



Concept note and agenda for the informal intersessional workshop under the United Arab Emirates Just Transition Work Programme

30 September 2026, 14:00 – 18:00 | 1-2 October 2026 9:00 – 18:00

(All times are in local time)

Sydney, Australia

I. Introduction

1. In the Conclusions adopted by the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) at from their sixty-fourth session of the Subsidiary Bodies (SB 64, Bonn, 8 -18 June 2026) on the United Arab Emirates just transition work programme (FCCC/SB/2026/L.2), the subsidiary bodies invited the Chairs of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) their Chairs to consider informal intersessional work on the issues under these agenda items, prior to their sixty-fifth sessions, in appropriate formats and subject to the availability of financial resources.
2. As communicated to Parties and observer organizations by the SBSTA and SBI chairs, an intersessional informal workshop on just transition will be held from **30 September to 2 October 2026 in Sydney, Australia**. Generously hosted by the Government of Australia, the workshop will be organized by the incoming Presidency of COP31 and the incoming President of Negotiations for COP31 under the guidance of the SB Chairs, and with the support of the secretariat.
3. The workshop is intended to facilitate an informal exchange of views among Parties on matters relating to the United Arab Emirates just transition work programme, including on the process for the operationalization of the just transition mechanism referred to in paragraph 25 of decision 2/CMA.7. Discussions at the workshop will be held in an informal setting and will in no way prejudice the consideration of these matters at SB 65 and CMA 8.
4. Participants are encouraged to engage in an open and constructive exchange of views and ideas. Discussions should remain focused on the topics of the workshop and follow the guiding questions provided throughout, including in the plenary and breakout group settings. There will be no formal record of the workshop.

II. Logistical arrangements

5. The informal intersessional workshop under the UAE Just Transition Work Programme will take place from 30 September to 2 October in hybrid format. On 30 September the workshop will take place from 14:00 to 18:00. On 1-2 October the workshop will take place from 09:00 to 18:00.
6. The agenda of the workshop and any updates or additional information will be made available at the event page [here](#).



A. Registration and access to meeting rooms

7. Participation to the informal intersessional workshop will be limited to the participants nominated by Parties and invited non-Party stakeholders, including nominated representatives of NGO constituencies.
8. Participants will receive badges for participating in the event. More information on how to collect the badges will be available in the event page in due time.
9. Please note that it is essential to check the event page and logistics information regularly for updates. The event page can be accessed [here](#).

B. Virtual participation

10. Virtual participation is possible for participants that are unable to attend in-person. Virtual participants will receive links to connect to plenary discussions as well as relevant virtual breakout rooms before the start of the meeting.
11. To facilitate effective house-keeping, virtual participants should raise their virtual hand when requesting the floor and indicate their name and Party or organization in the chat.

C. Broadcast

12. The informal intersessional workshop will not be broadcast. No video recording will be made.



III. AGENDA

Day 1 – 30 September 2026

Time	Session
13:30 – 14:00	Registration for the intersessional informal workshop under the United Arab Emirates just transition work programme
<u>Opening Plenary</u>	
14:00 – 15:00	Opening remarks • Julia Gardiner, SBI Chair • Adonia Ayebare, SBSTA Chair (<i>virtual</i>) • Ana Vukoje, UNFCCC Secretariat Welcome to Country Welcome remarks • Chao Feng, incoming COP31 President of Negotiations • Fatma Tok Lazoglu, incoming COP31 Presidency Introductory comments • Joseph Teo and Federica Fricano, co-chairs for the agenda item on the United Arab Emirates just transition work programme at SB64
<u>Plenary Session</u>	
15:00-16:00	Introductions and chairing • Ken Xie, incoming COP31 President of Negotiations Presentation on the mapping of relevant instruments, initiatives and processes under the Convention and the Paris Agreement and relevant entities in the United Nations system • Ana Vukoje, UNFCCC secretariat Q&A
<i>Coffee break (16:00-16:30)</i>	
16:30-18:00	Examples across the just transition landscape – the work of relevant United Nations entities and beyond Q&A Just transition in practice: expert voices on the Australian experience



	Wrap up of day 1 • Julia Gardiner, SBI Chair
<u>Welcome reception</u>	
18:15-19:30	Welcome remarks • Ken Xie, incoming COP31 President of Negotiations Keynote address • David Shankey, CEO Net Zero Economy Authority, Australia



Day 2 – 1 October 2026

Time	<u>Plenary Session</u>
09:00 – 10:20	Building a shared vision for the UAE just transition work programme and just transition mechanism <i>Before diving into substantive discussions, this session aims to invite general reflections on the vision for the just transition work under the UNFCCC, without prejudice to its ultimate governance or modalities.</i> <u>Discussion questions</u> • What does advancing just transition pathways look like at the local, national and international levels? • What should guide future work on just transition under the UNFCCC to facilitate success at all levels? Introductions and chairing • Dharmini Robertson, incoming COP31 President of Negotiations Moderated open discussion
Coffee break (10:20-10:50)	
Stakeholder perspectives on just transition (10:50-11:00)	
	<u>Plenary Session</u>
11:00 – 12:40	Context and purpose of the just transition mechanism <u>Discussion questions</u> • What do we want the just transition mechanism to achieve? • Are the context and purpose of the just transition mechanism adequately reflected in paragraph 2 of decision 3/CMA.5, paragraph 25 of decision 2/CMA.7 and the aspects captured in the informal note? Introductions and chair • Dharmini Robertson, incoming COP31 President of Negotiations Moderated open discussion
Lunch break (12:40-14:00)	



<u>Breakout Session</u>	
14:00 – 15:30	Functions of the just transition mechanism <i>The informal note developed by the co-chairs at SB64 under their responsibility identified a range of views on the potential functions of the mechanism, grouping them around six potential clusters and a placeholder for potential additional elements.</i> <u>Discussion questions</u> • Do the clusters identified in the informal note effectively cover the functions of the just transition mechanism as mandated in 2/CMA.7? • Under each of the identified clusters, what are the essential tasks that the just transition mechanism should be able to deliver on? Introductions and chairing • Dharmini Robertson, incoming COP31 President of Negotiations Breakout Group Discussions
<i>Coffee break (15:30-16:00)</i>	
<i>Stakeholder perspectives on just transition (16:00-16:10)</i>	
<u>Breakout Session</u>	
16:10 – 18:00	Functions of the just transition mechanism (continued) Reflections on the Breakout Group Discussions (30 mins) • Facilitators, Breakout Group Discussions Wrap up of day 2 • Julia Gardiner, SBI Chair



Day 3 – 2 October 2026

Time	<u>Breakout Session</u>
09:00 – 10:30	Governance and modalities of the just transition mechanism <i>The informal note developed by the co-chairs at SB64 under their responsibility captured a range of views on the governance and institutional modalities for the mechanism.</i> <u>Discussion questions</u> • <i>What institutional modalities could enable the just transition mechanism to successfully deliver on its potential functions?</i> • <i>What models of governance and institutional arrangements in other parts of the UNFCCC have been effective and could be drawn on for the mechanism?</i> Introductions and chairing • Ken Xie, incoming COP31 President of Negotiations Breakout Group Discussions
<i>Coffee break (10:30-11:00)</i>	
<i>Stakeholder perspectives (11:00-11:10)</i>	
<u>Breakout Session</u>	
11:10 – 12:50	Governance and modalities of the just transition mechanism (continued) Reflections on the Breakout Group Discussions (30 mins) • Facilitators, Breakout Group Discussions
Lunch break (12:50-14:20)	
<u>Plenary Session</u>	
14:20 – 15:30	Relationship between the just transition mechanism and the UAE just transition work programme <u>Discussion questions</u> • <i>How should the just transition mechanism and the UAE just transition work programme relate to each other? How can we ensure coherence and complementarity?</i> • <i>What should be the governance arrangements, if any, between the just transition mechanism and the UAE just transition work programme?</i> Introductions and chairing



	Ken Xie, incoming COP31 President of Negotiations Moderated open discussion
Coffee break (15:30-16:00)	
<u>Closing Plenary</u>	
16:00 – 18:00	Timeline for operationalization of the just transition mechanism <u>Discussion questions</u> <i>What could be different pathways for operationalization of the just transition mechanism?</i> <i>What elements of the just transition mechanism need to be decided at COP31 to achieve an ambitious outcome on just transition?</i> Moderated open discussion (45 mins) Closing reflections <u>Discussion questions</u> <i>What are your key takeaways from this workshop?</i> <i>Where has the workshop made most progress?</i> <i>Are there any issues that haven't been discussed at this workshop that are important to consider as we move towards COP31?</i> Introductions and chairing - Ken Xie, incoming COP31 President of Negotiations Moderated open discussion (45 mins) Closing reflections - Joseph Teo and Federica Fricano Wrap up of workshop - Julia Gardiner, SBI Chair



IV. Background

13. The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA) decided, at its fourth session, to establish a work programme on just transition pathways to achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement outlined in Article 2, paragraph 1, in the context of Article 2, paragraph 2¹.
14. Decision 3/CMA.5 established the scope and modalities of the work programme and also decided that the work programme shall be implemented under the guidance of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI).
15. Decision 3/CMA.5 agreed to review the effectiveness and efficiency of the work programme and consider its continuation at the eighth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (November 2026). Decision 2/CMA.7 requested the subsidiary bodies to develop terms of reference for the review at their sixty-fourth sessions. SB64 adopted the terms of reference for the review of the work programme and agreed to conduct the review at SB 65 (November 2026) in accordance with the terms of reference with a view to informing the consideration of the continuation of the work programme at CMA 8.
16. Decision 2/CMA.7 requested the secretariat to map relevant instruments, initiatives and processes under the Convention and the Paris Agreement and relevant entities in the United Nations system to support the implementation of the work programme and as input to the review referred to in paragraph 3 of decision 3/CMA.5 and requested the secretariat to prepare a synthesis report thereon.
17. Decision 2/CMA.7 agreed to develop a just transition mechanism, the purpose of which will be to enhance international cooperation, technical assistance, capacity-building and knowledge sharing, and enable equitable, inclusive just transitions, noting that the mechanism is to be implemented in a manner that builds on and complements relevant workstreams under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, including the work programme, and requests the subsidiary bodies at their sixty-fourth sessions (June 2026) to recommend a draft decision on the process for its operationalization for consideration by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement at its eighth session (November 2026).
18. At SB64, the SBSTA and the SBI initiated discussions on the process for the operationalization of the just transition mechanism. The SBSTA and the SBI agreed to continue consideration of this matter at SB 65, taking note of the informal note² prepared by the co-chairs for these agenda items at these sessions as input, recognizing that the informal note has been prepared by the co-chairs under their own responsibility and that it does not reflect all views shared and proposals made by Parties, does not represent a basis for further negotiations, is non-exhaustive, includes divergent views, does not prejudge further work or prevent Parties from expressing additional views at any time, as well as the views submitted via the submission portal no later than four weeks prior to SB 65, with a view to recommending a draft decision thereon for consideration at CMA 8.
19. At SB64, the SBSTA and the SBI invited the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies to consider informal intersessional work on the issues under these items, prior to SB 65, in appropriate formats subject to the availability of financial resources.

¹ Decision 1/CMA.4, para. 52.

² Available at <https://docs.unfccc.int/documents/10000184>.