-dependent economies.

4. Participation and rights-based approaches

A just transition must ensure:

- Full and effective participation of frontline communities, workers, civil society and Indigenous Peoples, in line with FPIC
- Gender-responsive policies that address unequal impacts and opportunities

5. Managed and coordinated phase-out

Ending new fossil fuel expansion and planning the decline of existing production is essential to avoid disorderly transition and stranded assets.

Conclusion

The COP30 Roadmap represents a critical opportunity to translate the global commitment to transition away from fossil fuels into practical implementation.

To succeed, it must:

- Send a clear signal to **end new fossil fuel expansion**
- Support a **managed and equitable phase-out of existing production**
- Address structural barriers related to finance, debt, and governance
- Embed **polluter pays principles** to realign incentives and mobilise resources
- Strengthen **international cooperation**, including through new governance mechanisms

A Fossil Fuel Treaty offers the most comprehensive pathway to deliver these objectives, operating alongside the Paris Agreement within a two-track multilateral framework.

Without coordinated international action and accountability, the transition risks being too slow, disorderly, and unjust. With the right mechanisms in place, it can instead become a catalyst for a fairer, more resilient global economy.

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