



Just Transition Alliance's Submission to UNFCCC Presidency on the Call for Inputs for the Belém Mission to 1.5

As an organization with a historic role in shaping the concept of Just Transition, the Just Transition Alliance (JTA) presents the following submission to the UNFCCC Presidency regarding the Call for Inputs for the Belém Mission to 1.5. To achieve a truly just transition away from fossil-fuel-based economies, the UNFCCC negotiations proceedings and policies adopted must align with [Just Transition](#), [Indigenous Just Transition](#), [Bali Climate Justice](#), and [Environmental Justice Principles](#). Abiding by these principles and the key messages resulting from JTWP dialogues as described in CMA.7, para. 12 requires the leadership of frontline workers, Indigenous Peoples, and frontline communities as experts, the prevention of false solutions to the climate crisis and related [rights violations](#), and the creation of clear, time-bound objectives in developing legally binding, enforceable mechanisms for climate action.

1a) JTA strongly recommends that the just transition is embraced as a priority solution for the successful implementation of NDCs and NAPs and is emphasized in the next global stocktake.

While we welcome and recognize that just transition has become a recurrent feature in NDCs, the inclusion of false solutions such as CCUS, hydrogen, REDD+, and other market-based mechanisms in NDCs is fundamentally at odds with a just transition. False solutions commodify nature, enable human rights violations, benefit corporations over people and planet, exacerbate historic harm and inequality, and obstruct and delay the ambition and effective implementation of NDCs and NAPs, which must urgently achieve deep, rapid, and sustained reductions of greenhouse gas emissions in line with 1.5°C.

A just transition based on the [principles of environmental justice](#) and [Bali principles of climate justice](#) calls for the reduction of consumption, thereby reducing the need for continued mineral extraction for so-called green economies that reproduce colonial and capitalist exploitation and extraction.

Recognizing just transition as a solution with high impact potential will require the establishment and operationalization of the Just Transition Mechanism, also known as the Belém Antalya Mechanism, or BAM. The BAM must facilitate the tracking of the implementation of international and domestic just transition policies through transparent reporting across indicators developed

through participatory processes. To this end, we call on parties to agree to a mandate on just transition reporting in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and to include just transition progress in the Global Stocktake.

Given the delays that have marked the development of other mechanisms, JTA urges the UNFCCC Presidency to rely upon the strong momentum and ideas being generated by workers, Indigenous Peoples, and communities at the forefront of climate-related disasters and discourage the inclusion of false solutions in NDCs and NAPs. FPIC, UNDRIP, and UNDROP must be embedded in just transition policies and mainstreamed across UNFCCC policies in order to protect the rights of Indigenous Peoples, peasants, and other people working in rural areas and to facilitate the transition to just food systems. The expertise of those at the frontlines is crucial to ensuring decent work, clean environments, and positive health outcomes in the transition to regenerative economies. We cannot afford to lose more lives and livelihoods to climate change and stalled progress. We urge parties to remove any obstructions to the establishment of the BAM as a pathway to address one of the most pressing issues of our time and to a safe and just future for all.

1c) Other significant barriers include, but are not limited to: fossil fuel subsidies, reliance on debt and market-based mechanisms for financing, the failure to make polluters pay for their climate debt, the exclusion of impacted groups from decision-making, and siloed, single-policy approaches to fossil fuel phaseout, without systemic and intersectional analyses, as the main barriers to preventing a transition away from fossil fuels.

2) Utilizing an intersectional, multi-sector lens and integrating the leadership and expertise of climate-impacted groups will generate effective just transition policies. By only attending to a single issue, we risk replicating the same harms with a green veneer. Extractivism, racism, occupation, colonization, imperialism, gender-based violence, disability injustice, economic oppression, and more must be addressed to actually move toward systemic transformation. Just transition extends beyond the energy sector and must include areas such as plastics, food systems, water, and just economic systems for a global moratorium on all new exploration and extraction of fossil fuels.

Subnational just transition projects led by workers and communities at the forefront of fossil-fuel-related pollution should be studied through participatory approaches to knowledge development that recognize diverse ways of knowing and abide by scientific integrity policies. Effective just transition projects must be scaled and tailored to specific contexts, and supported through knowledge-sharing platforms and direct, grant-based, non-debt-creating funding. The Just Transition Alliance produced a case study on Los Jardines Institute's (LJI) grassroots coalition building in Albuquerque, New Mexico. We found that local coalition-building and organizing have ensured the allocation of resources to advance a just transition and blocked the use of resources for fossil fuel projects, such as Hydrogen Hubs, which are greenhouse gas-intensive and would have relied heavily on water in an arid region. In doing so, the cases of the LJI, the Justice 40 coalition, and the New Mexico No False Solutions coalition provide models for bottom-up, community-led action to reduce the threats posed by the climate crisis.

Members of the UNFCCC's KCI, in violation of scientific integrity principles, rejected this case study due to its reporting of local opposition to false solutions, its recognition of the role of political volatility, and the KCI's bias that prioritizes econometric analysis over other ways of knowing and evidence-based approaches to knowledge development well regarded and accepted in the scientific community. Such neglect for scientific integrity is an obstruction to the achievement of a just transition.

Efforts to strengthen international cooperation should center on breaking the gridlock on climate finance to deliver on NDCs and NAPs, just transition, and the means of implementation necessary to achieve the Paris Agreement temperature goal. Just transition-centered compensation must meet the self-identified needs of groups impacted by the climate crisis and environmental injustice in the Global North and Global South. Using the BAM to direct, grant-based, non-debt-creating funding to those most impacted can support local organizing in ways that further catalyze the flow of funds from polluting entities to those historically harmed. National just transition plans must be tailored to specific, sub-national contexts and coordinated through the BAM. Redirecting fossil fuel subsidies and military spending and reforming global finance architecture according to principles of democracy, transparency, and public accountability can mobilize public funding for a just transition. Polluting countries and corporations must pay for their ecological debt, respecting the polluter pays principle and the principle of Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC). Further, protectionist measures, trade barriers, and intellectual property restrictions that obstruct technology transfers and international cooperation for just transitions must be eliminated.