



Issue: United Arab Emirates Just Transition Work Programme

Title: Views of Parties, observers, and other non-Party stakeholders on work to be undertaken under, as well as possible topics for the dialogues under the work programme

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This submission was prepared by Plataforma CIPÓ, a Brazil-based NGO that holds observer status with the UNFCCC.

Views on actionable solutions relevant to the Just Transition Work Programme

Despite challenges in achieving consensus and ensuring meaningful and diverse participation in its initial dialogues, particularly from Parties and Observers of developing countries, the Just Transition Work Programme (JTWP) has, since its establishment, played an important role in enhancing understanding of key just transition challenges and priorities, taking into account Parties' national circumstances as well as external global constraints.

Moving forward, the JTWP must prioritize focused text negotiations that foster consensus around concrete mechanisms to support countries in transitioning away from fossil fuels in their energy systems in a just, orderly and equitable manner, in line with Outcome of the First Global Stocktake of the Paris Agreement adopted at COP28.

This submission presents recommendations on two tangible outcomes that the Just Transition Work Programme should pursue:

- High-Level Principles on Just Transitions
- Matchmaking Platform to Foster the Means of Implementation of Just Energy Transitions

1. High-Level Principles on Just Transitions:

While pathways toward just transitions are context-specific due to unique economic, social, and environmental conditions—and may vary according to nationally defined development priorities—developing High-Level Principles on Just Transitions can provide clarity and guidance on key elements that countries should consider when formulating their own just transition strategies, policies and programs.

Although labor market considerations, such as retraining and reskilling, are important—and should also account for informal workers and unpaid labor—these guiding principles must embrace a broader and more inclusive vision of just transition.



Recognizing the importance of international cooperation in promoting energy transitions that foster both environmental sustainability and job creation—while prioritizing social justice, poverty eradication and fairness—the G20 adopted voluntary [Principles for Just and Inclusive Energy Transitions](#) in October 2024 in Foz do Iguaçu, Brazil.

Using the agreed G20 principles as a starting point, while acknowledging the G20's limited representation, this submission builds upon, refines and further expands these principles. Accordingly, we recommend that the High-Level Principles on Just Transitions to be discussed and adopted within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) incorporate the following elements:

1. A whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach

Adopt a comprehensive and inclusive approach that engages all ministries, levels of government, and sectors of the economy and society in designing transition plans, policies, strategies, and financial instruments to promote just and inclusive energy transitions at the national level. This approach should ensure coherence across national policies while fostering the meaningful participation of all sectors of society in just transition processes.

2. Ending energy poverty

When pursuing strategies to develop low-emission energy systems to achieve global net-zero greenhouse gas emissions and carbon neutrality, it is essential to address all forms of energy poverty. This includes ensuring universal access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy, including clean cooking, for all.

3. Social dialogue and stakeholder participation

Foster social dialogue and encourage meaningful, equitable and effective participation by all relevant stakeholders, including affected communities such as Indigenous Peoples, traditional communities, people of African descent, women, and peasants, as well as employers' organizations and trade unions, in decision-making processes and at all stages of the design and implementation of transition strategies and initiatives.

4. Social protection

Strengthen the access to appropriate social protection systems for all as part of just and inclusive energy transitions in order to support workers and communities, with particular consideration to the poor, informal workers and those in vulnerable situations. These mechanisms, designed to reduce vulnerability and mitigate or compensate for socioeconomic impacts, should include measures such as medical care to alleviate health-related impacts, retraining and reskilling programs, unemployment support, and direct cash transfers to provide financial assistance to both formal and informal workers affected by transitions, while also integrating public employment programs in renewable sectors, clean energy

subsidies, and credit programs to support the establishment and sustainability of small businesses.

5. Policy inclusiveness and intersectionality

Incorporate intersectional perspectives on gender balance, including women empowerment, age, race, ethnicity and those in any vulnerable situations into energy planning and policies. Mainstream gender and racial perspectives to ensure comprehensive planning that prevents and mitigates the impact of transition policies on different social groups while promoting the fair distribution of both costs and benefits.

6. Respect for human, environmental and customary rights;

Respect, promote and consider obligations on human, environmental and customary rights in the planning and implementation of energy transition policies and projects. This includes protecting the broader land and customary rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, upholding the principle of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, ensuring the rights of children, youth, women, and persons with disabilities, and safeguarding labor rights, all within the planning and implementation of transition policies and projects.

7. Affordable and reliable finance mechanisms

Explore efficient, inclusive, and just mechanisms for cost allocation in energy solutions and their impact on the cost of energy, with a focus on timely mobilization of resources and working towards facilitating low-cost financing that does not exacerbate the debt burden of developing countries. This approach should enable the adoption of innovative technologies and business models, to widely share the benefits and to help mitigate the burden of energy transitions, especially on the poorest segments of the population.

8. Secure and sustainable solutions

Promote the adoption of secure and sustainable solutions that adhere to the precautionary approach, while implementing robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to ensure accountability for upholding human rights and environmental integrity within transition projects, taking into account both local and transboundary effects. Prevent, mitigate and compensate for negative socio-economic and environmental impacts of energy-related policies and infrastructure and the extraction, refining and processing of certain materials and minerals that are critical for energy transitions while respecting permanent sovereignty over natural resources and energy infrastructure. Whilst tailored to different national circumstances, secure and sustainable solutions should align with international best practices and recommendations, such as the UN Secretary-General's Panel on Critical Energy Transition Minerals and its proposed [principles to guide critical energy transition minerals toward equity and justice](#).

9. Sustainable and inclusive economic growth and technological access for all:

Promote social and economic development through reliable, diversified, sustainable and responsible supply and value chains. This requires strong and inclusive international cooperation, encompassing technology co-development, technology transfer and the sharing of knowledge and technological resources from developed to developing countries. Transition projects should prioritize local value creation and beneficiation at the source for all, particularly in developing countries' economies in transition.

10. Facilitating workforce transformation

Create decent work and quality jobs in accordance with nationally defined development priorities and enable sectoral labour mobility and workforce transformation through reskilling and up-skilling. Adopt measures to ensure that the transition benefits those left behind and at risk of further marginalization, prioritizing the creation of employment opportunities for unemployed individuals, informal workers, peasants and unpaid workers, with a particular focus on women, People of African descent and other historically marginalized groups. These efforts should align with the international guidelines, such as the International [Labour Organization's Guidelines](#) for a just transition towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies for all, as relevant.

11. Reduction of Inequalities Within and Between Countries and CBDR-RC as Transversal Principles

Addressing and reducing inequalities within and between countries is essential to ensuring a fair and just energy transition. The principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC) should be embedded as a transversal element across all policies, programs and initiatives, recognizing that countries have different historical responsibilities, levels of development and capacities to promote energy transitions. This includes ensuring the means of implementation for just transitions in developing countries through finance, capacity building, and technology transfer. It also involves promoting fair burden sharing and preventing the negative externalities of transition policies, including challenges associated with unilateral trade measures and restrictive intellectual property regimes, particularly in developing nations.

While developing negotiated, consensus-based High-Level Principles is an essential first step for establishing standards, criteria and guidance for both national and international policies on just transitions, their impact remains limited without concrete action. The JTWP must go beyond principles and actively promote the means of implementation to support countries in executing their transitions, ensuring alignment with agreed principles that incorporate the key elements outlined above.

To this end, this submission recommends the establishment of a Matchmaking Platform to Facilitate the Implementation of Just Energy Transitions, modeled after the [Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty](#), which was launched during Brazil's G20 presidency in 2024 and has gained the adherence of over 148 stakeholders, including more than 80 states, as well as dozens of international organizations, international financial institutions and philanthropic organizations.

2. Matchmaking Platform to Foster the Means of Implementation of Just Energy Transitions

To help bridge the means of implementation gap, we recommend that the Just Transition Work Programme establish a Matchmaking Platform under the UNFCCC framework to support global efforts in fostering finance, capacity building and technology transfer for just transitions.

Inspired by the **Global Alliance Against Poverty and Hunger**, the Platform should pursue the following High-Level objectives:

1. **Secure Sustained High-Level Political Support** to drive collective action in operationalizing the High-Level Principles on Just Transitions (as detailed in Section 1 of this document) and paragraph 28(d) of the First Global Stocktake, supporting countries in:

“Transitioning away from fossil fuels in energy systems, in a just, orderly and equitable manner, accelerating action in this critical decade, so as to achieve net zero by 2050 in keeping with the science;”

2. **Facilitate the mobilization of international support**, including public and private financial and technological resources, to enable the large-scale, country-owned, and country-led implementation of evidence-based transition programs and policy instruments, with a particular focus on developing countries and prioritizing persons in vulnerable situations and those most at risk of being left behind by transition policies.

This matchmaking platform should be structured around three key pillars:

- **Policy Basket:** a menu of rigorously evaluated policy instruments and programs to promote just transitions, which can be adapted to specific national or subnational contexts.
- **Knowledge-sharing and capacity-building hub:** bringing together national, regional, and international institutions, including academic institutions, to foster knowledge generation, technical assistance and voluntary knowledge exchange. For instance, this hub could support the development of technical capacity required to



assess the costs of policy interventions and build the technical expertise necessary for effective implementation of just transition policies.

- **Sources of finance and technology:** Designed to attract supporting entities, including global and regional funds, vertical climate funds, development banks, and public and private donors, committed to providing financial and technological support to Parties in fulfilling their national commitments to implement just transition programs and policy instruments within the Platform's Policy Basket.