Submission by the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste on behalf of the Least Developed Countries Group (LDC Group) on open calls for the COP30 Presidency Roadmap for Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels in a Just, Orderly and Equitable Manner

Timor-Leste on behalf of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) Group welcomes the opportunity to share views responding to the open call for submission on the COP30 Presidency Roadmap on the Transition Away from Fossil Fuels in a Just, Orderly and Equitable Manner.

1. Context

As per paragraph 22, Report of the CMA7 (FCCC/PA/CMA/2025/19) the President of COP30 informed Parties that the Presidency would create two road maps: one on halting and reversing deforestation and another on transitioning away from fossil fuels in a just, orderly and equitable manner that would be informed by science and would be inclusive.

The COP 28 outcome on first global stocktake called on Parties to contribute, in a nationally determined manner, taking into account the Paris Agreement and their different national circumstances, pathways and approaches, to the global effort to transitioning away from fossil fuels in energy systems, in a just, orderly and equitable manner (paragraph 28.d/GST1).

The roadmaps provide an important opportunity to advance discussions on these key topics, both of which are highly relevant for Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in achieving sustained economic prosperity and building a resilient world for present and future generations. The LDC Group believes that future activities and plans to advance the roadmap should place LDCs at the center and be guided by climate goals, the best available science, reflecting equity, principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities in the light of different national circumstances, sustainable development and poverty eradication as contained in Paragraph 6 of decision 1/CMA 5 and Paragraph 2.2 of the Paris Agreement.

This submission draws on information provided by half of the member countries in the latest version of NDCs submitted after 2025.

2. Physical and climate systemic risks

LDCs disproportionately bear the brunt of climate change. Over the last 50 years, 69% of worldwide deaths caused by climate-related disasters occurred in LDCs. While the losses due to climate disasters are expected to increase worldwide in an unabated warming scenario, LDCs suffer these losses at a relatively larger scale because of their limited economic base and vulnerable sectors. Disasters impact the economies of LDCs around 10 times worse than the economies of the richest countries, as a share of their GDP.

Climate change is inextricably linked to all sustainable developmental goals and stands to threaten and undo hard-earned development gains in LDCs, locking them in a vicious cycle of fragility and recovery. IPCC SR1.5 estimates that 14% and 37% of the world's population would be exposed to intense heatwaves under 1.5°C and 2°C warmer worlds, respectively. This rise can disproportionately affect LDCs since most of them are geographically placed in already hot regions, have scant cooling infrastructure, and have weaker public health systems. Millions in LDCs will experience life-threatening conditions at 2°C of warming. Additionally, the Lancet Countdown on health and climate change finds that countries with low human development index (which largely overlaps with LDCs) are among those most affected by recent loss of labour productivity due to heat exposure at current levels of warming, losing 8% of GDP.

1.5°C of global warming will likely already cause 3–7% decreases in tropical crop yields and is projected to raise to 10-15% or more at 2°C, sharply increasing hunger and child malnutrition in LDCs because of its highly climate sensitive agriculture and food systems. Based on FAO data, the prevalence of severe food security in 2023 was at around 22% for LDCs, with an increasing cost of health diet for both country groups. IPCC projections indicate a significant rise in water scarcity between 1.5°C and 2°C, especially over dryland areas such as in the Sahel and Horn of Africa which host several LDCs. Moreover, an increase from 1.5°C to 2°C would result in glacier-volume decline of 30-50% in Hindu-Kush Himalaya (HKH) by 2100 impacting water availability in South Asian LDCs. The population under acute water stress could increase multiple times, raising the threat of migration and conflict. LDCs in tropical zones will experience higher year-round disease transmission, overwhelming public health systems and reversing hard-won gains in disease control.

3. LDCs forward looking approach

Despite significant structural constraints, including limited fiscal space, high vulnerability and pressing development needs, LDCs' NDCs demonstrate a forward-looking and solutions-oriented vision, with clear pathways toward low-emission, climate-resilient sustainable development.

The review of the LDCs NDC (submitted after 2025) reflects a pragmatic and forward-looking approach to fossil fuels, shaped by national circumstances, common but differentiated responsibilities, equity, poverty eradication, development priorities and energy access needs. While fossil fuels remain present in some sectors, particularly for cooking, transport and industry, LDCs are increasingly framing their role as transitional, with a clear shift to renewable energy and move toward low-carbon pathway, although mostly focusing on conditionality.

Many LDCs highlight measures to improve efficiency, reduce reliance on high-emitting fuels such as coal and heavy fuel oil, and scale up cleaner alternatives, including renewables and modern energy services. At the same time, several LDCs are advancing policies to manage existing fossil-based assets responsibly, including reducing flaring, enhancing standards and promoting cleaner technologies.

4. LDCs - Countries cases

Several LDCs are demonstrating practical pathways for transitioning away from fossil fuels in a just, orderly and equitable manner, while safeguarding development priorities and energy access.

- Bangladesh is advancing a gradual transition in its power sector by reducing reliance on liquid fossil fuels and scaling up renewable energy, including solar and other clean energy sources that will lead to a share of renewable energy in electricity generation five times higher than present capacity. This is complemented by efforts to improve energy efficiency across industry and infrastructure, alongside electrification of transport and rail. The approach balances energy security, affordability, and emissions reduction.

- Sierra Leone is driving its transition through clean cooking and household energy systems, moving away from traditional biomass and fossil-based fuels toward electric cooking, improved cookstoves and biogas. This pathway delivers strong co-benefits in health, gender equality, and reduced energy poverty while supporting a gradual shift to low-carbon energy.

- Cambodia is pursuing transition in the energy and transport sectors, including planned phase-down of coal, expansion of renewable energy, and promotion of electric mobility and energy efficiency measures in industry and buildings. These efforts are linked with broader structural changes to ensure that electrification is powered by cleaner energy sources.

Across LDC NDCs, indicative investment needs for mitigation and energy transition range from ten to over a hundred billion USD per country by 2035, with the majority conditional on international support, underscoring both the ambition of LDCs and the scale of support required. These efforts reflect a balanced trajectory that enables sustainable development and energy access in the near term, while steadily aligning with the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement, contingent on enhanced support in finance, technology and capacity building.

5. Response to questions

To respond to the questions from on call for submission:

a) What are the most critical barriers — whether physical, economic, financial, institutional, technological or social— preventing a transition away from fossil fuels?

LDCs face structural barriers including limited fiscal space, high upfront costs, and strong dependence on international finance. Institutional and technical gaps, such as weak grids, storage and infrastructure remain significant. Geographic and infrastructure constraints affect small countries constrained by geography. For many LDCs, scaling renewables is challenged by financing, capacity gaps and technology transfer.

b) What potential levers, whether economic, financial, institutional, social or technological, exist for accelerating the implementation of the transitioning away commitment?

For many LDCs, key levers include scaling renewable energy and efficiency together, supported by enabling policies and finance. Many LDCs have highlighted renewable energy expansion, electrification and efficiency standards, as well as hydropower and clean energy access, including institutional strengthening. Grant based finance, blended finance, and public-private partnerships are critical to accelerate implementation across LDCs.

c) What country, regional or sector roadmap experiences, best practices, and lessons learned can be shared?

Some of the LDCs have combined renewables, efficiency and sectoral transitions with countries medium- and long-term milestones. Some have links to energy, transport and industry decarbonization, while few other advanced hydropower-led clean energy pathways, integrated forest restoration with low-carbon development. Across the LDCs, the key lessons include aligning planning, finance and implementation, and avoiding long-term fossil lock-in.

d) How can a just, orderly and equitable transition best reflect the diverse realities of countries at different stages of development and with different degrees of dependence on fossil fuels?

A just transition in LDCs must reflect diverse realities, ranging from energy access gaps to fuel import dependence and renewable opportunities. Equitable transition must consider national circumstances and poverty eradication faced by many LDCs. Pathways must prioritize affordability, livelihoods and inclusion, alongside the climate goal of limiting temperature rise to 1.5°C. Some LDCs have emphasized clean cooking, rural electrification and job creation. This highlights the need of international support essential to ensure transitions are development-oriented and leave no one behind.

6. Conclusion

The LDC Group expresses its appreciation to the COP30 Presidency for driving momentum on both Presidency-led initiatives, which remain central to achieving the commitments under the Paris Agreement.

The Group also appreciates the Governments of Colombia and the Netherlands for their leadership in hosting the First Conference on Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels, to be held in Santa Marta, Colombia, on 28–29 April 2026, as an important platform to advance a just, orderly and equitable transition away from fossil fuels, in line with climate goals and the best available science.