



## **DCJ Submission to the Second Annual High-Level Ministerial Round Table on Just Transition | November 2024**

The **Global Campaign to Demand Climate Justice (ENGO-DCJ)** welcomes the invitation to contribute a written submission to the High Level Round Table on Just Transition at COP29 in Baku. DCJ is a network of [250 groups around the world](#), representing millions of workers, peasants, trades unionists, and communities across the Global South and into the Global North.

Equity is the gateway to climate ambition and is therefore essential in the discussion of a global just transition. Developed and developing countries face different capacities and challenges in implementing just transitions. Developing countries - home to a majority of the world's population least responsible for the climate crisis but most vulnerable to its impacts - are severely restricted in addressing climate action and just transitions due to various international barriers imposed by the prevailing global economic order.

Therefore, it is imperative for the COP - being the largest and most legitimate space where governments can agree on international responses to climate change - to address these barriers that prevent billions of people from all sectors from living dignified lives free from both poverty and climate breakdown.

First and foremost, a major challenge for just transition pathways, particularly in developing countries, is the lack of adequate, accessible, and non-debt-creating climate finance.

Just Transition finance must be new and not repurposed development aid, nor should it come in the form of loans. COP29, being the finance COP, should provide guidance on the specific climate finance needs for a just transition in developing countries and align with the New Collective Quantified Goal for climate finance. International cooperation and multilateral support from developed countries are essential, and developed countries have a responsibility to support just transition across all developing nations, without selective limitations.

Second, the global financial architecture poses significant challenges. Illegitimate debts imposed on developing countries severely restrict their capacity. These countries are further hindered by structural challenges such as poverty, limited fiscal space, and dependence on fossil fuel revenues. Developed nations benefit from economic policies rooted in historical fossil fuel use, while developing nations face financial constraints, often forced into extractive economic models that exacerbate inequality and environmental degradation.

Third, the global trade regime. International trade policies, including intellectual property rules under TRIPS, limit technology transfer, keeping essential tools for a just transition out of reach for many developing countries. Furthermore, unilateral trade protectionist measures like the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) introduced by the EU—and likely to be adopted by other developed countries—pose significant risks to a just transition. Article 3.5 of the UNFCCC states that measures to combat climate change should not constitute a disguised restriction on international trade. CBAM, however, may impose additional burdens on developing countries that lack low-carbon technologies and are already dealing with high costs of capital, inadequate access to green technology, and constrained fiscal space.

These are among the major international barriers to a global just transition that must be addressed in the UNFCCC and in COP29 so that billions of workers, peasants, indigenous peoples, women, and all sectors of society are not left behind by a transition to more sustainable economies. DCJ submits that all relevant work streams in the UNFCCC, especially the Just Transition Work Programme, must arrive at actionable outcomes to address these barriers.