

Submission to Road map on Transition Away From Fossil Fuel

1. Introduction

The decision adopted at COP28 under the first Global Stocktake (GST) calls on Parties to transition away from fossil fuels in energy systems in a just, orderly and equitable manner, accelerating action in this critical decade to achieve net-zero emissions by mid-century.

Operationalizing this commitment is essential for maintaining the 1.5°C temperature limit of the Paris Agreement. The COP30 Presidency Roadmap for Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels (TAFF) presents an important opportunity to translate this political signal into concrete implementation pathways.

This submission identifies key structural barriers, proposes policy levers, and highlights examples of enabling actions, with particular attention to equity and differentiation consistent with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities (CBDR-RC).

2. Barriers to Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels

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

Despite growing recognition of the need to transition away from fossil fuels, significant systemic barriers continue to slow progress.

2.1 A primary barrier is the continued expansion of fossil fuel production infrastructure, particularly among high-income producer countries. Norway exports emissions 11 times its domestic footprint, which entrenches political and economic lock-in and delays economic diversification.

Analysis by Oil Change International shows that four Global North countries, the United States, Canada, Australia, and Norway, have increased oil and gas production by nearly 40% since the adoption of the Paris Agreement, while production in the rest of the world combined declined by approximately 2%.

This expansion is inconsistent with 1.5°C-aligned pathways, which require a rapid decline in fossil fuel production this decade.

2.2 Institutional and political resistance to limiting new petroleum activity: The government continues to issue new exploration licenses despite misalignment with the 1.5-degree target and guidance to stop new exploration from the government-appointed Climate Change Committee.

2.3 Oil-sector influence and coordinated lobbying: Oil and gas producers aim to protect gas exports, framing climate policy and IEA guidance as “threats”, which undermines policy development to rapidly transition into renewable energy systems. The fossil fuel industry maintains significant influence over policy processes at both national and international levels. This influence contributes to continued fossil fuel subsidies, regulatory advantages for fossil fuel producers, and the promotion of technologies that risk prolonging fossil fuel use rather than enabling a rapid phase-out.

2.4. Underestimation of systematic climate and economic risks: Norway’s long-term planning has insufficiently integrated systemic financial and social risks.

2.5. Social and worker vulnerability without a clear plan for the transition: Jobs offshore (production) and onshore (supply industry) will disappear due to declining resources on the continental shelf regardless of policy. The lack of support system for reskilling and planned transition of labour to other sectors creates uncertainty that slows political action.

2.6: Need for swift action in both producer and net importer countries: Strong link between supply and demand for fossil fuels. Declining demand in net importer countries strongly supports planned phase-out policies and production decline in producer countries such as Norway. Fossil fuel producers must shift investment from fossil fuel infrastructure into renewable industries.

3. Key Levers for Accelerating the Transition

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

3.1. Stop new exploration and adopt a national phase-out plan/roadmap: Only no new oil and gas licences and aligning existing production with the 1,5-degree target will ensure Norway operationalises its transition.

3.2. Strengthen fiscal, regulatory and planning instruments: The Clean Energy Transition Partnership is already shifting finance from fossil to clear energy, and Norway’s participation can scale this further.

3.3. Redirect public finance and state-owned company mandates: Equinor’s plans and investment decisions conflict with Norway’s climate targets. Adjusting mandates toward a managed decline is a powerful lever.

3.4. Public narrative leadership and alliance-building: There is strong potential to shift the public opinion and build coalitions with workers, businesses and civil society.

3.5. Integrate just transition-policies into national energy and budget planning: There are clear policy gaps on reducing emissions from petroleum activity. These can be closed through updating Norway's NDCs and focus on stopping exploration.

3.6 Support international cooperation between countries interested in accelerating the transition. Common measures and regulations between groups of countries are the most cost-effective ways of accelerating the transition. Such measures and regulatory frameworks reduce the risk for a country of acting alone, creates larger transition markets and economies of scale, and send stronger market signals to producers and investors, as well as enable technology transfer and implementation support. Joint measures between groups of interested countries should be supported and incentivized, as a complement and implementation vehicle for the overarching global architecture. A fossil fuel phase-out treaty should be considered as one potential concrete solution, and should include measures to ensure a just, equitable and rapid transition away from fossil fuel dependencies.

4. Best practices and lessons learned

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

4.1. Brazil's technical roadmap structure: Clear chapters on systemic risks, readiness, demand, supply and economy provide replicable, evidence-based format.

4.2. The UK's North Sea policy: Extensive worker and union consultation, commitment to end new exploration licences in line with the 1,5-degree target.

4.3. International alliances and peer learning: Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance (BOGA), Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty (FFNPT), Powering Past Coal Alliance, (PPCA) illustrate how coordinated international commitments can create important platforms for collaboration, and should be expanded on.

4.4. EU Arctic fossil-free moratorium: EU progress on reduced gas use and support for a global moratorium on Arctic oil and gas provides a model for aligning foreign and security policy with supply-side climate action.

5. Differentiation, Equity and Just Transition

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

5.1. Integrate socio-economic protections and worker transition pathways: Just transition considerations must accompany phase-out planning. Predictable decline improves conditions for reskilling and job creation.

5.2. Reflect dependence levels and development stages: The Belém roadmap approach provides differentiated pathways based on readiness, dependence and systemic risks.

5.3. Guarantee rights and inclusiveness of vulnerable groups: i: Emphasise rights-based approaches, participation and safeguarding of rights holders and vulnerable groups such as indigenous peoples, local communities, children, youth, women, the elderly, low-income households and marginalized communities.

5.4. Ensure the biggest polluters take responsibility at home: developing countries require assurance that high-income fossil exporters like Norway deliver domestic mitigation, not rely on action abroad (international carbon credits). According to the 2023 [Civil Society Equity Review of 2023](#), Norway is the fossil fuel-dependent country with the highest capacity to transition rapidly to a fossil-free society.

5.5. Provide scaled, concessional finance for fossil-free development: Norway should redirect large sums towards clean energy development in the global south.

Signatory organisations

WWF Verdens naturfond
Besteforeldrenes klimaaksjon
Naturvernforbundet
Framtiden i våre hender
Redd Barna
Utviklingsfondet
KFUK-KFUM Global
Greenpeace Norge
IKFF Internasjonal kvinnelige for fred
Miljøagentene

Kind regards,

Forum for Development and Environment