

15 July 2024

Informal summary of the first dialogue under the United Arab Emirates just transition work programme

Report by the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies

Abbreviations and acronyms

CMA	Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement
COP	Conference of the Parties
ILO	International Labour Organization
LT-LEDS	long-term low-emission development strategy(ies)
MDB	multilateral development bank
NAP	national adaptation plan
NDC	nationally determined contribution
SB	sessions of the subsidiary bodies
SBI	Subsidiary Body for Implementation
SBSTA	Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme

I. Introduction

A. Mandate and scope

1. CMA 5 decided that at least two dialogues shall be held each year as part of the United Arab Emirates just transition work programme, with one to be held prior to the first regular sessions of the subsidiary bodies, starting with SB 60, and one prior to the second regular sessions of the subsidiary bodies, starting with SB 61, and that such dialogues should be conducted in hybrid format to allow both in-person and virtual participation.¹
2. CMA 5 also decided that the work programme shall be implemented under the guidance of the SBSTA and the SBI through a joint contact group to be convened at each of their sessions, starting at SB 60.² It requested the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies to prepare, with the assistance of the secretariat, an annual summary report on the dialogues referred to in paragraph 1 above.³ SB 60 encouraged the Chairs to prepare an informal summary of the discussions at each dialogue referred to in paragraph 1 above, reflecting on opportunities, best practices, actionable solutions, challenges and barriers.⁴
3. This informal summary of the first dialogue under the work programme has been prepared under the guidance of the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies, reflecting the discussions held, including key findings, opportunities and barriers identified, at the dialogue in a comprehensive and balanced manner. It captures and summarizes both views shared during the dialogue and those submitted in advance⁵ on opportunities, best practices, actionable solutions, challenges and barriers relevant to the topics of the dialogue, but does not represent an exhaustive summary of all interventions.

B. Proceedings

4. The first dialogue under the United Arab Emirates just transition work programme organized pursuant to decision 3/CMA.5,⁶ took place in hybrid format from 2 to 3 June 2024, with the in-person element taking place in Bonn, with 177 registered in-person and 96 registered virtual participants.⁷ The topic of the first dialogue was just transition pathways to achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement through NDCs, NAPs and LT-LEDS as decided upon and communicated by the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies on the basis of views submitted by Parties, observers and other non-Party stakeholders,⁸ focusing on lessons learned from incorporating just transition elements into NDCs, NAPs and LT-LEDS and international cooperation pertaining to just transition pathways and its impact on the delivery of NDC, NAP and LT-LEDS goals.
5. Participants discussed opportunities, best practices, actionable solutions, challenges and barriers relevant to just transition pathways to achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement through NDCs, NAPs and LT-LEDS in breakout groups on the following six subtopics:

¹ Decision 3/CMA.5, para. 5.

² Decision 3/CMA.5, para. 4.

³ Decision 3/CMA.5, para. 10.

⁴ FCCC/SB/2024/L.5, para. 8.

⁵ Pursuant to para. 8 of decision 3/CMA.5.

⁶ Decision 3/CMA.5, para. 5.

⁷ The webcast links, agenda and all presentations are available at <https://unfccc.int/event/first-dialogue-under-the-united-arab-emirates-just-transition-work-programme-2024>.

⁸ Pursuant to paras. 6–7 of decision 3/CMA.5. The submissions are available at <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/submissionsstaging/Pages/Home.aspx> (in the search field, type “just transition”).

- (a) Inclusive approaches to the development of NDCs, NAPs and LT-LEDS and other policies (identifying and engaging stakeholders);
- (b) Experience in incorporating just transition pathways into NDCs, NAPs and LT-LEDS (analysis, policy development and lessons learned);
- (c) Policy coherence for implementing just transition pathways (enabling implementation);
- (d) Identifying support needs;
- (e) Best practices for engaging support partners;
- (f) Exploring further opportunities for international cooperation on just transition.

6. The opening plenary was chaired by Harry Vreuls, Chair of the SBSTA, and Nabeel Munir, Chair of the SBI, and opening remarks were made by Simon Stiell, UNFCCC Executive Secretary, and Iman Ustadi, deputy chief negotiator representing the COP 28 Presidency. Scene-setting presentations were made by Jim Skea, chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and Manal Shehabi, from the University of Oxford.

7. On the first day of the dialogue, the participants were divided into three breakout groups to discuss one of the subtopics listed in paragraph 5(a–c) above. After each round of discussions, the participants remained in the same room while the six co-facilitators, two for each breakout group, rotated to a new room, allowing all participants to discuss each of the three subtopics over the course of the day.

8. The co-facilitators guided the discussions in each breakout group, using the following guiding questions to provide a framework for the discussions:

(a) **Inclusive approaches to the development of NDCs, NAPs and LT-LEDS and other policies**, co-facilitated by Venge Nyirongo (Intergovernmental Specialist, Intergovernmental Support, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women) and Gulnara Roll (Head of the Cities Unit, Climate Change Division, United Nations Environment Programme): How are Parties adopting an inclusive and participatory approach that leaves no one behind in developing their NDCs, NAPs and LT-LEDS? What measures can ensure that people in vulnerable situations benefit from the opportunities of the just transition and that NDCs/NAPs/LT-LEDS leverage their role as agents of change, while also minimizing risks?

(b) **Experience in incorporating just transition pathways into NDCs, NAPs and LT-LEDS**, co-facilitated by Moustapha Kamal Gueye (Director of the Priority Action Programme on Just Transitions towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies, ILO) and Sangji Lee (Global Technical Specialist on NDCs, the green economy and just transition, UNDP): Which practices, frameworks, strategies and related governance mechanisms have been helpful to incorporating just transition pathways into NDCs, NAPs, and LT-LEDS and in your view should inform the next round of NDCs/NAPs/LT-LEDS; what have been key challenges or pitfalls? What kind of assessments and diagnostics helped to include just transition considerations in the NDCs/LT-LEDS/NAPs? What kind of assessments and diagnostics are useful to give effect to just transition considerations that were included in the NDCs/NAPs/LT-LEDS?

(c) **Policy coherence for implementing just transitions pathways (Enabling implementation)**, co-facilitated by Inkar Kadyrzhanova (Senior Natural Resources Officer, Office of Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environment, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) and Olga Rataj (Associate Industrial Development Officer and Global Cleantech Innovation Programme Lead, United Nations Industrial Development Organization): How can just transitions pathways be effectively mainstreamed in

implementing NDCs/NAPs/LT-LEDS? How can a whole-of-government approach support the implementation of NDCs/NAPs/LT-LEDS that incorporate just transition pathways; and how can it be ensured that these policies are coherent with national development priorities and other international commitments?

9. On the second day of the dialogue, the participants remained in their allocated three breakout groups to discuss, in turn, the subtopics listed in paragraph 5(d–f) above, consistently with the format from the first day, allowing all participants to discuss each of the three subtopics over the course of the day.

10. The six co-facilitators guided the discussions in each breakout group, using the following guiding questions to provide a framework for the discussions:

(a) **Identifying support needs**, co-facilitated by Miriam Hinojosa (Head of Global Climate Action in the Climate Division, United Nations Environment Programme) and Estefania Ardila Robles (Deputy Director of Country Engagement, NDC Partnership Support Unit): How are support needs being identified at the local, national, regional and international level? What is needed to improve consideration just transition in the next round of NDCs, NAPs and LT-LEDS?

(b) **Best practices for engaging support partners**, co-facilitated by Sangji Lee Global Technical Specialist on NDCs, Green Economy, and Just Transition, UNDP, and Chantal Line Carpentier (Director of the Trade, Environment, Climate Change and Sustainable Development Branch, Division on International Trade and Commodities, United Nations Trade and Development): What support from partners is currently available and how can that support be engaged? How could current engagement with support partners be improved?

(c) **Exploring further opportunities for international cooperation on just transition**, co-facilitated by Camilla Roman (Senior Technical Specialist, Priority Action Programme on Just Transition, ILO) and Ilaria Crotti (Associate Economic Affairs Officer, Division on Globalization and Development Strategies, Climate and Development Strategies Unit, United Nations Trade and Development): What are further international cooperation opportunities for supporting just transition pathways to achieving NDC, NAP and LT-LEDS goals?

11. The closing plenary was chaired by Nathalie Flores Gonzalez, Vice-Chair of the SBSTA, who invited the co-facilitators of the six breakout sessions to provide a summary of the discussions that they facilitated, including a brief reflection on the inputs provided by the participants.

12. Closing addresses were delivered by Elchin Allahverdiyev, senior negotiator representing the incoming COP 29 Presidency, and Mário Mottin, deputy head of delegation representing the incoming COP 30 Presidency. The SBSTA Vice-Chair then delivered closing remarks before thanking the participants and co-facilitators and declaring the first dialogue under the work programme closed.

II. Summary of discussions and key findings, opportunities and barriers

13. This subchapter captures the views shared during the breakout groups, including on opportunities, actionable solutions and barriers, but does not represent an exhaustive summary of all comments made by participants.

B. Inclusive approaches to the development of NDCs, NAPs and LT-LEDS and other policies (Identifying and engaging stakeholders)

1. Summary of discussions and key findings

14. The breakout group discussions were co-facilitated by Venge Nyirongo, Intergovernmental Specialist, Intergovernmental Support, UN-Women and Gulnara Roll, Head of Cities Unit, Climate Change Division, UN Environment Programme.

15. The discussions revealed the importance of taking inclusive approaches to developing NDCs, NAPs, LT-LEDS and other policies throughout all stages, including designing and implementing climate action plans. Participants emphasized the importance of engaging diverse stakeholders, including government entities, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, academia, youth, industry workers, local communities and Indigenous Peoples. Some participants highlighted meaningful and broad participation to foster ownership, reflect diverse perspectives and align climate action with national priorities. Various methodologies employed in this regard were noted, such as social dialogues, community-led consultations and the use of digital platforms.

16. Several participants highlighted the necessity of a whole-of-society approach to just transition that incorporates multisectoral, multi-actor and multilevel strategies, the informal sector and opportunities for upskilling and reskilling workers, and addresses the unique challenges faced by vulnerable populations as economies move towards to a just transition. Inclusive policymaking and social dialogues at the local and national level were identified as crucial for ensuring that climate-related policies are equitable and comprehensive. International cooperation, finance and technology transfer were also underscored as essential for enabling the effective implementation of climate policies that incorporate just transition considerations in developing countries.

17. Participants shared examples of inclusive stakeholder engagement, including empowering stakeholders to ensure ownership of NDC inputs and outputs in Belize; utilizing youth councils to ensure inclusivity in NDC development in the United Arab Emirates; and inclusive policymaking in Australia, including international partnerships with Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu, for renewable energy projects.

18. In addition, in the views submitted in advance, the importance of ensuring effective accountability and stakeholder involvement was emphasized, with calls for a people-centred just transition that focuses on shared ownership and inclusive participation. The use of existing infrastructure for identifying and involving stakeholders in both mitigation and adaptation solutions was also mentioned, with suggested measures including promoting multi-stakeholder decision-making, investing in enhancing the leadership skills of marginalized groups and supporting innovative and sustainable practices in a variety of sectors to ensure broad-based benefits and equitable development outcomes.

2. Opportunities (including actionable solutions) and barriers

19. Participants highlighted that meaningful and diverse stakeholder engagement that involves various stakeholders, including youth, women's groups, and persons with disabilities can help create innovative, sustainable, comprehensive and feasible climate plans that reflect diverse perspectives, foster better coordination between different levels of government and sectors and consequently lead to coherent plans tailored to national and local needs, thereby enhancing the effectiveness of climate action.

20. Many participants emphasized that local communities and local stakeholders possess valuable insights and knowledge that can inform and enhance national climate strategies, allowing for the identification of local needs and context-specific solutions.

21. The need for effective education, training and reskilling programmes for preparing diverse stakeholder groups for the transition to a sustainable economy was frequently mentioned. Participants discussed the possibility of significant reforms to existing educational frameworks with a view to incorporating the necessary knowledge and skills for a just transition. One example of an effective training and education programme related to Portugal's shutdown of three energy plants while working on minimizing unemployment and supporting local economies, which involved reskilling workers for renewable energy roles and developing regional economic projects to ensure a just transition.

22. Many participants highlighted financial constraints and difficulties in relation to accessing funding from international financial institutions as significant barriers to a just and equitable transition. Some indicated that this challenge is particularly acute in fiscally constrained environments where support for just transition projects is limited.

23. Participants frequently mentioned the necessity of aligning national climate action with international agreements to maintain fairness and equity when pursuing just transitions. Some mentioned that avoiding unilateral measures that may restrict international trade or discriminate against certain groups is crucial for a just international response.

24. Challenges identified by participants related, inter alia, to engaging the informal sector, ensuring the meaningful participation of marginalized groups in the development of climate-related policies, and the lack of capacity-building support and financial resources to implement inclusive climate policies effectively. Participants agreed on the necessity of including social protection measures in a just transition so as to support vulnerable populations.

C. Experience in incorporating Just Transition pathways into NDCs, NAPs and LT-LEDS (Analysis, policy development & lessons learned)

1. Summary of discussions and key findings

25. The breakout group discussions were co-facilitated by Moustapha Kamal Gueye, Director, Priority Action Programme on Just Transitions towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies, ILO and Sangji Lee, Global Technical Specialist on NDCs, Green Economy, and Just Transition, UNDP.

26. The introductory presentation by Sangji Lee highlighted the current global state of integrating just transition considerations into NDCs, NAPs and LT-LEDS, noting that while 38 per cent of NDCs and 57 per cent of LT-LEDS reference just transition, more specific measures are needed to systematically integrate just transition. The presentation emphasized the importance of the building blocks of assessing impacts, engaging local stakeholders, building policy and institutional capacities and mobilizing finance, and outlined that UNDP has supported over 50 countries in relation to these four building blocks, helping them integrate just transition measures into their climate strategies. In terms of assessing impacts, Sangji Lee emphasized the importance of identifying the impacts of a green transition using both qualitative and quantitative methods, while in terms of engaging local stakeholders, she outlined that this involves co-defining the local vision for a just transition, acknowledging that it may mean different things for different economies. With regard to building policy and institutional capacities, she noted the importance of creating enabling environments, while for mobilizing finance she indicated that such finance should focus on resources for both transition hotspots and blind spots. As the secretariat of the G20 Sustainable Finance Working Group, UNDP helps to identify financing mechanisms and innovative instruments to channel resources effectively.

27. Moustapha Kamal Gueye, the other co-facilitator for this breakout session, additionally stressed the importance of including job creation considerations in NDCs with a focus on reskilling the 78 million workers set to be affected by the transition, especially in the energy

sector, where 36 per cent of jobs are skilled. He highlighted the gender disparity in this area, with only 6 million of the 20 million new jobs needed to achieve a just transition by 2030 expected to be filled by women and noted concerns about job quality and wages. The need for social protection was underscored, with only 10 per cent of people in climate-vulnerable countries having adequate social security. He also discussed the impact of heat stress on productivity and the importance of occupational safety, recommending comprehensive approaches, including social dialogues and adherence to ILO guidelines, and focusing NDCs ambitions on human capacity.

28. Participants noted that various degrees of just transition aspects have been integrated into climate policies. They emphasized the importance of assessments for obtaining information on socioeconomic impacts of these policies and highlighted the need for more data, robust models and knowledge management systems to support evidence-based policymaking. Institutionalized coordination mechanisms involving multiple ministries were seen as crucial for a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach.

29. Participants also shared their experience in integrating approaches to achieving just transition pathways into NDCs, NAPs and LT-LEDS. Some noted the need to involve communities in planning just transitions at an early stage so as to align new policies with local needs and build on community-led efforts. Others emphasized the necessity of establishing clear roles and responsibilities at the local governance level with a view to strengthening the incorporation of just transition strategies into national planning.

30. The whole-of-economy approach was emphasized, addressing all economic sectors, including energy, agriculture, industry, tourism, and transport. The importance of the informal economy and the needs of small and micro-enterprises were highlighted. Just energy transition partnerships, including energy access and clean cooking, aimed at promoting health, gender equality and sustainable development were mentioned.

31. Many participants noted that a comprehensive approach to achieving just transitions should cover mitigation, adaptation, finance and international cooperation, considering both international and national dimensions. The need to address energy and food security concerns and focus on sustainable development and poverty eradication was noted within the context of just transitions.

32. Some participants emphasized the critical need to integrate just transition measures into NDCs, addressing both national and international dimensions. Some also voiced concerns that the focus of the United Arab Emirates just transition work programme was being limited to national aspects and advocated for a more comprehensive, multilateral approach in order to ensure global fairness and equity.

33. The importance of ensuring distributive justice and adjusting the income levels of the workers and communities impacted by the transitions was mentioned. Skills development, training and education systems were noted as crucial for building human capacity, while the benefits of adaptive social protection for enhancing resilience against the transition were also emphasized. Participants also discussed the role of international cooperation in addressing global imbalances and mitigating unintended consequences of national climate policies.

34. Participants shared their experience in incorporating just transition aspects into national climate strategies and planning: for example, the Maldives conducted assessments to support affected sectors like tourism, aiming to maintain livelihoods through economic diversification; the United Republic of Tanzania has introduced the African Women Clean Cooking Support Programme to replace biomass energy, advocating for clean cooking to promote health, gender equality and sustainable development; Saudi Arabia's Saudi Green Initiative for sustainability and clean energy is aimed at meeting national climate goals while ensuring sustainable development; and the European Union is implementing a just transition framework, consisting

of strategies, targets, guidance and support, as part of the European Green Deal and the European Pillar of Social Rights.

2. Opportunities (including actionable solutions) and barriers

35. Participants noted that there is a significant opportunity to support economic diversification and sustainable livelihoods through proactive climate policies. Ongoing dialogue and collaboration were deemed necessary to address challenges and maximize opportunities in this regard. Emphasis was placed on reskilling and upskilling workers to meet new demands, particularly in high-skilled sectors like energy, and ensuring that gender-responsive solutions are implemented to address disparities.

36. There was a heavy emphasis on the need for international cooperation, with its critical role in facilitating just transition pathways underlined. One key point highlighted by several participants is that international cooperation is essential for facilitating the sharing of the resources, knowledge, and technologies needed to support just transition efforts across different countries. This includes the mobilization of international funding to support developing countries in their transition efforts, ensuring that they are not left behind. Participants also noted that international cooperation should focus on enabling the transboundary flow of clean energy and the development of low-emission technologies. Furthermore, forming effective partnerships and promoting the trade of clean energy was noted as a way of creating an enabling international environment conducive to achieving the global transition to net zero emissions.

37. Participants noted a number of barriers to the incorporation of just transition considerations into national climate planning, these included the lower remuneration and quality of jobs in clean energy sectors compared to those in the fossil fuel sector, inadequate social protection in vulnerable countries and the impact of heat stress on productivity. Several participants noted the importance of comprehensive coordination frameworks and innovative financing mechanisms to address these issues. The need for a holistic approach in developing climate policies that includes social dialogues, human rights consideration, ensuring no one is left behind was emphasized. Additionally, there were calls for continuous engagement and collaboration among all stakeholders to facilitate the creation of effective and actionable just transition strategies.

D. Policy coherence for implementing just transitions pathways (Enabling implementation)

1. Summary of discussions and key findings

38. The breakout group discussions were co-facilitated by Inkar Kadyrzhanova, Senior Natural Resources Officer, Office of Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environment, FAO and Olga Rataj, Associate Industrial Development Officer and GCIP Lead, UNIDO.

39. Participants stressed the need to integrate just transition considerations into all climate-related policies and to ensure that they align with broader socioeconomic goals, such as job quality, poverty eradication, human rights, sustainable development and economic diversification. The need for context-specific approaches was mentioned, with the acknowledgment that there is no ‘one-size-fits-all’ solution. Many participants also noted that local, national and sector-specific contexts and circumstances should guide climate policy frameworks and incentives for better coherence in implementing just transition pathways.

40. The importance of inclusive engagement with a diverse set of stakeholders in policymaking processes was emphasized by some participants, who recognized the differing circumstances in various national and local contexts, noting that the approach can improve the social acceptability of just transitions and facilitate policy coherence. The inclusion of

marginalized groups such as youth, women and Indigenous Peoples in the planning and implementation stages, was highlighted as essential by many participants.

41. With regard to a whole-of-government approach to achieving a just transition, many participants shared their experience and insights in relation to interministerial coordination mechanisms for policy coherence, such as high-level boards and task forces. Participants noted the importance of engaging ministers from various line ministries, such as environmental, finance, education, labour and health ministries, in policymaking to ensure coherence. It was noted that such coordination can help to secure political support, address potential resistance stemming from entrenched interests and foster collaboration towards shared goals.

42. Participants identified financial support, including from MDBs and climate funds, as a crucial element of implementing just transitions. The importance of leveraging private sector investments through public-private partnerships and adhering to international climate finance commitments was also emphasized. Furthermore, capacity-building was noted as vital for preparing for a just transition at the local level, particularly in terms of anticipating market changes and future worker skill needs. Some participants further highlighted that just transition finance often needs to be secured before decarbonization activities can take place in order to enable economic diversification, job creation and reskilling.

2. Opportunities (including actionable solutions) and barriers

43. Many participants noted that challenges such as lack of capacity-building support, skills and technology gaps, trade barriers and the high cost of top-down approaches remain when implementing just transition pathways. Some noted that unilateral measures that ignore national contexts and impose burdens can have a negative impact on developing countries in particular. Participants noted the challenges associated with transitioning to low-carbon economies while addressing broader sustainable development goals, also noting that economic constraints, social impacts and balancing development and social goals, for example, are significant barriers to achieving an inclusive just transition.

44. Many participants highlighted the importance of international cooperation and adhering to guidelines set by international organizations for creating coherent and complementary climate strategies. Some also discussed the challenges posed by unilateral trade measures, which could undermine multilateralism. The importance of holding ongoing international dialogues to secure the technical and financial support necessary for implementing just transition pathways was also noted by many.

E. Identifying support needs

1. Summary of discussions and key findings

45. The breakout group discussions were co-facilitated by Miriam Hinostroza, Head, Global Climate Action, Climate Division, UN Environment Programme, and Estefania Ardila Robles, Deputy Director, Country Engagement NDC Partnership Support Unit.

46. Participants discussed three areas deemed critical for integrating just transition considerations into national policies: finance, capacity-building and technology transfer. A strong emphasis was placed on the financial aspects, with many acknowledging that there is a substantial need to understand cost estimates to be able to calculate the total financial resources required for implementing just transition initiatives. Some participants noted that finance should address investment in technologies, social protection measures, capacity-building and infrastructure development. The need for finance in specific sectors, such as energy, agriculture and transport, to ensure comprehensive coverage of finance support and address the specific circumstances of each sector was also highlighted.

47. The technical support needed to better understand the incorporation of just transition elements into climate-related policies was discussed. Some participants noted the value of analytical work and modelling to determine the socioeconomic impacts of the just transition. Additionally, scenario analysis through modelling was discussed by participants as a tool for creating future scenarios, enabling stakeholders to anticipate and prepare for diverse outcomes. Socioeconomic modelling in particular was noted as important for identifying technological and mitigation interventions and assessing different assumptions. There was an emphasis on the importance of building skills and ensuring proficient use of tools for defining future emission profiles and creating climate scenarios at both the national and the subnational level. Participants emphasized the importance of knowledge-sharing through platforms such as the United Arab Emirates just transition work programme, enabling lessons to be learned from countries that have had success in incorporating just transition consideration in national planning.

48. In terms of socioeconomic and policy support, inclusive consultation processes were stressed as vital by participants, who noted that these processes can help assess the need for policy and regulatory frameworks to be enhanced, modified or renewed. The need to assess the jobs and skills needed for implementing a just transition was repeatedly mentioned, particularly the need to reskill workers and transfer new skills as workforces adapt to the transitions. Participants stressed that members of civil society, including unions and groups representing women, youth and Indigenous Peoples, should be seen as key partners throughout all stages of just transition planning and implementation. They also expressed concerns about partnerships that rely on loan-based financing, which can trap countries in debt cycles.

49. Participants underlined the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and some expressed the need for support in drafting and updating NDCs and NAPs. There was also an emphasis by some participants on the importance of international support for developing countries to enable a just transition.

2. Opportunities (including actionable solutions) and barriers

50. Challenges related to, inter alia, identifying future needs, unpacking the socioeconomic impacts of just transitions, and understanding applicable pathways for each national context were raised by participants. The need for capacity-building to enable local communities, Indigenous Peoples and vulnerable groups to identify and prioritize their support needs within just transition frameworks was also highlighted by some participants. Participants further stressed the importance of including scientific expertise and involving stakeholders in the design and implementation of climate action.

51. Challenges in identifying finance support needs and particularly in accessing climate finance owing to the associated complex requirements were noted. Best practices and opportunities for supporting just transitions, such as platform approaches by MDBs and other institutions, were mentioned. Additionally, tools like the NDC Partnership's knowledge management systems were mentioned by some participants as helpful for understanding global needs in real time.

52. Some participants called for a significant increase in climate finance that is new, adequate, non-debt-creating and predictable, and also mentioned the need to simplify access to climate finance and for a shift in focus from mitigation support only to mitigation, adaptation and loss and damage support.

F. Best practices for engaging support partners

1. Summary of discussions and key findings

53. The breakout group discussions were co-facilitated by Sangji Lee, Global Technical Specialist on NDCs, Green Economy, and Just Transition, UNDP, and Chantal Line Carpentier, Director, Trade, Environment, Climate Change, and Sustainable Development Branch, Division on International Trade and Commodities, UN Trade and Development.

54. Sangji Lee introduced presented on the UNDP Climate Promise, highlighting the role of UNDP as the largest supporter of developing countries in integrating just transition considerations into NDCs, NAPs and LT-LEDS. She noted that UNDP has provided support to over 85 per cent of developing countries, having already assisted more than 127 countries in partnership with 35 partners. This support has led to significantly raised mitigation and adaptation ambition in revised NDCs, with a substantial focus on including gender and youth considerations. The presentation covered the geographical distribution and thematic focus of UNDP support, emphasizing capacity-building, social dialogues, policy development and the implementation of ILO guidelines. She shared insights into the trends and best practices related to achieving a just transition, as well as insights into the evolving field of just transition, also underscoring the role of just transition in both mitigation and adaptation contexts.

55. Chantal Line Carpentier focused on the synergy between trade and investment on the one hand and just transition on the other in her introductory presentation. She highlighted the developmental opportunities that a just transition offers, such as technological advancements and economic transformation, which are essential for enhancing trade diversification and productive capacity. She also outlined the support provided by UN Trade and Development to developing countries to leverage trade and investment policies effectively and ensure that those policies accelerate the implementation of climate goals towards net zero emissions.

56. Participants discussed the proliferation of efforts under bilateral and other partnerships and the coordination role of country platforms and forums. The UNFCCC Financial Mechanism and the multilateral climate funds were noted by some participants for their roles in supporting just transition efforts. International initiatives like the Least Developed Countries Initiative for Effective Adaptation and Resilience were also highlighted as key support structures. The ILO *Guidelines for a just transition towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies for all*⁹ were further mentioned. The International Renewable Energy Agency has supported over 130 countries by facilitating the integration of renewables into climate action plans and providing technical assistance and capacity-building support, while the Asian Development Bank has launched a just transition support platform in the Asia-Pacific region. Other notable partners mentioned include the NDC Partnership and bilateral and multilateral institutions such as the World Bank and regional bodies like the Economic Community of West African States and C40 Cities.

57. Participants highlighted experience in engaging support partners, with examples including Indonesia's involvement in the Just Energy Transition Partnership and The Energy Transition Mechanism; the climate finance support provided in the United States of America through the President's Emergency Plan for Adaptation and Resilience; and Ethiopia's Climate-Resilient Green Economy Strategy, which involves expanding use of renewable energy, modernizing agricultural practices and creating jobs, noting the need for substantial international finance, technology and capacity-building support to achieve these goals.

58. Participants highlighted the need for comprehensive financing for both the planning and the implementation aspects of a just transition so as to ensure energy security without

⁹ ILO. 2015. Guidelines for a just transition towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies for all. Geneva: International Labour Organization. Available at <https://www.ilo.org/publications/guidelines-just-transition-towards-environmentally-sustainable-economies>

compromising economic growth. It was noted that just transition plans should be linked to national development goals and international support. They emphasized the importance of creating jobs and generating opportunities through localized industrialization and highlighted the need for international partnerships for economic growth and job creation while addressing emissions.

59. A significant point of discussion was the current engagement of support partners and the prevailing gaps in financing. It was emphasized that scaling up financing and improving predictability in both private and public investment is crucial. The alignment of national climate plans with gross domestic product, national development policies, trade and investment, as well as with the Sustainable Development Goals and other socioeconomic priorities, was noted as necessary to increase the means of implementation and accelerate achievement of a just transition.

60. Some participants stressed the need to direct financial resources towards supporting developing countries' transition pathways effectively. They emphasized that a just transition should be equitable, fair and inclusive, requiring substantial support from developed nations, including in terms of funding, technology transfer and capacity-building.

61. Some participants additionally noted that public and private investment is needed to ensure just and country-led transitions. International public climate finance, such as through the multilateral climate funds and MDBs, was discussed as essential for supporting the least developed countries. The importance of multi-stakeholder engagement was also stressed by some participants, who noted that local governments, labour unions, civil society groups and representatives from vulnerable communities need to be involved early on in both the planning and implementation phases of just transition strategies.

2. Opportunities (including actionable solutions) and barriers

62. Participants called for partnerships to support economic growth and sustainable development in a nationally led manner and noted that needs and solutions are country-specific and respond to national needs and are influenced by their respective common but differentiated responsibilities. Strengthening national and local human and institutional capacity was seen by participants as crucial for ensuring country ownership of just transitions. Challenges related to the proliferation and fragmentation of development support were noted.

63. Participants noted the need for access to data and information for just transition impact and needs assessments, and many emphasized the importance of an enabling environment for the dissemination of, and capacity-building for, available tools. They discussed the need to develop and implement strategies for achieving a just transition focused on human rights, food and water security, migration, energy security and access to affordable energy. The importance of minimizing unilateral measures and enhancing regional and multilateral coordination to effectively support the achievement of just transition pathways was also highlighted.

64. Challenges related to accessing climate change support owing to insufficient and unpredictable funding, complex project requirements and a lack of capacity to develop complex projects were mentioned. Some participants pointed out that the most robust climate funds have high requirements and that the process to access funds from them is very complicated.

65. Several participants highlighted the disparity in the effectiveness of climate finance support, noting also that much of it is in the form of loans, which may not be suitable for all contexts. Furthermore, they called for policy revisions to ensure equitable and effective financial support.

G. Exploring further opportunities for international cooperation on just transition

1. Summary of discussions and key findings

66. The breakout group discussions were co-facilitated by Camilla Roman, Senior Technical Specialist, Priority Action Programme on Just Transition, ILO, and Ilaria Crotti, Associate Economic Affairs Officer, Division on Globalization and Development Strategies, Climate and Development Strategies Unit, UN Trade and Development.

67. Camilla Roman's presentation emphasized the importance of including international cooperation on just transitions in climate strategies such as NDCs, NAPs and LT-LEDS. She highlighted insights gained from country case studies conducted by ILO, which assess how different nations are incorporating just transition considerations into their climate plans and aim to create a strategic approach to international cooperation that aligns with national priorities, focusing on employment, social impact assessments, stakeholder engagement and policy support based on ILO guidelines. She noted that, while the adoption of just transition principles is growing, it remains limited. She stressed the relevance of these principles to both mitigation and adaptation strategies and underscored the importance of sector-specific and economy-wide approaches to achieving energy transitions and economic diversification.

68. The other co-facilitator, Ilaria Crotti highlighted in her presentation the critical need for adequate financing to enable developing countries to adopt ambitious climate policies. She discussed the unique challenges faced by various country groups, such as small island developing States and oil-exporting countries, emphasizing the need for tailored international support for those groups. She called for a unified narrative of just transition to enhance navigation of political and geopolitical challenges, encouraging inclusive dialogues to build global consensus on and confidence in the Paris Agreement.

69. Participants emphasized the importance of international cooperation and support, particularly for developing countries, for advancing a just transition. Some highlighted existing practices of international cooperation from bilateral and multilateral institutions, suggesting these could be leveraged and scaled up. The necessity for a just transition to be based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities and take into account socioeconomic factors including debt and inequality was underscored.

70. On the thematic elements of international cooperation on achieving a just transition, some participants noted that this encompasses both mitigation and adaptation aspects and identified several focus areas, such as addressing job impacts and losses resulting from the transition away from fossil fuels, enhancing energy efficiency, increasing energy access and considering health benefits. Furthermore, some participants highlighted adaptation measures related to water ecosystems and sustainable infrastructure as crucial elements.

71. In the context of international cooperation, inclusive stakeholder engagement was also highlighted by some participants as challenging yet essential for ensuring that the rights of communities, workers and Indigenous Peoples are respected. The availability of implementation means was stressed as vital for the successful execution of climate plans and achievement of a just transition.

72. Some participants mentioned the need for environmental and rights-based criteria in just transition discussions, highlighting issues related to transitioning away from mineral mining and industrial wind farms, which can affect marginalized communities.

73. The importance of international cooperation for ensuring compliance with international conventions and creating synergies between various international frameworks was highlighted, with participants advocating for a focus on education and environmental considerations in pursuing a just transition. They further pointed out that a just transition is unattainable without significant support from developed nations and emphasized the importance of regional cooperation.

74. Many participants expressed appreciation for the learning opportunities arising from international cooperation and highlighted the importance of inclusivity and partnership in just transition efforts. Some participants stressed the role of coherent legislation and effective enforcement structures in supporting the achievement of just transition pathways and emphasized the need for just transition financing that does not worsen the debt burden of developing countries.

75. Technology and capacity-building support were identified as key components of international cooperation on achieving a just transition, with many participants indicating that the provision of capacity-building support needs to extend to various government levels and sectors, including local stakeholders. Participants also called for coherence and synergies between different processes under the UNFCCC and beyond, with international agencies including the United Nations and MDBs playing a supportive role in these efforts.

2. Opportunities (including actionable solutions) and barriers

76. Many participants emphasized that just transition strategies should span various sectors such as energy, agriculture, tourism and manufacturing, with a focus on sustainable practices and addressing the social implications of transitions. The importance of education and skills development was also noted by many participants, with the importance of engaging and empowering youth in addressing these needs emphasized by some.

77. Many participants called for the scaling up and alignment of financial flows to support just transitions. The importance of grant-based financing was particularly emphasized to prevent imposing additional financial burdens on developing countries. Private sector finance was acknowledged by many participants as crucial to reaching net zero emissions. Innovative financial instruments, such as blended finance projects and concessional finance, were discussed as methods for de-risking investments and managing currency risks.

78. Participants stressed the need for existing international finance mechanisms, and the potential for the private sector, to contribute significantly to just transition funding. They emphasized the importance of enabling domestic environments and fiscal tools for supporting just transitions.
