



# Submission on the COP30 Presidency Roadmap for Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels in a Just, Orderly and Equitable Manner

27 March 2026

United for Climate Justice is pleased to submit the following input to the COP30 Presidency as part of the [consultations](#) on the 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?*

- **Socio-economic constraints:** Fossil fuel-dependent regions face job losses and lack alternative livelihoods, risking increased poverty and social instability if transition is unmanaged.
- **Fiscal dependence and public debt:** Many countries rely on fossil fuel revenues for public services and debt management. Losing these revenues without replacement threatens economic stability and social programs.
- **Political resistance:** Vested fossil fuel interests consistently impede transition, prioritizing their own economic and political agendas over climate action. Their bad-faith lobbying undermines UNFCCC negotiations.
- **Continuous financial support of fossil fuels:** Entrenched subsidies and weak climate policy enforcement distort markets, locking in fossil fuel dependence and hindering progress.
- **Technological and cost barriers and electrification challenges:** While renewables are now cheaper for electricity, high costs persist for alternative technologies in energy-intensive sectors, slowing deployment. Transitioning to a renewables-based economy requires electrifying all sectors, which is technically and logistically complex, especially for energy-intensive industries and grid expansion/resilience.
- **Dysfunctional UNFCCC:** The consensus-based decision-making process is a major barrier, allowing a minority of countries to block urgent climate action, undermining the UNFCCC's ability to respond to the climate emergency. The reluctance of some Parties



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to discuss the root cause of climate change (i.e. fossil fuels) blocks any possible progress.

- **Outdated international system:** Many international treaties, institutions, and MDBs remain misaligned with the Paris Agreement, actively or passively fueling the climate crisis. Legal barriers like ISDS mechanisms protect fossil fuel investments.
- **Global inequality and lack of solidarity:** The Global Majority bears the brunt of climate impacts despite minimal responsibility. The Global North's inadequate financial support for mitigation/adaptation, coupled with ongoing resource extraction, erodes international trust.

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

A **Fossil Fuel Treaty** can enable States to coordinate the managed phase-out of fossil fuel production and consumption, supporting a global just transition also thanks to common financial instruments.

On the basis of the CBDR principle, a Treaty could establish commitments to phase out existing production and end new oil, gas and coal licensing; create cooperative mechanisms including a buyers-sellers partnership between producing and consuming nations, a debt resolution facility, and scaled-up public finance from developed to developing countries; redirect existing financial flows away from fossil fuels, including by eliminating subsidies; and provide finance and technical support for countries to develop just transition plans for workers, communities and regions. It would complement the Paris Agreement by addressing climate change at its root source.

Structured **fossil fuel subsidy reform roadmaps** can reduce financial support to fossil fuels, through the following measures:

- **Phased elimination of fossil fuel subsidies:** Gradual removal of direct and indirect subsidies (tax breaks, price controls) for fossil fuel production and consumption, with clear timelines and sunset clauses, depending on the type of subsidy.
- **Impact assessments:** To estimate the distributional impacts of subsidy removal.
- **Stakeholder engagement and transparency mechanisms:** Public inventories of fossil fuel subsidies, independent audits, and stakeholder consultations to ensure accountability and civil society input in the phase-out plans.
- **Redirection of funds:** Reallocating subsidy savings to clean energy infrastructure, just transition programs (worker retraining, community economic diversification), social safety nets (cash transfers to low-income households), and (non-debt) international climate finance.



These roadmaps can be integrated into a Fossil Fuel Treaty.

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

- [Coalition on Phasing Out Fossil Fuel Incentives Including Subsidies](#) (COFFIS). Hosted by the International Institute for Sustainable Development, it brings together countries committed to eliminating fossil fuel subsidies and other incentives that undermine climate action. The novelty of COFFIS, compared to previous initiatives focused on the elimination of fossil fuel subsidies, lies in the requirement for members to publish their fossil fuel subsidy inventories (one year after joining) and phase-out plans (two years after joining).
- [Fossil Fuel Treaty Initiative](#). According to the initiative, “the proposed treaty would complement the Paris Agreement by providing the global roadmap needed to halt the expansion of fossil fuel, manage an equitable phase-out of coal, oil and gas, and lay the foundations for a true just energy transition in which no worker, community or country is left behind.” The initiative is endorsed by several [Parties to the Paris Agreement](#). The series of international conferences on transitioning away from fossil fuels, starting with the one in [Santa Marta](#), Colombia, on 24-29 April 2026, are a place to discuss best practices, in view of starting negotiations on a Fossil Fuel Treaty.
- Colombia’s [updated Nationally Determined Contribution](#) (NDC 3.0; page 115 of the Annex). It contains a roadmap for the progressive substitution of fossil fuels, which can be used as inspiration and template for other countries. The Parties to the Paris Agreement could agree to mandate, as part of the NDC development, submission, and reporting processes, the inclusion of similar fossil fuel phase-out roadmaps.

*(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?*

The transition away from fossil fuels needs to be country-owned and country-based, in line with NDC commitments of Parties. A just, orderly, and equitable transition must also be globally supported, with differentiated timelines and tailored roadmaps reflecting each country’s development stage and fossil fuel dependence. High-income countries should lead with rapid phase-outs and provide new, grant-based climate finance, technology transfer, and debt relief to enable transitions in the Global South. Inclusive governance, involving workers, Indigenous groups, and civil society, is essential, alongside social safety nets, reskilling programs, and economic diversification to protect livelihoods.