Statement by the Russian Federation on the COP 30 Presidency's Roadmap on the Transition Away from Fossil Fuels in a Just, Orderly and Equitable Manner

The Russian Federation appreciates the opportunity to present its views on the development of the COP 30 Presidency's Roadmap on the Transition Away from Fossil Fuels in a Just, Orderly and Equitable Manner.

Integrity of COP 30 Outcomes

The development of a Roadmap on the Transition Away from Fossil Fuels in a Just, Orderly and Equitable Manner is not included in the activities mandated by the decisions of COP 30 or the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA 7). Such work should therefore take place on the margins of the UNFCCC process, pursuant to the prerogatives of the COP 30 Presidency.

In this context, the inclusion of any references to the "Roadmap" in the agenda or in official or informal documents of the 64th and subsequent sessions of the Subsidiary Bodies or the COP would constitute a deviation from previously agreed consensus outcomes.

The manner in which the use of fossil fuels should be addressed is already established in decision 1/CMA.3 (Glasgow Climate Pact), decision 1/CMA.5 (first Global Stocktake), and in the relevant outcome of CMA 7. These decisions demonstrate that a structured approach to addressing fossil fuel–related issues has already been agreed and is being implemented under the Paris Agreement framework.

Therefore, it would not be advisable to duplicate or parallel existing work through the development of a separate Roadmap.

Common Approaches and Commitment to International Climate Cooperation

The implementation of national commitments under the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement is fundamental to achieving global climate goals. Climate actions must also be pursued in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication.

International cooperation must fully respect the principles of the Convention and the architecture of the Paris Agreement, including the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities (CBDR-RC), and the need for climate action to reflect national circumstances.

The Paris Agreement's bottom-up approach is grounded in the sovereign right of Parties to determine their own pathways toward achieving climate goals, taking into account their national energy systems and economic structures.

Decisions adopted at COP 28, including the “UAE Consensus”, set out a list of collective actions from which Parties independently choose measures appropriate for national implementation. These decisions do not prescribe changes to national energy mixes, do not impose individual obligations to transition away from fossil fuels, and do not establish mandatory timelines for transforming national energy systems.

For this reason, initiatives that seek to develop prescriptive roadmaps defining energy policy directions or timelines for phasing out particular energy sources are inconsistent with the agreed architecture of the international climate process.

Technology-Neutral Approach to Reducing GHG Emissions

Effective global climate action should focus on reducing greenhouse gas emissions rather than restricting particular energy sources. A technology-neutral approach enables the use of the broadest possible range of solutions.

These solutions include improvements in energy efficiency, the development of low-carbon and zero-carbon energy, advanced emission-reduction technologies, and the sustainable management of natural sinks.

According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), improvements in energy efficiency could deliver more than 40% of global GHG emission reductions in the coming decades, making them one of the most cost-effective climate tools.

Nuclear and hydropower play an important role in the global low-carbon energy supply. The IEA estimates that nuclear accounts for around 10% of global electricity generation and more than 25% of global low-carbon electricity, while hydropower remains the largest renewable electricity source at around 15% of global generation. Hydrogen also has significant potential, particularly in hard-to-abate sectors such as transport and heavy industry.

Natural gas can serve as a transition fuel in modernizing energy systems. According to the IPCC, CO_2 emissions from gas-fired power generation are approximately half those of coal-fired generation.

Advanced technologies, notably carbon capture, utilization and storage (CCUS), could provide additional mitigation opportunities. The IEA projects that global CCUS capacity will need to reach several billion tonnes of CO_2 per year by mid-century, while current projects capture less than 50 million tonnes annually.

Modernizing existing oil and gas infrastructure is another important avenue. The IEA estimates that emissions from extraction, processing and transportation account for around 15% of global energy-related GHG emissions. Reducing methane leaks, minimizing flaring, and electrifying production processes could significantly decrease sectoral emissions.

A balanced energy transition strategy does not mandate a transition away from any specific fuel, but emphasizes flexibility in choosing efficient, cost-effective approaches. Limiting climate policy to phasing out certain energy sources restricts the

technological options available and could undermine the effectiveness of global climate efforts.

Energy Security and Socio-Economic Aspects of the Transition

The transformation of the global energy system must take into account the socio-economic implications for countries whose economies depend heavily on the production, processing, export or consumption of fossil fuels and related energy-intensive products. This is reflected in Article 4.8 of the UNFCCC.

Despite growth in renewable energy, oil, natural gas and coal still account for around 80% of global primary energy consumption. In several sectors—particularly transport and heavy industry—commercially scalable alternatives remain limited. In transport alone, petroleum products represent more than 90% of global energy use.

Global energy demand continues to grow. Between 2000 and 2024, primary energy consumption increased by more than one quarter. According to both the IEA and OPEC, demand will continue to rise through 2050, with fossil fuels retaining a significant share of the global energy mix. Most demand growth will occur in Asia, Africa and the Middle East, where population and economic expansion is fastest.

With 685 million people lacking access to electricity and around 2.1 billion relying on traditional fuels for cooking, a rapid transition away from fossil fuels could heighten energy insecurity, deepen energy poverty, and lead to substantial job losses.

The energy transition requires substantial investment in infrastructure, including power grids and storage systems. According to the IEA, annual investments in electricity grids alone must reach USD 250–300 billion to meet global climate objectives.

A rapid shift to renewable energy would also increase demand for critical minerals (lithium, cobalt, nickel, copper), whose extraction is geographically concentrated. Accelerating the transition away from fossil fuels would further intensify this dependency, potentially creating new vulnerabilities in global supply chains. Diversifying energy sources is therefore essential to ensure resilience.

Restructuring power systems to rely primarily on variable renewable energy would require massive investments in generation equipment, grid modernization and storage. Operational challenges remain due to the variability of renewable output and the need for backup thermal capacity. Moreover, renewable resources are not evenly distributed across regions.

For these reasons, the energy transition must be gradual, reflect national circumstances, ensure energy security and minimize socio-economic impacts.

Means of Implementation and Support

Global climate goals cannot be achieved without adequate means of implementation—finance, technology transfer and capacity-building—particularly for developing countries.

Developing countries' estimated needs for the energy transition range from USD 4.5 to 5.8 trillion. A significant gap remains between these needs and current levels of support.

Implementing the New Collective Quantified Goal on climate finance (NCQG), agreed at COP 29, is of critical importance. It calls for mobilizing at least USD 1.3 trillion per year for developing countries.

Limited access to finance, technology and investment remains a key barrier to implementing climate actions and transforming energy systems. Transition finance mechanisms that support the modernization of energy infrastructure and progressive reduction of carbon intensity are therefore essential.

Unilateral measures, including cross-border carbon adjustment mechanisms and similar restrictions that create barriers to markets, investment or technology, are unacceptable. In line with Article 3.5 of the UNFCCC, climate measures must not constitute arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination or a disguised restriction on international trade.

According to the World Trade Organization, energy-intensive industries account for more than 20% of global manufactured goods trade; additional carbon-related requirements could affect significant trade volumes and create new obstacles to development.

Removing barriers to finance and technology access, and establishing effective mechanisms to support the energy transition—particularly for developing countries—must be key priorities for international cooperation.

Conclusion

International climate efforts must be grounded in the principles of the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, respect national circumstances, and enable a balanced and just transformation of national energy systems.

A just energy transition involves improving existing and developing new methods of energy production, transmission, distribution and consumption, as well as promoting efficient use to support sustainable socio-economic development while reducing environmental and climate impacts.

Developing common decarbonization pathways for all countries would undermine socio-economic development and energy security. We therefore do not support roadmaps that propose universal benchmarks or timelines for transitioning away from fossil fuels.

Instead of discussing unified approaches, efforts should focus on creating effective mechanisms that support countries in pursuing nationally determined, just, low-emission development pathways.

Key steps include fulfilling commitments under the NCQG and enhancing the effectiveness of technology transfer mechanisms, including the UNFCCC Technology Mechanism.

We welcome the COP 30 decision to establish a Just Transition Mechanism. We consider it essential to continue substantive discussions on its parameters, including institutional arrangements, support instruments and sources of financing, with a view to finalizing them at COP 31.