

WGC submission on work to be undertaken under the UAE Just Transition Work Programme Second Annual High-level Ministerial Roundtable on Just Transition

November 12, 2024

During the UAE Just Transition Work Programme Second Annual High-level Ministerial Roundtable on Just Transition, the WGC proposes that the Care Economy be added to the agenda for discussion by Parties and stakeholders.

CONTEXT

Generally, the Care Economy refers to the paid and unpaid work undertaken in formal and informal sectors through which care is provided for others. Given the severity of the climate crisis, the care economy is an essential component for addressing climate impacts and catalysing a just transition for global economies. As part of a Just Transition, we need a shift for public investment and cultural valuation in the care sector that leads away from a culture of extractivism and towards a transformation in gender norms, roles, and what is understood to be valuable work.

- Currently care and domestic work continues to be underpaid and reflects global gender inequalities, [76% of unpaid care work worldwide is conducted by women in all their diversity](#)
- The Care Economy is the fastest-growing work sector in the world, [with the ILO reporting that it would add 150 million jobs by 2030.](#)
- If unpaid care workers earned a minimum wage globally they would add [nearly \\$11 trillion a year to the global economy.](#)
- In the UK it is estimated that an average job in health and care is associated with [nearly 1,500 times fewer emissions than a job in oil and gas.](#)

We also extend the concept of care and domestic work to the many land and environmental defenders globally fighting to protect and care for global biodiversity and ecosystems that are essential for mitigating and adapting to the climate crisis. It is essential to ensure protections for land defenders in the Just Transition and to consider their work as a part of the Care Economy. This means including mechanisms and safeguards to uphold collective human rights, workers' rights, gender equity, Afrodescendant and Indigenous Peoples' rights are guaranteed – including the right to Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC)— particularly when governments, investors, and private sectors seek to develop energy projects related to the extraction and supply chain (processing and manufacturing) of fossil fuels and transition minerals.

To adequately address the interconnectedness of the Care Economy and aggravating climate impact there is an urgent need to allocate climate finance investments into strengthening and building more resilient public care infrastructure such as child care, elderly support, health care

infrastructures, and social protection. Moreover, implementing social safety nets for informal and precarious care workers can facilitate their access to resources, capacity building, and technology that boosts their capacity to continue providing essential care services.

Overall, we emphasise that all work carried out under the JTWP must be gender-responsive and transformative, and that gendered aspects of the Just Transition must be considered, discussed, and prioritised in all sessions and discussions of the JTWP. This submission should be considered in conjunction with the following WGC submissions:

- [WGC submission on ensuring support for people-centric and equitable just transition pathways with a focus on the whole-of-society approach and the workforce \(September 2024\)](#)
- [WGC Submission on Just Transition pathways to achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement through NDCs, NAPs and LT-LEDs \(May 2024\)](#)
- [WGC submission on work to be undertaken under, as well as possible topics for the dialogues under the UAE Just Transition Work Programme \(February 2024\)](#)