

## **Republic of the Marshall Islands**

### **Fourth Just Transition Work Programme Dialogue**

#### **Responses to Guiding Questions**

##### ***Introduction***

- The Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) is pleased to have this opportunity to provide its responses to the Guiding Questions for Day 1 of the Fourth Just Transition Work Programme Dialogue.
- We begin by aligning with the interventions made by Fiji on behalf of AOSIS.
- We also express our appreciation to the interventions by Colombia on behalf of AILAC and Burkina Faso and Malawi on behalf of the LDC Group, and reiterate in particular the concerns raised by the LDC Group in relation to the findings of the 2023 Production Gap Report.
- While we appreciated the interventions of our developed country partners, we are eager to hear more from them about the steps they are taking to lead the just transition away from the production, export and use of fossil fuels, as well as concrete and specific commitments on the provision of climate finance.

##### ***Detailed Responses***

##### **DAY ONE**

##### **WORLD CAFE SESSIONS**

##### **Nationally defined just energy transition pathways as a tool to enhance energy access and affordability (World Cafe 1,2,3)**

- Critical to achieving the Paris Agreement temperature goal of 1.5 is that just energy transition pathways must prioritize the urgent and widespread deployment of renewable energy and the just, orderly and equitable transition away from fossil fuels in energy systems, accelerating action in this critical decade, as confirmed by the best available science and called for by all parties in the first Global Stocktake.
- Ensuring the affordability of just energy transitions requires energy investment to focus on the research, development and deployment of existing, reliable, proven and scalable zero emission energy sources such as solar, wind, and geothermal, combined with modern grids and battery storage.
- RMI supports all efforts to achieve safe, affordable and clean cooking for all.
- As confirmed by the recent Advisory Opinion from the International Court of Justice, the principle of CBDRRC-NC requires all parties to act in order to achieve the objectives of

the UNFCCC and Paris Agreement, including through domestic implementation of NDCs that reflect each party's highest possible ambition.

- Under Article 14.3 of the Paris Agreement furthermore, all parties “shall be informed” by the Global Stocktake in preparing their NDCs. Accordingly, it is essential that all parties outline in their NDCs the steps they are taking to implement paragraph 28 of the GST, including through the scaling up of renewable energy and energy efficiency and the just, orderly and equitable transition away from fossil fuels in energy systems.
- The principle of CBDRRC-NC also requires developed countries to abide by their financial responsibilities under the UNFCCC and Paris Agreement. Increasing the implementation of nationally-determined scaled-up deployment of renewable energy and energy efficiency, especially among SIDS and LDCs, requires developed countries to abide by these responsibilities by providing greater provision of financial resources, urgently meeting and exceeding the targets set in the NCQG.
- Redirecting subsidies away from fossil fuels and towards renewable energy is a core aspect of ensuring just energy transitions.
- The Coalition on Phasing Out Fossil Fuel Subsidies (COFFIS) was launched at COP28 and includes 17 countries, including RMI. COFFIS is an example of information-sharing, mutual support, and mutual accountability to assist its members in upholding their responsibilities under the Paris Agreement and first GST. The recently launched COFFIS Observatory is a welcome civil society initiative to track commitments.

#### **Socioeconomic risks and opportunities associated with energy transition pathways (World Café Table 4,5,6)**

- It is essential to ensure the protection of human rights at all stages of the critical mineral supply chain.
- Recalling the Paris Agreement's recognition that sustainable lifestyles and sustainable patterns of consumption and production, with developed country Parties taking the lead, play an important role in addressing climate change, it is important to note that transport policy decisions in developed countries that enable sustainable lifestyles, focused on the increased use of mass transit and a transition away from dependency on personal automobiles, can reduce GHG emissions while also alleviating demand for critical minerals. See e.g. 2023 joint [report](#) from University of California Davis and the Climate and Community Project, *Achieving Zero Emissions with More Mobility and Less Mining*.

#### **Energy security in the context of just energy transition pathways (World Café Table 7,8,9)**

- Key to energy security is self-sufficiency; dependence on imported fossil fuels exposes countries to price shocks and geopolitical risk. For fossil fuel importing developing countries, like SIDS, transitioning away from fossil fuels and scaling up renewables, storage, and reliable grids, can increase energy security.
- As noted in its submission to this Dialogue: “RMI underscores the importance of international cooperation in ensuring a just, orderly and equitable transition away from fossil fuels, including the conservation and non-development of fossil fuel resources, including in developing countries. This includes addressing the barriers to just transitions imposed by international energy investment agreements. It should also include

discussions between major fossil fuel producers and consumers on aligning production and consumption in line with limiting warming to 1.5°C. In addition to the IEA, RMI would welcome input to the Fourth Dialogue from other international and intergovernmental organizations with important roles to play in establishing the international conditions needed to ensure the urgent, just and equitable implementation of paragraph 28 outcomes, such as the International Renewable Energy Agency, Sustainable Energy for All, the International Energy Forum, the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development, the International Methane Emissions Observatory, and the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries.”

## **FIRST BREAKOUT**

### **Theme 1: Climate finance for just energy transition pathways**

#### **Guiding questions:**

- For SIDS and LDCs in particular, external financial support is essential for advancing our transitions to renewable energy. RMI has worked with partners including the World Bank and Asian Development Bank to implement our Electricity Roadmap, focused on accelerating the deployment of renewable electricity.
- Carbon pricing has proven to be an economically effective means of internalizing the negative climate and environment externalities of fossil fuel combustion and generating revenue that can then be invested in just transitions away from fossil fuels, including through investments in climate resilience.

## **DAY TWO**

## **SECOND BREAKOUT - ENABLING CONDITIONS**

### **Topic 1: Identifying concrete and actionable outcomes for the JTWP in the context of just energy transition pathways and holistic approaches to just transitions, including through synergies within and outside the UNFCCC**

- While just transition pathways will necessarily be developed alongside nationally defined development priorities, they will also be developed in the context of every state’s responsibility under international law, including the UNFCCC, Paris Agreement, and GST, as recently reaffirmed by the ICJ. This includes the responsibility to transition away from fossil fuels. Accordingly, there is an important role for the UNFCCC to play in developing guidance on transitioning away from fossil fuels in a just and equitable manner that can be broadly useful to states in developing their own national just transition pathways.
- As noted in our submission: “RMI considers that the JTWP has a central role to play, inter alia, in ensuring that all parties are able to implement all components of paragraph 28 of the GST in a just and equitable manner. It welcomes the ongoing collaboration between the UNFCCC and IEA in tracking progress towards the achievement of the paragraph 28 targets. RMI would welcome input from IEA to the Fourth Dialogue, which can form the basis for further work on this important topic under the JTWP.”

## **Topic 2: The role of trade and international cooperation in supporting just energy transition pathways**

- Transparency, good faith, and international cooperation are fundamental for just transitions. It is critical that the EU promptly release its draft report on the impact of CBAM on developing countries, and provide appropriate and inclusive opportunities for discussion of its findings.
- RMI welcomes and supports initiatives to deal with the negative consequences for climate action of bilateral investment treaties and the Energy Charter Treaty. It is essential that international investment law should not stand in the way of climate action, and wherever the two are found to be in conflict, international investment law must be urgently reformed to address this.

## **Topic 3: Sharing experiences on policy frameworks for just energy transition pathways and holistic approaches to just transitions that leave no one behind**

- While just transition pathways will necessarily be developed alongside nationally defined development priorities, they will also be developed in the context of every state's responsibility under international law, including the UNFCCC, Paris Agreement, and GST, as recently reaffirmed by the ICJ. Accordingly, there is an important role for the UNFCCC to play in developing guidance on enabling environments internationally for transitioning away from fossil fuels.
- As noted in our submission: "In addition to the IEA, RMI would welcome input to the Fourth Dialogue from other international and intergovernmental organizations with important roles to play in establishing the international conditions needed to ensure the urgent, just and equitable implementation of paragraph 28 outcomes, such as the International Renewable Energy Agency, Sustainable Energy for All, the International Energy Forum, the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development, the International Methane Emissions Observatory, and the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries."
- People must also remain at the heart of just transitions. The Action for Climate Empowerment, Gender, and Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP) workstreams of the UNFCCC and beyond (i.e. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; Convention on the Rights of the Child) provide a foundation for advancing inclusive, rights-based just transitions. Efforts to mainstream these workstreams into the just transition work programme are critical.
- As noted in our submission: "Our communities have observed climate impacts and economic changes, they know what works in their communities and what is needed to build resilience. RMI engages in an "all of government" and "all of society" approach to designing and implementing climate solutions. For example, RMI is piloting the Outer Islands Solar Training for Women Programme to increase training and education for women to access renewable energy opportunities and gain skills necessary to contribute to sustainable energy solutions in their communities and beyond. Additionally, RMI is integrating climate education and renewable energy knowledge throughout schools to ensure young people can continue the work advancing clean energy solutions."