



**Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to
the Paris Agreement**
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Third annual high-level ministerial round table on just transition

Informal note by the President

Summary

This informal note, prepared by the President of the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement with the support of the secretariat, is a non-exhaustive summary of the third annual high-level ministerial round table on just transition, held during the thirtieth session of the Conference of the Parties.

I. Introduction

A. Mandate

1. The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA) at its fourth session decided to convene, as part of the United Arab Emirates just transition work programme, an annual high-level ministerial round table on just transition, beginning at the fifth session of the CMA.¹ The first annual high-level ministerial round table on just transition was held at CMA 5, in the United Arab Emirates, on 3 December 2023.² The second annual high-level ministerial round table on just transition was held at CMA 6, in Azerbaijan, on 18 November 2024.³

B. Context

2. The Presidency of the thirtieth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) convened the third annual high-level ministerial round table on just transition on 20 November 2025 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. during COP 30.⁴ A summary of the proceedings can be found in the annex.

3. The round table facilitated a focused exchange of views, information and ideas among participants with the goal of providing direction to and recommendations for the United Arab Emirates (UAE) just transition work programme, including with regard to how the work programme can better support countries in addressing challenges related to achieving long-term climate and sustainable development objectives.

4. The round table was attended by over 500 high-level representatives of Parties, including ministers, deputy ministers, climate envoys, heads of delegation and delegates, as well as representatives of non-governmental organization constituencies and observers. It was co-chaired by Alicia Bárcena, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources of Mexico, and Krzysztof Bolesła, Secretary of State, Ministry of Climate and Environment of Poland.

5. The discussions during the round table reflected on the progress in the implementation of the UAE just transition work programme, including through the four dialogues⁵ that had been organized under it, and expectations of Parties regarding its future direction. The discussions were guided by the following questions:

- (a) Taking into account the four dialogues held to date, what are some key political messages that should be highlighted? How could these guide the further implementation of the work programme?
- (b) What are the expectations of Parties with regards to actionable outcomes for the UAE just transition work programme? What could be the role of the UAE just transition work programme in fostering international cooperation as an enabler of just transition pathways towards achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement and building synergies under and outside of the UNFCCC process?

II. Summary

6. The following summary provides a non-exhaustive overview of the key messages

¹ Decision 1/CMA.4, para. 53.

² See <https://unfccc.int/event/first-annual-high-level-ministerial-round-table-on-just-transition>.

³ See <https://unfccc.int/event/second-annual-high-level-ministerial-round-table-on-just-transition-mandated-event>.

⁴ Further information is available at <https://unfccc.int/event/third-annual-high-level-ministerial-round-table-on-just-transition-mandated-event>.

⁵ More information of the dialogues that have been held to date, including dialogue recordings and informal summaries can be found [here](#).

that emerged from the discussions during the round table. It is without prejudice to the different views expressed.

7. **Messages from the dialogues.** Many Parties intervened on the key messages emerging from the four dialogues held to date and how these could guide the further implementation of the UAE just transition work programme. Many Parties noted that these dialogues have significantly advanced the collective understanding of just transitions and have provided important signals for the development of nationally determined just transition pathways, while some Parties emphasized the need to further strengthen their practical orientation.

8. **No ‘one-size-fits-all’ approach.** Parties reiterated that there is no ‘one-size-fits-all’ approach to just transitions, noting that just transition pathways are context-specific and will differ from country to country. Many Parties underscored that just transitions require careful consideration of different national priorities, needs, abilities and circumstances, with some Parties stressing that just transition pathways should be bottom-up, non-prescriptive and tailored to specific national contexts.

9. **Anchoring climate action in principles and rights.** Many Parties highlighted the importance of anchoring just transitions and the work programme in human rights, including labour rights, Indigenous Peoples’ rights, gender equality and intergenerational equity, thus providing a strong foundation for people-centered climate action. Several Parties also underscored the relevance of principles such as justice, equity, common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, and sustainable development, while some stressed the need to operationalize these principles in the implementation of the work programme.

10. **Whole-of-society approaches.** Many Parties emphasized that just transitions require whole-of-society approaches, underscoring that the transformation towards low-emission and climate-resilient development requires the active engagement and participation of all segments of society. Parties highlighted the importance of inclusivity, participatory approaches and social dialogue as central elements of effective and equitable transition processes. Several Parties stressed that policies and decisions should not be designed without the involvement of those who will be affected by them, including workers, employers, Indigenous Peoples, women, youth and local communities. In this context, some Parties underlined the need for institutionalized national dialogues to facilitate inclusive consultation and co-creation of policies, noting that such processes can enhance legitimacy, ownership and effectiveness. Some Parties also emphasized the role of multi-level governance, including the engagement of subnational and local authorities, as well as the importance of partnerships with civil society and the private sector. Several Parties further noted that inclusive approaches can help identify context-specific solutions, address distributional impacts and ensure that the benefits and costs of transitions are fairly shared across societies.

11. **Whole of economy approaches and the holistic and multi-sectoral nature of just transitions.** Many Parties emphasized that just transitions are inherently holistic and multi-sectoral, requiring integrated and cross-cutting approaches that go beyond individual sectors. Parties highlighted that just transition pathways should encompass entire economies, and should be designed to create synergies between climate action, sustainable development and socioeconomic objectives. Parties also highlighted the cross-cutting nature of just transitions, and many Parties stressed the importance of ensuring that just transition pathways integrate mitigation efforts with adaptation measures, the provision of means of implementation and responses to loss and damage, thereby reflecting the interconnected nature of climate challenges.. Some Parties emphasized the need to strengthen policy coherence across sectors and governance levels, including through integrated planning and coordination mechanisms. Others highlighted the importance of adopting systems approaches that take into account interactions between environmental, economic and social dimensions, including impacts on employment, livelihoods, health and ecosystems. Several Parties also noted that holistic approaches can help maximize co-benefits, including job creation, poverty reduction and improved resilience, while minimizing unintended negative consequences.

12. **Sharing of national experiences in advancing on just transition pathways.** Many Parties shared experiences in advancing their just transition pathways at the national level, providing examples of policies, programmes and initiatives aimed at supporting equitable

transitions. Parties highlighted efforts to mainstream just transition considerations into national policies, strategies and plans, including nationally determined contributions (NDCs), national adaptation plans (NAPs) and broader development frameworks. Several Parties noted progress in integrating social, economic and environmental dimensions into climate planning, including through measures to support workforce development, economic diversification and social protection. Some Parties highlighted the establishment of institutional arrangements, such as national task forces or coordination bodies, to guide the implementation of just transition policies. Others emphasized the role of stakeholder engagement and social dialogue in shaping national strategies and ensuring that policies are responsive to local needs and circumstances. At the same time, several Parties underscored the need for further capacity-building, technical assistance and knowledge-sharing to support the effective mainstreaming and implementation of just transition pathways, particularly in developing countries. Some Parties also highlighted the importance of monitoring and evaluation frameworks to assess progress and ensure accountability.

13. **Just transitions as enablers of ambition.** Many Parties highlighted that just transition pathways can serve as enablers of more ambitious climate action by building public support, enhancing policy coherence and addressing socioeconomic barriers to implementation. Parties noted that integrating just transition considerations into climate policies can help ensure that transitions are fair and inclusive, thereby increasing their acceptability and sustainability over the long term. Some Parties emphasized the importance of aligning nationally determined just transition pathways with efforts to limit the global average temperature increase to 1.5 °C, in line with the Paris Agreement. These Parties highlighted that ambitious climate action and just transition are mutually reinforcing and should be pursued in an integrated manner. Other Parties, however, emphasized the need to balance ambition with national circumstances, development priorities and capacities, noting that pathways to achieving climate goals will differ across countries. Several Parties also highlighted the importance of ensuring that increased ambition is supported by adequate means of implementation, including finance, technology and capacity-building, to enable all countries to contribute effectively to global efforts.

14. **Challenges and barriers in advancing on just transition pathways.** Many Parties underlined that developing countries face significant obstacles in implementing just transition pathways, including constrained fiscal space, high levels of debt, limited access to affordable finance, technology gaps and capacity constraints. Several Parties emphasized that these challenges can limit the ability of developing countries to design and implement comprehensive just transition strategies and to invest in the necessary infrastructure, technologies and social programmes. Some Parties expressed concerns regarding the impact of certain cross-border measures, including trade-related climate policies, on developing countries' economies and their ability to pursue just transition pathways. These Parties noted that such measures may create additional barriers and could potentially undermine efforts to achieve equitable outcomes. Several Parties also highlighted structural inequalities in the global economic system, including unequal access to resources, technology and markets, as key challenges that need to be addressed. In this context, many Parties emphasized the importance of addressing systemic barriers and ensuring that international frameworks support, rather than hinder, the ability of developing countries to achieve just transitions.

15. **Means of implementation.** Many Parties emphasized the need to scale up the provision of means of implementation to support just transition pathways, including predictable, accessible and adequate climate finance, technology transfer and capacity-building. Several Parties highlighted that enhanced support is essential to enable developing countries to implement their transition strategies in a manner that is consistent with their national circumstances and development priorities. Many Parties stressed the importance of improving access to finance, including through simplified procedures, increased grant-based funding and the mobilization of private sector investment. Some Parties also emphasized the need to align financial flows with just transition objectives, including by ensuring that investments support equitable and sustainable outcomes. In addition, Parties highlighted the importance of technology development and transfer, including access to affordable and appropriate technologies, as well as the need for capacity-building to strengthen institutional and technical capabilities. Several Parties noted that support should be tailored to national

needs and priorities and should contribute to building long-term resilience and sustainability.

16. **International cooperation.** Many Parties shared expectations regarding actionable outcomes for the work programme and emphasized its role in fostering international cooperation as an enabler of just transition pathways. Parties highlighted the importance of strengthening partnerships and collaboration at the bilateral, regional and multilateral levels, including through knowledge-sharing, capacity-building and joint initiatives. Several Parties emphasized the need to build synergies within and outside the UNFCCC process, including with other international organizations, financial institutions and stakeholders. Some Parties highlighted the role of the work programme in facilitating the exchange of experiences, best practices and lessons learned, thereby supporting countries in designing and implementing their transition pathways. Others emphasized the importance of ensuring coherence and complementarity with existing initiatives and avoiding duplication of efforts. Several Parties also noted that enhanced international cooperation can help address global inequalities and support more equitable and effective transitions.

17. **Integrating justice, equity and fairness in climate action.** Many Parties highlighted the potential of the work programme to contribute to integrating considerations of justice, equity and fairness into climate action. Several Parties emphasized that just transition pathways should be guided by these principles and should aim to ensure that the benefits and burdens of the transition are distributed fairly. Several Parties highlighted the importance of addressing both domestic and international dimensions of equity, including disparities within and between countries. Some Parties emphasized the need to ensure that vulnerable groups are protected and empowered, including through targeted policies and measures. Others highlighted the importance of ensuring intergenerational equity and safeguarding the rights and well-being of future generations. In this context, many Parties emphasized that integrating justice and equity considerations into climate action is essential for achieving sustainable and inclusive outcomes.

18. **Sustainable development linkages.** Some Parties emphasized that the work programme provides an important opportunity to address the social, economic and environmental dimensions of climate action in an integrated manner. Parties highlighted strong linkages between just transition pathways and the Sustainable Development Goals, noting that just transitions can contribute to poverty eradication, job creation, improved health and well-being, and enhanced resilience. Several Parties emphasized the importance of aligning climate policies with broader development objectives and ensuring policy coherence across sectors. Some Parties also highlighted the potential for just transitions to support inclusive and sustainable economic growth, particularly through investments in green technologies, infrastructure and industries. Others noted the importance of ensuring that development pathways are consistent with climate goals and do not exacerbate existing inequalities.

19. **Mobilizing all relevant actors for climate action.** Many Parties emphasized that the work programme has an important role to play in mobilizing a broad range of actors and arenas, including governments, the private sector, civil society, academia and international organizations. Parties highlighted the importance of engaging all relevant stakeholders in the design and implementation of just transition pathways and of fostering collaboration across sectors and levels of governance. Several Parties noted that the work programme can serve as a platform for bringing together different actors, facilitating dialogue and promoting coordinated action. Some Parties also emphasized its role in sending signals beyond the UNFCCC process, including to financial markets, investors and other stakeholders, thereby catalysing action and investment. Several Parties highlighted the importance of leveraging these signals to accelerate the transition and to support the scaling up of efforts.

20. **Enhanced institutional arrangements.** Many Parties reiterated their positions regarding the need for strengthened institutional arrangements to support the implementation of just transition pathways. Some Parties called for the establishment of a dedicated just transition mechanism, while others supported the development of a just transition action plan or other similar frameworks. Observer constituencies proposed the establishment of a Belém Action Mechanism to enhance coordination, facilitate knowledge-sharing and support implementation. Several Parties emphasized the importance of ensuring that any new

arrangements build on existing structures, avoid duplication and enhance coherence across processes. Others highlighted the need for inclusive governance structures that ensure meaningful participation of stakeholders, including non-Party actors. Several Parties also stressed the importance of ensuring that institutional arrangements are practical, efficient and responsive to the needs of Parties.

21. **Expectations for a strong outcome at COP 30.** Many Parties emphasized the importance of achieving a strong and meaningful outcome on the just transition work programme at COP 30 in Belém. Parties highlighted that such an outcome should reflect the importance of just transitions for achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement and should provide clear guidance for future work. Several Parties emphasized the need for actionable outcomes that support implementation, enhance cooperation and mobilize support. Others highlighted the importance of ensuring that the outcome reflects the diversity of views and priorities expressed by Parties and stakeholders. Many Parties underscored that a strong outcome would send an important signal of commitment and would help to advance equitable, inclusive and effective climate action globally.

Annex

Proceedings of the third annual high-level ministerial round table on just transition

I. Welcome address

1. Minister Alicia Bárcena (Mexico) and State Secretary Krzysztof Bolesła (Poland), the two co-chairs of the third annual high-level ministerial round table on just transition, welcomed participants to the round table and delivered brief opening remarks.

2. Minister Alicia Bárcena emphasized the urgency of addressing the climate crisis through transformative approaches that move beyond existing development models. She highlighted that just transition is not merely an aspirational concept but a practical necessity for achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement, noting that transitions must be rooted in the realities of people and territories most affected by climate change. She stressed the importance of ensuring that just transition pathways are tailored to national circumstances and supported by meaningful social dialogue and stakeholder participation. She further underscored that the UAE just transition work programme provides a critical opportunity to build a shared understanding of just transitions and to guide countries in advancing their pathways in a manner that ensures no one is left behind.

3. State Secretary Krzysztof Bolesła highlighted national experiences in implementing just transition policies, emphasizing that a transition that is not just will not succeed. Drawing on Poland's experience, he noted that structural economic transformation can create opportunities for growth, innovation and improved livelihoods when accompanied by targeted support for workers and communities. He stressed the importance of investing in skills development, fostering new industries and engaging local communities in transition processes. He also underlined that just transition is a long-term and continuous process requiring sustained effort, cooperation and learning across countries, and emphasized the value of sharing experiences and lessons learned to support collective progress.

4. Following these introductory remarks, the co-chairs introduced the keynote speakers.

II. Keynote speeches

5. Ana Toni, COP30 CEO, delivered a keynote speech emphasizing the broader social and historical dimensions of just transition, highlighting the importance of addressing structural inequalities and ensuring that climate action contributes to dignity, equality and social justice. She underscored that just transitions extend beyond energy systems and require whole-of-economy and whole-of-society transformations, including changes in how societies

produce, work and live together. Reflecting on progress under the UAE just transition work programme, she noted that the four dialogues have contributed to building a shared understanding, exchanging experiences and identifying good practices, while stressing that further efforts are needed to translate this progress into implementation. She emphasized the importance of international cooperation, partnerships and solidarity in addressing global disparities, and highlighted ongoing discussions on establishing institutional arrangements to support countries in designing and implementing just transition pathways. She concluded by calling for strengthened collective efforts to advance inclusive, people-centred transitions that connect global ambition with local implementation.

6. Noura Hamladji, Deputy Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC, also gave a keynote speech, in which she emphasized that just transition is fundamentally about people and constitutes a critical test of effective climate action. She highlighted that achieving just transitions requires moving from aspiration to implementation through concrete investments in skills, social protection, clean technologies and institutional capacity. She further emphasized the importance of inclusive and participatory decision-making processes involving workers, businesses, civil society, Indigenous Peoples, women and youth. She identified fairness, scaled-up finance and inclusion as key priorities, noting that without a just transition, climate action risks losing legitimacy and effectiveness. Transitions succeed when people can see themselves reflected in the outcome. In her intervention she also highlighted the vital role of the UAE just transition work programme, as it provides a platform for countries to design transition pathways that reflect their own realities, while sharing the practical solutions that make transitions fair, inclusive, and workable.

III. Reflections from non-governmental organizations (NGO) constituencies

7. Following the keynote speeches, the two co-chairs invited representatives of NGO constituencies to deliver their remarks.

8. Statements were delivered by representatives of the following observer constituencies: the business and industry non-governmental organization constituency (BINGO), the environmental non-governmental organization constituency (ENGO), the farmers constituency, the Indigenous Peoples organizations constituency (IPO), the local governments and municipal authorities constituency (LGMA), the trade union non-governmental organization constituency (TUNGO), the women and gender constituency, and the youth non-governmental organization constituency (YOUNGO).

9. In their statements, the NGO constituencies emphasized that just transition must be grounded in human rights, equity and inclusive participation, highlighting the need to connect climate action with the lived realities of people. Many stressed that just transitions should be holistic, context-specific and implemented through whole-of-society approaches, with meaningful engagement of all stakeholders, including workers, Indigenous Peoples, women, youth and marginalized communities. Several constituencies underscored the importance of moving from dialogue to implementation and called for concrete, actionable outcomes under the just transition work programme. In this context, many strongly emphasized the need for strengthened institutional arrangements, including proposals for the establishment of a dedicated mechanism, such as a Belém Action Mechanism, to support coordination, knowledge-sharing and the operationalization of just transition pathways.

IV. Round-table discussions

10. Following the statements of representatives of NGO constituencies the co-chairs then reminded participants of the guiding questions (see para. 5 of this document) and opened the floor to participants.

11. Following the discussions, Minister Mario Mottin of the COP30 Presidency provided some brief reflections on the views shared before the conclusion of the round table.