

COP30 Presidency Roadmap Submission

Subject: COP30 Presidency Roadmap for Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels in a Just, Orderly and Equitable Manner

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

The most significant barriers to a just transition are deeply rooted in the **socio-economic fabric** of fossil fuel-dependent regions:

- **Livelihood and Identity Dependency:** Local workers and communities often rely on fossil fuel industries not just for high-wage employment and benefits, but as a central pillar of their cultural identity.
- **Fiscal Stability:** Fossil fuel industries provide the essential tax base required to fund schools, infrastructure, and emergency services; their removal creates an immediate fiscal vacuum for local governments.
- **Economic and National Security:** These sectors contribute heavily to regional and national stability through energy production and industrial inputs, making their replacement a complex security challenge.
- **Social Friction:** There is often a natural skepticism toward "outside" entities or new industries, which can be perceived as threats to an established way of life.
- **Access to Funding:** Many energy communities and emerging economies struggle to attract investment and access available funding due to capacity and knowledge gaps at more local levels and gaps in the financing eligibility or priorities of multilateral and other institutional funders at subnational and national levels.

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

To accelerate the commitment to transition away from fossil fuels, the following policy and financial levers are essential:

- **Sustained, Flexible Funding:** Financial support must be long-term (10+ years) and flexible enough to cover the entire lifecycle of a transition: from community visioning and planning to land revitalization and worker reskilling.
- **Place-Based Economic Incentives:** Strong public incentives—such as grants, loans, and tax credits—should be geographically targeted to former energy communities (e.g., specific "Energy Communities" or "Bonus Credit" areas) to attract private sector investment.
- **Proactive Workforce Development:** Skilling programs must be deployed well in advance of anticipated closures to ensure workers can transition into new roles with comparable wages and benefits.

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

Experience from the U.S. Energy Communities Interagency Working Group (IWG) provides a roadmap for "whole-of-government" coordination:

- **Vertical and Horizontal Coordination:** The IWG successfully improved communication between local communities and senior federal policymakers, creating a unified response across 11 agencies.
- **The "Capacity Gap" Challenge:** Even with a central clearinghouse of resources, many small communities struggled to compete for grants against high-capacity urban areas. **Lesson:** Direct appropriations and technical assistance (e.g., "Navigators") are necessary to level the playing field.

Asset-Based Redevelopment is a key strategy and will vary depending on the fossil fuel sector:

- **Coal Mines:** Despite their remote locations, these sites offer unique opportunities for solar-on-mine-lands, critical mineral recovery, fish farming, and eco-tourism.
- **Coal Power Plants:** Proximity to transmission lines and population centers makes these ideal for data centers, advanced manufacturing, and new energy generation.
- **Oil & Gas:** While extraction is often transient, processing and refining hubs are stable locations where switching to low-carbon inputs (e.g., hydrogen or biofuels) can mitigate local economic damage.

Start early with local and national planning, ideally well-before closures.

- Community coordination and economic development take years, perhaps as much as 10-15 years to replace the economic activity from legacy fossil industry.
- Local visioning and planning will help reduce friction to change and drive outcomes that satisfy.
- Coordination of local and national planning can result in central and subnational government policy that supports communities and workers while coordinating with private sector incentives and regulations that drive the desired fossil fuel industry change.

(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?

To reflect the diverse realities of countries at different stages of development, the transition must adhere to four guiding principles:

1. **Listen First:** Engagement must begin with active listening to those most affected.
2. **Bottom-Up Design:** Solutions must be built from the community level up, rather than imposed from the top down.
3. **Center Workers:** Human capital must be the primary focus of all transition strategies.
4. **Acknowledge Capacity:** Support must be tailored to the specific technical and financial capacity limitations of each region.

The Timing of Intervention:

- **Reactive Transitions:** Regions that have already lost fossil fuel industries face the steepest climb, often dealing with compounded issues like poverty and infrastructure degradation.
- **Proactive Transitions:** Places with active fossil fuel sectors have the best opportunity to manage the shift through 10-year advance planning, leveraging existing high-quality assets and an intact workforce.