

G77 and China Submission
on Views towards Discussion Topic of the Second Dialogue
under the UAE Just Transition Work Programme
September 2024

This Submission is made by the Republic of Uganda, on behalf of G77 and China on views towards discussion topic of the second dialogue under the UAE Just Transition Work Programme.

G77 and China, representing 134 developing countries, approach climate change and just transition pathways negotiations with a focus on equity, common but differentiated responsibilities, and respective capabilities. Our perspective is grounded in the principles of sustainable development, the inalienable right to development, and the eradication of poverty.

General Considerations:

1. **Equity and CBDR-RC:** We emphasize the need for climate actions to be equitable and in line with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. Developed countries, having historically contributed the most to greenhouse gas emissions, must take the lead in reducing emissions and providing financial and technological support to developing countries. This principle, as enshrined in the Convention and its Paris Agreement, should be at the core of all transition pathways to ensure “climate justice.”
2. **Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication:** Climate actions and transitions strategies must align with sustainable development goals, and vice-versa. Efforts to combat climate change should not hinder the development prospects of developing countries. Instead, they should support sustainable economic growth and poverty eradication, according to the development model that each country decides as adequate to their context-specific needs and realities ensuring the integrity and protection of Mother Earth.

Key Points and Concerns

G77 and China considers that the topic selection for the second dialogue could have more effectively reflected the widespread calls for greater emphasis on adaptation and international cooperation enabling means of implementation. While the transition in the workforce is an important track within the many Just Transition pathways, our dialogues should not solely address the workforce transition for the following reasons:

1. The subject of workforce just transition has been extensively covered under various tracks both within and outside the UNFCCC process. To ensure that further dialogues on this topic are productive and valuable, it is essential to first take stock of all the results from previous workstreams. This will help identify any gaps and opportunities for further discussions under the Just Transition Work Programme. By doing so, we can avoid redundancies and duplications,

ensuring that the dialogues under the Just Transition Work Programme add significant value and contribute meaningfully to the overall objectives.

2. Just transition of the workforce has strong advocates, especially in countries with robust labour and trade unions. Most developing countries are striving to enhance community participation in identifying their just transition pathways. Focusing the dialogue solely on the workforce undermines other vulnerable groups within developing countries that lack strong unions and strong means of implementation, such as the informal sector and micro small enterprises.
3. The needed transition requires a transformation of the entire economy and society to meet the new or different development models. Just transition pathways must be assessed from a wide socio-economic and environmental perspective, including all groups of society and all sectors of the economy through collaborative efforts. This comprehensive assessment is crucial to understanding the implications of transitioning to these new or different models on all economic sectors and societal groups. Keeping the focus only on the workforce undermines a whole of society and economy approach.
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Suggestions:

1. **Focus on Whole of Society and Economy Transition:** The dialogue should focus on the transition of the entire society and economy, unpacking the full range of means of implementation (finance, technology, and capacity building) for just transition pathways. This includes exploring current approaches, opportunities, and gaps.
2. **International Cooperation and Partnerships:** While people-centric approaches are important, they are only a step towards identifying areas that require support. The G77 and China group sees a missed opportunity in fostering international cooperation and partnerships. Developed countries must meet their obligations to lead in reducing emissions timely and provide financial, technological, and capacity-building support to developing countries. Our dialogue should focus on this perspective and unpack all required solutions that support this narrative through international cooperation. Additionally, we should assess any initiatives or unilateral measures with cross boarder negative impacts that undermine international cooperation efforts.
3. **Inclusive and Transparent Processes:** Climate negotiations and decision-making processes must be inclusive and transparent. The voices of all countries, especially the most vulnerable, should be heard and considered in shaping global climate policies.
4. **Integration of Just Transitions Principles into key climate frameworks:** integrating just transitions principles in the implementation of key climate change frameworks (i.e., the Convention, Kyoto Protocol, Paris agreement, SDG13, IPCC) can help ensure that the transition to a sustainable future is just and equitable for all.
5. **Workforce Compartmentalization and Informal Sector Inclusion:** compartmentalizing the workforce discussion into two primary categories: the formal sector (e.g., mines, industries) and the informal sector (e.g., rural and local economies). This distinction is essential, especially for

developing countries, where a significant proportion of the workforce operates in the informal sector. Often, when addressing Just Energy Transition, the informal sector is overlooked. To ensure no one is left behind, the dialogue must include strategies to uplift and transition the informal workforce as well. This is a present gap in existing discussions and workstreams and must be bridged.

6. **Just Transitions and Bottom-up Approach:** "just" transition pathways are only truly just when approached from the bottom up, incorporating a whole-of-society perspective. This ensures that all societal groups—especially those at the grassroots level—are engaged in shaping the transitions. For this, we propose that any discussion on just transitions must focus on community-led initiatives, driven by local needs and realities. It is essential to recognize the importance of empowering local voices to ensure equitable outcomes. This is to guarantee that just transition pathways are defined within the confines of poverty eradication and sustainable development, and are being led by people and communities, not markets and industries alone.
7. **Anchoring the Transitions within CBDR-RC:** The transition to new industries and energy models needs to be stable, sustainable, and resilient to shocks. This requires the establishment of "anchors"—critical measures and policies designed to stabilize the transitions and mitigate any adverse effects. Many developing countries may lack the institutional and financial capacity to achieve this on their own, making global partnerships and capacity-building initiatives fundamentally essential. Developed countries should take the lead in providing technical and financial support to ensure balanced and stable transitions that benefits everyone. This means CBDR-RC should be anchored as a principle in all climate related workstreams to ensure its always inclusive.

By addressing these points, we can ensure a more comprehensive and inclusive approach to just transitions that align with the principles of equity, sustainable development, and international cooperation.

Nevertheless, the following answers to the guiding questions represents an attempt by the G77 and China to course-correct the dialogue process for the second dialogue. While exerting these efforts, it is worth recalling the request made by the group during SB60 to establish a workplan under the JTWP, ensuring that future dialogues reflect the widespread opinions of the parties on the topics according to their priorities, thereby guaranteeing a bottom-up approach.

I. Approaches for Empowering All Actors and Segments of Society for a Fair and Inclusive Workforce Transition to Meet Paris Agreement Goals

Challenges and Barriers:

1. The recognition of the diversity of development models, founded in climate justice criteria, as is the fair distribution of the global carbon budget, is essential for a global just transition and for national just transition pathways. Consequently, development models that ensure the integrity and protection of Mother Earth, for just transition should also be supported.
2. The transition in the workforce is a complex process with both positive and negative effects. It requires careful management and policies that extend beyond the capabilities of many countries to ensure that the benefits are maximized while mitigating the downsides. Other additional principles in addition to those of the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, and guidelines are not necessarily useful to address this transition fairly and equitably, considering that a one size fits all approach will never be adequate to the different context and needs of each country.
3. Integrating climate change and sustainable development into international policymaking processes is essential. If the workforce transition is handled in silos and without addressing the interlinkages with sustainable development, this could lead to significant distortions in an economy and the fabric of society.
4. In many developing countries, policymakers face tough choices when allocating their limited resources. While the aim of the workforce transition is dual—addressing climate change with adaptation and mitigation measures and achieving sustainable development—a poorly managed transition could hinder development rather than promote it.

Opportunities and Actionable Solutions:

1. **Extending the Scope of Assessments:** The Just Transition Work Programme should extend its scope to quantify impacts beyond the workforce. This includes considering social, economic, and environmental dimensions in the context of diverse sustainable development models to ensure a holistic approach. Since the mitigation dimension of just transition has been covered more widely, adaptation needs to be addressed.
2. **Leveraging Existing Dialogues and Studies:** Many previous dialogues and studies on just transition in the workforce have already addressed key issues. Building on this existing knowledge can help create more effective strategies.
3. **Promoting Social Dialogue:** Engaging all stakeholders with a differential approach, including workers, employers, communities, and Indigenous Peoples, in social dialogue is crucial. This ensures that the transition is inclusive and that the voices of all affected parties are heard.
4. **International Cooperation:** Strengthening international cooperation can help share best practices and provide support to countries with limited resources. This should include all kinds of means of implementation- provision of finance, technology transfer, and capacity-building. Climate change being a global threat requires a global action with international cooperation at its heart.

II. Unpacking the Full Range of Means of Implementation (Finance, Technology and Capacity Building) for a Just Transition of the Work Force: Exploring Current Approaches, Opportunities and Gaps.

Suggestion: to focus on the whole of society approach and economy transition and unpacking the full range of means of implementation (finance, technology and Capacity building) for a just transition of “the whole economy and society”:

- **Finance**

Challenges and barriers:

- The lack of adequate, accessible, and predictable financial resources to finance developing countries transition plans.
- Insufficient international support.

Opportunities and Actionable Solutions:

- Developed countries must fulfil their commitments to provide financial support to developing countries. This includes fulfilling the \$100 billion annual target that was set by 2020 for climate finance, and meeting timely the new collective quantified goal of climate finance, ensuring that funds are accessible, predictable, and adequate.
- Establish a transparent and accountable mechanism for tracking climate finance flows to ensure that funds are effectively reaching developing countries.
- Promote financial mechanisms that do not generate unsustainable debt burdens.
- The NCQG represents a more ambitious and needs-based approach to climate finance, which is essential for developing countries to effectively combat climate change and achieve sustainable development goals

- **Technology Transfer**

Challenges and barriers:

- The lack of enhanced support for technology transfer to developing countries.
- Barriers to technology access and fragmented international cooperation weakening deployment of environmental and climate-friendly technologies,
- The need to strengthen technologies based on Indigenous Peoples’ and local knowledge.

Opportunities and Actionable Solutions:

- Create international partnerships and platforms that facilitate the sharing of climate technologies, including renewable energy, energy efficiency, and sustainable agriculture technologies.

- **Capacity Building**

Challenges and Barriers:

- Developing countries struggle to provide adequate training and education programs to equip workers, including those not engaged in the formal economy, with the necessary skills for emerging industries.
- Capacity building to meet the required skills for a whole of economy and society transition involves a whole range of transformation in the education sector that requires very ambitious financial plans.

Opportunities and Actionable Solutions:

- Strengthening the capacities of developing countries to address climate change is crucial. This involves providing technical assistance, training, and resources to build institutional and human capacities. This will contribute to achieving the sustainable development goals and poverty eradication.
- Ambitious and comprehensive capacity-building programs, which include the transformation of the education sector, should be developed to focus on enhancing technical skills, policy development, and implementation capabilities in developing countries. International cooperation should play a big role in addressing the associated financial needs of developing countries related to the capacity building for the transitions.

III. International Cooperation and Partnerships for People-centric and Equitable Just Transitions.

Challenges and barriers:

- On international cooperation and partnerships, while it is clear the linkages with people centric approaches, this is only a step towards identifying the areas that would require support but not essentially the solution.
- The Sixth Assessment Report of the IPCC identifies international cooperation as a critical enabler for achieving ambitious climate action and encouraging development and implementation of climate policies. Unfortunately, the essential element of the international cooperation in the implementation of the just transition pathways does not receive as much focus verses the national policies.

Opportunities:

- The G77 and China group see an opportunity to foster international cooperation and partnerships by ensuring developed countries meet their obligations. This includes taking the lead in reducing emissions and providing financial, technological, and capacity-building support to developing countries. Our dialogue should focus on this perspective, unpacking all required solutions that support this narrative through international cooperation and assessing any initiatives or unilateral measures with cross border negative impacts that undermine these efforts.
- International cooperation should promote a supportive and open international economic system aimed at achieving sustainable economic growth and development in developing countries according to their national circumstances and developmental priorities, with a fairer distribution of resources between and within the countries, and thus enabling them to better address the problems of climate change, while assessing the negative impacts of unilateral measures with cross border negative impacts in achieving a cooperative approach in the implementation of Just transition pathways.
- Climate policies could be analysed with a view to understanding the different impacts, the economic social and environmental costs, the mobilisation of support, the enabling international conditions and exploring potential linkages on how development challenges such as food insecurity, energy, poverty, disparities in education, gender inequality, and climate related unilateral cross-border measures can be addressed.
- Addressing the role of international cooperation on the development and deployment of low carbon and climate resilient technologies which should be pursued on equal partnership that leads to shared prosperity, taking into account the needs and priorities of developing countries in pursuing the implementation of their sustainable development model and poverty eradication.
- Also encourages Parties and non-Party stakeholders to enhance cooperation on the implementation of multilateral environmental conventions and agreements, particularly their work under the Rio Conventions, to facilitate the achievement of the purpose and long-terms goals of the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals in a synergistic and efficient manner