

# **LMDC's submission on the Global Dialogues of the Work Programme to urgently scale up mitigation ambition and implementation in this critical decade**

May 23, 2023

## **1. Context**

According to the decision -/CMA.4 (Matters relating to the work programme for urgently scaling up mitigation ambition and implementation referred to in paragraph 27 of decision 1/CMA.3), at least two global dialogues shall be held each year as part of the work programme, with one to be held prior to the first regular sessions of the subsidiary bodies of the year, starting at their fifty-eighth sessions, and one prior to the second regular sessions of the subsidiary bodies of the year, starting at their fifty-ninth sessions (November-December 2023), and that such dialogues should be conducted in hybrid format to allow both in-person and virtual participation.

On April 12, 2023, the co-chairs of the Sharm el-Sheikh mitigation ambition and implementation work programme released the topics to be discussed at dialogues under the work. The dialogues taking place under the work programme in 2023 will focus on “accelerating just energy transition”, including by: (1) Implementing policies and measures with global overview and country-specific experience; (2) Addressing financial, technological and capacity-building needs in this area, such as through international cooperation, including with non-Party stakeholders, and provision of support to developing countries; (3) Promoting sustainable development and understanding socioeconomic effects programme in 2023.

As mandated, Parties, observers and other non-Party stakeholders are invited to submit their views on opportunities, best practices, actionable solutions, challenges and barriers relevant to the topics of the dialogues via the submission portal no later than four weeks before each dialogue. Like-Minded Group of Developing Countries (LMDC) welcomes the opportunity of the proposal and China on behalf of LMDC submit the following views.

## **2. Principles**

LMDC supports the focus of the dialogues on finance, technology, capacity building support, which are the most needed elements to carry out mitigation actions, as well as the exchange of experiences, reflecting the focus on “implementation” in the work program, also reflecting the spirit of facilitative.

The MWP shall follow the principles of being of non-prescriptive, non-punitive and facilitative, respectful of national sovereignty and national circumstances, take into account the nationally determined nature of NDC and will not impose new target or goals, the dialogues should aim to improve understanding and promote cooperation.

The non-prescriptive principal of this program has to be respected and reflected across all its activities, through maintaining the nature of its “focused-exchange of views”. LMDC will not accommodate discussions on targets or standards or incorporation of numerical outcomes of scenarios. There is no place in this program for such elements.

## **3. Understanding on the topics of the “Global Dialogue”**

In terms of the understanding on the 2023 topics “Accelerating a Just Energy Transitions”, LMDC would like to highlight the following points:

**First, “Just Energy Transition” must be discussed in the context of sustainable development.** Energy security, poverty eradication economic development and other aspects should be taken into account. Energy transitions must come within the context of other development issues in a complementary manner. The IPCC Sixth Assessment Report also clearly states: “Climate change mitigation action designed and conducted in the context of sustainable development, equity, and poverty eradication, will be more acceptable, durable and effective.”

**Second, “Just Energy Transitions” should reflect the principles of equity, common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities (CBDR&RC) of the Convention, and the developed countries should take the lead in emission reduction, energy transitions, and to provide effective financial support for developing countries.** The principles of equity, CBDR&RC must be integrated and operationalized within the MWP. Article 3.1 of the Convention states that the developed country Parties should take the lead in combating climate change and the adverse effects thereof. Article 4.2(a) of the Convention states that developed countries are taking the lead in modifying longer-term trends in anthropogenic emissions consistent with the objective of the Convention. Article 4.4 of the Paris Agreement states that Developed country Parties should continue taking the lead by undertaking economy-wide absolute emission reduction targets. Article 9.1 of Paris Agreement states that Developed country Parties shall provide financial resources to assist developing country Parties with respect to both mitigation and adaptation in continuation of their existing obligations under the Convention. Therefore, we believe that we should not only promote just transitions domestically in each country, but more importantly, we should promote just transitions in a way that takes into account the different obligations of developed and developing countries. Developed countries must take the lead in rapid and deep emission reduction and energy transitions, as developing countries are faced with increasing difficulties in their transitions as they try to balance their development ambitions with their mitigation ambitions.

**Third, “Just Energy Transitions” is a systemic issue that requires global and opened international cooperation as the condition, as well as the feature of inclusiveness and synergy.** We believe that to achieve “Just Energy Transition”, all parties should firmly support multilateralism and free trade, and work together to maintain the security and stability of global industrial and supply chains, create an international cooperation environment of mutual trust, inclusion and win-win situation, and avoid unilateralism and protectionism from artificially damaging the prospects of global economic growth and ultimately undermining the collective global efforts to address climate change.

**Fourth, “Just Energy Transitions” refers to working actively and prudently toward the energy transition on the basis of equity and national circumstances** and capacities. We believe that Parties are at different stages of development and need to pursue climate action in a prudent manner, because safety and reliability are the basic requirements for energy systems, and only economically viable energy will be accepted by society. With that in mind, we must recognize that there is no universal approach and respect the diversity of national transition pathways. We believe that Parties should implement their energy transitions measures in a gradual and phased manner in line with their national circumstance and the principle of “building the new before discarding the old ” based on their respective energy and resource endowments, allowing fossil and non-fossil energy sources to coordinate and complement each other, and building a resilient energy system to ensure current and long-term energy security, which is a fair and feasible way of energy transitions. Each Party's transition pathway is unique, guided by a collection of different policies based on different national circumstances , needs and priorities.

We believe that, based on the common understanding of the “Just Energy transitions”, we expect the dialogues to enhance mutual understanding through sharing and learning, which could send a

positive signal for global cooperation on low emissions technology and trade. It can enable parties to build confidence and enhance mutual trust, thereby promoting mutual action, strengthening cooperation, and working together to take and strengthen climate action.

#### **4. Specific suggestions for holding the “Global Dialogue”**

- **Organization Arrangement**

The arrangement of the dialogue should ensure that it is conducted out in an inclusive, balanced, and party-driven manner, which allows all Parties to participate. It must ensure inclusivity in topics and representation. Therefore, we suggest scheduling the global dialogue during the June SB session and COP28 to ensure comprehensive and balanced participation of all Parties.

- **Purpose of the dialogues**

We stress that the purpose of the dialogues is to facilitate a focused exchange of views and information to achieve cooperative solutions through sharing progress, experiences and good practices, and addressing barriers and challenges. It should respect respectful national sovereignty and national circumstances, take into account the nationally determined nature of nationally determined contributions. The dialogues must not reinforce new targets or goals and should not ignore country differentiation and necessary means of implementation or ignore the diversity of pathways towards achieving different commitments and obligations under the Paris agreement.

Consequently, any references to establishment of sectoral pathways, establishment of goals towards net-zero in the energy sector, goals for phase down of fossil fuels or elimination of fossil fuels subsidies, and establishment of specific types of energy technologies and pathways, among other prescriptive issues, must be avoided in the framing of global dialogue.

## ● Participant

We believe that the balance of developed and developing country participants, as well as the balance of geographical regions, should be fully accommodated. Experts must come from all regions of the world, including different academic background, including Indigenous Peoples and local communities' knowledge holders (in articulation with IPLC Platform).

We suggest that the dialogues should avoid political discussions, but to focus on effective dialogues at the technical level. In order to take advantage of the “Global Dialogue” platform for full and effective exchange of views, we suggest that the participants of the two dialogues in 2023 will focus on the following arrangement:

**The first Global Dialogue (Bonn session in the middle of 2023)** invites experts and scholars in the field of energy for a full exchange of views on:

- (1) the synergies and trade-offs between sustainable development and just energy transitions: considering that just energy transitions apply for all countries without leaving no one behind. This first global dialogue will set the stage of sustainable development and just energy transitions.
- (2) Challenges, opportunities and barriers for sustainable development in the context of just energy transitions, while operationalizing equity and CBDR-RC.
- (3) Differentiated just energy transitions in the context of developed countries and developing countries.
- (4) Experiences of diversity of national energy transition pathways based on national circumstances and capabilities.
- (5) Focused exchange on energy transitions solutions and opportunities such as clean hydrogen.
- (6) Importance of removal and abatement technologies to achieve net zero in particular CCUS and DAC.

(7) Role of energy conservation and energy efficiency improvements.

The topic must consider that there are different opportunities and barriers with respect to developed and developing countries, and that there will be diversity of just energy transitions based on national circumstances and capabilities of countries.

**The second Global Dialogue (COP session in the end of 2023)** focuses on technical exchanges in the government sectors and may invite government officials from the energy and related sectors, economic incentives such as finance, taxation, and emissions trading systems, science and technology sectors, education and communication sectors, commerce, and justice sectors to present experiences, opportunities, and challenges of transition in the energy sector.

Among the sub-topics of the dialogue, we suggest the following.

**Sub-topic 1. Just energy transitions in the context of sustainable development**, guided by the following questions:

- How to promote durable, inclusive and sustainable economic growth and poverty eradication in the just energy transitions?
- How to address energy shortage and inaccessibility and ensure access to affordable, reliable and sustainable modern energy for all, in the context of sustainable development, equity and poverty eradication?
- How to achieve energy conservation and energy efficiency improvement?
- Ensure energy security and equity, effective response to energy crisis.
- How to promote green and low-carbon transitions ?
- Synergies between energy transitions, environmental protection(protection of terrestrial and marine ecosystems, conservation of biodiversity and other aspects).
- How to take into account climate justice, social justice, rights-based approaches, including the rights of Mother Earth (for those

countries that recognized them), in the just energy transitions?

**Sub-topic 2. Means of implementation for sustainable development and just energy transitions**, guided by the following questions:

- Technology needs and barriers to energy transitions, including, inter alia: energy conservation, energy efficiency improvement, hydrogen energy, broad pathways for CCUS, and other needs and challenges.
- Financial support gaps and financing opportunities for the energy transition.
- Capacity building experience and needs for energy transitions (organizational mechanism building, transparency system building, ability to implement mitigation programs, education and training, and public awareness and other aspects).
- Strengthening international cooperation on energy transitions to promote global sustainable development.

**Sub-topic 3. Energy technologies' synergies and trade-offs with sustainable development**, guided by the following questions:

- Development of experiences and challenges of non-fossil energy, clean and renewable energy, including the development experiences and challenges of renewable energy such as photovoltaic, wind, hydro, geothermal, biomass, lithium batteries, hydrogen, and nuclear, and synergies with sustainable development.
- Technologies and experiences of clean and efficient utilization of fossil energy and relationship with sustainable development.

The dialogues must consider as a cross-cutting issue the understanding operationalization of **equity and CBDR-RC**, as established by the UNFCCC and its Paris Agreement, in the context of just energy transitions.

### ● **Dialogue format**

It could be various formats, including workshop, panel discussion, round table and other formats. We suggest that in addition to the presenter's keynote speech, Q&A sessions with the participants



should be arranged.

The LMDC does not support introducing additional regional dialogues, including using Regional Climate Weeks (as suggested in submissions by other groups of Parties), for reflecting on the topics mandated in the MWP, since there is the need to keep the dialogues under the formal setting and with equal opportunity for participation of all Parties.