



Submission to the First Global Dialogue under the Sharm el-Sheikh Mitigation Ambition and Implementation Work Programme on accelerating just energy transition, as mandated in Decision 4/CMA.4, para 14

The Geneva Centre for Human Rights Advancement and Global Dialogue is pleased to make this submission in contribution to the Sharm el-Sheikh mitigation ambition and implementation work programme. This submission is informed by the GCHRAGD's research and by panel discussions held with human rights experts and climate activists, as part of its mandate.

Introduction

Implementing a just transition is assuredly the only pathway to durably and viably avoid environmental destruction. The Geneva Centre wishes to emphasize that any effort toward low-emission energies should be underpinned by the principles of human rights and the ambition to realize the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

We understand a "just transition" to be one that closes development gaps; empowers vulnerable groups; and benefits local communities and workers.

The energy sector has vast human rights implications. Access to energy plays a determinant role in achieving the right to an adequate standard of living

ⁱ, combating poverty and inequalities, and realizing the right to development. Energy generation and disposal of waste from renewables also directly impacts the enjoyment of the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment recognized by the United Nations General Assembly in 2022.ⁱⁱ

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, calls for a **human rights economy** have never been louder,ⁱⁱⁱ and the interlinkages between human rights, climate change and the economy have been illustrated in their multidimensional form, notably by the IPCC Working Group II in AR6.^{iv}

Bearing in mind these interlinkages, the GCHRAGD would like to focus this submission on 2 areas that merit careful planning and pertain to immediate mitigation actions.



1. Investment in manufacturing capability in developing economies.

Developed and emerging economies that are fossil-fuel-dependent or possess high-emission energy mix have set generally insufficient goals compared to global target GHG emission reduction needs. However, many developed have still made significant strides in growing their renewable energy sectors and diversifying their economies. At the same time, in designing a just transition and advancing the growth of the renewable energy markets, Parties should account for risks of technology dominance and exclusion from the supply chain.

Under the current global finance architecture, developing countries face intense challenges in addressing poverty; affecting most harshly vulnerable groups such as women, children, older persons, and disabled persons, indigenous people and rural populations.

At the moment, the most promising renewable energy technologies^v such as solar PV^{vi}, wind turbines^{vii}, and geothermal power plant turbines^{viii} are manufactured in just a few emerging and developed economies. This could create a situation of technology dominance over developing countries that remain importers or beneficiaries of renewable energy technology.^{ix}

This situation presents both a challenge and an opportunity. In a bid to leave no one behind, larger investments in renewable energy industries in developing countries are crucial.^x These investments can potentially have indirect economic impact in allied economic sectors by boosting intermediate inputs of products and services to the manufacturing industry.^{xi}

Economies endowed with crucial mineral resources could also harness this opportunity to diversify their economy.

Certainly, such projects require high upfront capital and present uncertainties in terms of risk and returns.^{xii} Therefore, in order to explore this avenue of mitigation action, multilateral development banks and national development financial institutions would have to take the lead in evaluating renewable energy industries potential and helping create an enabling national environment for investment through capacity-building and technology transfer. Public and private institution may benefit from leveraging the institutional knowledge of partners such as the International Finance Corporation.



2. A Community-Centered Transition

The exclusion of women, especially pregnant and disabled women^{xiii} remains a major challenge in implementing a just transition. Similarly, young people, persons with disabilities, indigenous people are also underrepresented in mitigation programmes. The gender policies adopted by many Parties and by the Green Climate are a welcomed step forward. However, high standards in terms of project assessment, monitoring and compliance with highly ambitious guidelines potentially exclude states and non-state actors which do not have sufficient institutional capacity, often the most vulnerable.^{xiv}

For instance, wind and solar energy being land-intensive solutions, land-use conflicts between implementing partners and local communities threatened to rise regularly^{xv}. Intricate chain of commands and reporting lines among stakeholders in many climate mitigation initiatives hamper direct accountability.

Promoting inclusive and participatory consultations must remain a priority in carrying out these initiatives. According to the latest NDC Synthesis Report^{xvi}, 60% of Parties specifically referenced holding gender-sensitive consultations. A clear call to effectively increase this share would be beneficial.

Additionally, only 1% of Parties mentioned the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action, which, under the leadership of the high-level champions, supports implementation of the Paris Agreement by strengthening collaboration between national governments and cities, subnational regions, businesses, investors and civil society to accelerate action on climate change.

In order to scale-up implementation of mitigation ambition, formal arrangements should be established to enable national stakeholders; in particular trade associations, chambers of commerce, investors and civil society representing marginalized group, to propose and co-design mitigation programmes



ⁱ Contained in article 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). Also in, article 14 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), articles 24 and 27 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), articles 5 and 7 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD), and article 28 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)

ⁱⁱ UNGA resolution [A/76/L.75](#)

ⁱⁱⁱ See UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk's [statement](#)

^{iv} IPCC, 2022: Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability. Contribution of Working Group II to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [H.-O. Pörtner, D.C. Roberts, M. Tignor, E.S. Poloczanska, K. Mintenbeck, A. Alegría, M. Craig, S. Langsdorf, S. Löschke, V. Möller, A. Okem, B. Rama (eds.)]. Cambridge University Press. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK and New York, NY, USA, 3056 pp., doi:10.1017/9781009325844.

^v IPCC, 2022: Climate Change 2022: Mitigation of Climate Change. Contribution of Working Group III to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [P.R. Shukla, J. Skea, R. Slade, A. Al Khourdajie, R. van Diemen, D. McCollum, M. Pathak, S. Some, P. Vyas, R. Fradera, M. Belkacemi, A. Hasija, G. Lisboa, S. Luz, J. Malley, (eds.)]. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK and New York, NY, USA. doi: 10.1017/9781009157926

^{vi} IEA (2022), Solar PV Global Supply Chains, IEA, Paris <https://www.iea.org/reports/solar-pv-global-supply-chains>

^{vii} WoodMackenzie. (2020, April 2). Global wind turbine supply chain trends 2020. <https://www.woodmac.com/our-expertise1/focus/Power--Renewables/global-wind-turbine-supply-chain-trends-2020/>

^{viii} Sertaç Akar, Chad Augustine, Parthiv Kurup, and Margaret Mann. (2018). Global Value Chain and Manufacturing Analysis on Geothermal Power Plant Turbines. Clean Energy Manufacturing Analysis Center. <https://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy19osti/72150.pdf>

^{ix} A New World : The Geopolitics of the Energy Transformation. (2019). Global Commission on the Geopolitics of Energy Transformation, IRENA. https://www.irena.org/-/media/files/irena/agency/publication/2019/jan/global_commission_geopolitics_new_world_2019.pdf

^x Li, F., Zhang, J., & Li, X. (2022). Research on supporting developing countries to achieve green development transition: Based on the perspective of renewable energy and foreign direct investment. Journal of Cleaner Production, 372(133726), 133726. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclepro.2022.133726>

^{xi} Babayomi, O. O., Dahoro, D. A., & Zhang, Z. (2022). Affordable clean energy transition in developing countries: Pathways and technologies. IScience, 25(5), 104178. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.isci.2022.104178>

^{xii} Donastorg, A., Renukappa, S., & Suresh, S. (2017). Financing renewable energy projects in developing countries: A critical review. IOP Conference Series. Earth and Environmental Science, 83, 012012. <https://doi.org/10.1088/1755-1315/83/1/012012>

^{xiii} Human Rights Council, Analytical study on gender-responsive climate action for the full and effective enjoyment of the rights of women, 1 May 2019, A/HRC/41/26 <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G19/120/13/PDF/G1912013.pdf?OpenElement>

^{xiv} Garschagen, Matthias, and Deepal Doshi. "Does Funds-Based Adaptation Finance Reach the Most Vulnerable Countries?" Global Environmental Change: Human and Policy Dimensions, vol. 73, no. 102450, 2022, p. 102450, doi:10.1016/j.gloenvcha.2021.102450

^{xv} See documented examples here : Hunsberger, C., Corbera, E., Borrás, S. M., Jr, Franco, J. C., Woods, K., Work, C., de la Rosa, R., Eang, V., Herre, R., Kham, S. S., Park, C., Sokheng, S., Spoor, M., Thein, S., Aung, K. T., Thuon, R., & Vaddhanaphuti, C. (2017). Climate change mitigation, land grabbing and conflict: towards a landscape-based and collaborative action research agenda. Revue Canadienne d'études Du Développement [Canadian Journal of Development Studies], 38(3), 305–324. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02255189.2016.1250617>

^{xvi} FCCC/PA/CMA/2022/4