

Issue: United Arab Emirates Just Transition Work Programme - views relevant to the topic of the third dialogue

Title: Views of Parties, observers, and other non-Party stakeholders on opportunities, best practices, actionable solutions, challenges, and barriers relevant to the topic of the third dialogue under the United Arab Emirates Just Transition Work Programme

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Mandate: Decision 3/CMA.5 paragraph 8

This submission was prepared by **Plataforma CIPÓ**, a Brazil-based NGO that holds observer status with the UNFCCC, and **World-Transforming Technologies (WTT)**, a non-profit organization consolidated in 2015 within the Avina Foundation ecosystem, whose mission is to promote political and socio-environmental transformations through collaborative ST&I.

Integrating Science, Technology and Innovation (ST&I) into (Just) Adaptation Policies

The Just Transition Work Programme (JTWP) plays a significant role in enhancing a deeper understanding of critical just transition challenges and priorities, regardless of the difficulties faced in reaching consensus and securing broad, inclusive participation, especially from developing country Parties and observers. Moving forward, the JTWP must prioritize focused text-based negotiations that promote just adaptation policies within the context of just transitions, informed by high-quality inputs and a robust Science, Technology, and Innovation (ST&I) framework.

The meaningful and qualified integration of ST&I is essential for designing effective, equitable, and evidence-based adaptation policies—an indispensable foundation for advancing just transitions. Science provides the basis for understanding climate risks, differentiated impacts, and local vulnerabilities. Technology enables real-time monitoring, scenario modelling, and the development of context-specific solutions. Innovation drives sustainable and creative strategies, often bridging traditional knowledge with technical expertise. When combined, these elements strengthen adaptation efforts, making them more robust and capable of delivering structural transformations in the face of the climate crisis.

Historically, however, climate governance has adopted a top-down approach to ST&I, treating it primarily as a means of implementation within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The prevailing logic—centered on technology transfer from the Global North to the Global South—often overlooks local capacities, needs, and contexts, leading to ill-suited solutions and exacerbating existing inequalities. This perspective also fails to acknowledge the “dual role” of ST&I: while it can offer critical tools to address the climate crisis, it may also pose ethical, social, and environmental risks when deployed without appropriate safeguards.

Alternative approaches have emerged from a diversity of social actors, particularly in the Global South, who produce knowledge rooted in territories and in dialogue with academic and scientific institutions. These initiatives underscore the value of horizontal knowledge production and highlight the importance of integrating traditional and Indigenous knowledge systems into climate-relevant ST&I policies and governance structures.

The JTWP provides a strategic space to translate these perspectives into policy. It has the potential to catalyze new paradigms, institutional arrangements, and infrastructures that reflect and incorporate multiple knowledge systems. To that end, the working group must encourage the UNFCCC to move beyond top-down models of technology transfer in the context of just transitions and advance toward normative frameworks that ensure the meaningful inclusion of scientific, traditional, and local knowledge. This inclusion and integration of multiple knowledge systems, in addition to positive impacts on the construction of technologies, transversally strengthens social participation.

When developing just transition technologies, governments and international organizations can and must establish financial flows, legal protections, and governance mechanisms that uphold the intellectual property rights of Indigenous Peoples and traditional communities, in alignment with international governance instruments, including the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Treaty on Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge. Effective implementation of this treaty, including in the context of just transitions, is critical to ensuring that Indigenous and local communities retain control over their knowledge and benefit from its use.

In parallel, the JTWP must also address the economic and commercial dimensions of this process, including the harmful role of financial and intellectual property barriers in limiting access to green technologies for just transitions and hindering innovation in the Global South—particularly within the adaptation agenda. This requires expanding technology-sharing platforms (including South–South cooperation), climate finance mechanisms, and international patent pools to accelerate inclusive and equitable innovation and technological diffusion to implement just transitions.

This submission reinforces key elements presented in the [contribution made by the Grupo SUR to the dialogues under the UAE Just Transition Work Programme in 2025](#). As highlighted in the joint submission by Brazil, Ecuador, Paraguay and Uruguay, inclusive and sustainable development must be at the core of national efforts in climate action. Accordingly, just transition pathways must also advance social and economic inclusion. In this context, the concept of **just adaptation**, as proposed by the Grupo SUR offers a crucial contribution in this regard and should be further explored and advanced. As stated in the submission, just adaptation refers to adaptation within the broader context of transforming the current economic model into a low-carbon one while simultaneously reducing inequalities. Another relevant point raised in the Grupo SUR’s submission—which should be integrated into discussions on

adaptation within the context of a just transition—is the importance of broad social participation. This principle must also guide considerations of ST&I as means of implementation. The active involvement of Indigenous Peoples and traditional communities is crucial to scientific production, the development of resilient technologies, and the construction of innovation networks and infrastructure.

A just transition requires just adaptation policies, which can and should be informed by high-quality inputs and a robust, inclusive paradigm of ST&I. After all, equitable responses to the climate crisis are unattainable without a regulatory framework that integrates scientific, traditional, and local knowledge.

In this context, this submission provides recommendations concerning three tangible outcomes that the JTWP should aim to achieve:

1. Promote a robust regulatory framework that integrates traditional and scientific knowledge into the international ST&I mechanisms established under the UNFCCC, particularly in the context of just transitions.

To this end, Parties should consider establishing ST&I advisory bodies within the UNFCCC, building on existing science-policy interfaces such as the IPCC. Furthermore, strengthening the meaningful participation of caucuses—particularly those representing Indigenous Peoples, women, youth, and other key stakeholders—is essential to ensure that diverse knowledge systems contribute to effective just transition plans and policies.

2. Promote cross-sectoral ST&I approaches that integrate environmental governance with broader social and economic imperatives when developing just transitions solutions.

This includes avoiding siloed technological solutions and ensuring alignment with other international governance instruments and conventions. In this regard, it is essential that adaptation policy design—particularly within the context of just transitions—be closely aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Another key example of necessary integration is the interface with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and its definitions, especially regarding the recognition of traditional knowledge as legitimate and valuable. This includes critical issues such as Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS); the protection of Indigenous rights under the Nagoya Protocol (CBD 2010, Articles 5–6); and the Global Biodiversity Framework (CBD 2022, Target 22).

It is also recommended to strengthen coordination and synergies between key science-policy bodies, including the IPCC, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), the CBD, and the Science-Policy Interface (SPI) under the UNCCD.

3. When developing just transition and just adaptation solutions, encourage a shift from a technology transfer model to one centered on the co-development of technologies, fostering equitable collaboration between countries and knowledge systems.

This approach should prioritize mutual learning, joint innovation, and context-specific solutions that reflect the needs, priorities, and capacities of all Parties—particularly developing countries. Such a model strengthens local ownership, enhances long-term sustainability, and aligns with the principles of just and inclusive transitions.

Suggested subtopics and guiding questions:

Subtopic 1: Integrating ST&I into Just Adaptation Policies

Guiding Questions:

- What role do science, technology, and innovation (ST&I) play in designing just adaptation solutions within the broader context of just transitions?
- How can traditional, scientific, and local knowledge be combined to inform equitable and evidence-based adaptation?

Subtopic 2: Addressing the Dual Role of ST&I in Climate Action and Enhancing Science–Policy Coordination

Guiding Questions:

- How can the JTWP ensure that the deployment of ST&I in the context of just transitions avoids reinforcing existing social, economic, and environmental inequalities?
- What opportunities exist for enhanced coordination between science-policy bodies (e.g., IPCC, IPBES, UNCCD-SPI)?

Subtopic 3: Recognizing and Protecting Indigenous and Local Knowledge Systems

Guiding Questions:

- How can Indigenous and traditional knowledge systems be meaningfully integrated into ST&I mechanisms under the UNFCCC and in the development of just adaptation solutions?
- How can instruments like the WIPO Treaty on Genetic Resources and Traditional Knowledge be operationalized in the context of just transitions?

Subtopic 4: From Top-Down Technology Transfer to Co-Development Approaches

Guiding Questions

- How can the UNFCCC, together with other international organizations, address the harmful impact of financial and intellectual property barriers on access to green technologies for just transitions—particularly within the adaptation agenda—and on innovation in the Global South?
- How can the UNFCCC Technology Mechanism (TEC and CTCN) be reformed to prioritize co-development models over top-down technology transfer?

Subtopic 5: Reforming the UNFCCC Technology Mechanism to Support Just Adaptation within the Broader Context of Just Transitions

Guiding Questions

- What institutional and governance reforms are needed to ensure meaningful participation of Indigenous Peoples, traditional communities, and local actors in technology decision-making and implementation? Could the establishment of formal advisory roles or dedicated caucuses within the structures of the UNFCCC Technology Mechanism (TEC and CTCN) enhance the inclusion of Indigenous Peoples, traditional communities, and local actors?
- What measures can be taken to align the outputs of the Technology Mechanism (e.g., technical assistance, capacity-building, and technology needs assessments) with the principles of just adaptation and just transition?
- What financial and legal mechanisms could the Technology Mechanism adopt to safeguard Indigenous and traditional communities' intellectual property rights when their knowledge informs technological solutions? Could partnerships with WIPO or other multilateral institutions support the implementation of access and benefit-sharing mechanisms?