

Second Annual High-level Ministerial Roundtable on Just Transition

18 November 2024 | 15:00-18:00

Guiding question:

- How can Parties advance their just transition pathways in the context of preparation and implementation of the next round of NDCs and NAPs?
- How can international cooperation and support on the full range of means of implementation assist Parties to advance their just transition pathways in the context of NDCs and NAPs?

Distinguished Ministers, Excellencies, and Esteemed Delegates,

I am delighted to participate in this High-level Ministerial Roundtable on Just Transition.

IRENA's analysis finds that renewable energy is the most frequently mentioned mitigation strategy in the energy components of the NDCs.

Indeed, renewables are delivering but can deliver even more if we accelerate their deployment as needed to stay on track for the achievement of the Paris Agreement. About 473 GW of renewable power capacity was added in 2023 worldwide, significantly more than in previous years.

This translates into significant socio-economic benefits. IRENA estimates that worldwide, renewable energy employed 16.2 million people in 2023.

But more progress is needed. By 2030, installed capacity must exceed 11 TW in order to stay on track with the Paris climate agreement goals. But under current NDCs, only 5.4 TW would be reached.

The more that the energy transition is delayed, the more it will be necessary to pursue a rapid phasing out of fossil fuels in later years.

Inevitably, however, such delayed action will trigger disruptive change impacting the goal of a just transition, including the loss of millions of

jobs, and subsequently a massive need to assist affected people and communities in reorienting and revitalizing their economies.

For the energy transition to happen in a speedy yet least-disruptive manner, governments, employers, organised labour and civil society must work together proactively, using social dialogue to ensure that all voices are heard, diverse needs are met, and adequate social protection measures are put in place.

Governments have a responsibility to coordinate actions, to marshal needed funds for just transition programs, and to step up efforts for training, re-skilling and up-skilling measures so that the needed workforce development gets underway.

In these endeavours, we must share experiences, learning from our successes and avoid repeating errors. International cooperation on lessons learned is as important as cooperation on financing the transition.

Ultimately, the energy transition can only be successful if it is just. And in order to be just, it needs to empower people and communities on the ground, prioritising the inclusion of women, youth, and minorities is essential to ensure that the benefits are tangible, lasting and equitable for all.

Thank you.