

Children and Youth Perspective on Just Transition

Children and youth perspectives on just transition

Existing Key Elements (Decision 2/CMA.7):

- ❑ Inherent connection to 1.5 limit (Para 1)
- ❑ First GST integration (Para 8)
- ❑ as guardrail of JT (Para 12)
- ❑ the importance of enhancing the provision and mobilization of MOI and creating domestic enabling environments for preparing and implementing such plans (Para 19)

Missing Elements

- ❑ Institutionalisation of a permanent, well-funded national Children and Youth climate council that holds veto or mandatory review rights over long-term just transition strategies: dedicated finance capacity-building participatory assessment of the impacts of Just Transition policies, climate-resilient business development, and the selection of mandatory Children and Youth delegation in global negotiations with substantive decision-making power
- ❑ Intergenerational equity as a cross-cutting principle in the full lifecycle of Just Transition policies
- ❑ Safeguarding for transition decisions to not shift disproportionate burdens onto future generations
- ❑ adopting international
- ❑ safeguards under the UNFCCC to protect human rights in Just Transition implementation and reflected in updated NDCs.

Views on the operationalization of the just transition mechanism



Submission

Of the official children and youth constituency of the UNFCCC
("YOUNGO")

Views of Parties and non-Party stakeholders on the process for operationalization of a just transition mechanism - March 2026

Introduction

COP30 marked a watershed moment for just transition within global climate governance. The decision to mandate the development of a global just transition mechanism represents a historic opportunity to strengthen and coordinate international efforts to advance just transition pathways by providing the coherence, knowledge-sharing infrastructure, and dedicated support that current fragmented approaches lack. YOUNGO welcomes this development and is pleased to offer its views on the key design elements of the mechanism to be established.

This mandate reflects both the current state of the global just transition landscape and a broader evolution in the role of the COP process itself. At the international level, a growing plurality of initiatives by diverse actors - multilateral bodies, development finance institutions, national governments, and civil society - have emerged to advance just transition objectives. Yet these efforts remain largely fragmented, uneven in scope and ambition, and insufficiently aligned with the goals of the Paris Agreement. A global just transition mechanism offers a timely opportunity to address this fragmentation: by providing coordination and coherence, it can strengthen the overall effectiveness of the international system in enabling countries, particularly those with limited institutional and financial capacity, to design and implement their just transition pathways.

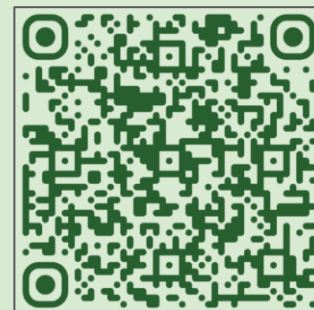
This development is further illustrative of a broader structural shift within the UNFCCC process: from norm- and rule-setting towards implementation. Such an evolution is legally grounded in Article 16 of the Paris Agreement, which provides Parties with the authority to establish such additional bodies and functions "as deemed necessary for the implementation of this Agreement." YOUNGO notes in this regard the detailed legal analysis offered in the submission of the Women and Gender Constituency (15 March 2026), to which this submission is intended to be read alongside.

Delivering justice in the transition for all people, especially those most vulnerable to both the impacts of climate change and the impacts of climate change response measures, thus..

- ❑ Building on 2025 Global Youth Statements, we urge Parties to establish JTM with a join Party-Observer advisory body that is facilitate knowledge exchange, provide technical support, enhance coherence, strengthening international cooperation, mobilise MOI
- ❑ In 2026, YOUNGO calls for the full operationalization of the Just Transition Work Programme through stronger governance, predictable grant-based finance, universal social protection, meaningful Children and Youth participation across the process, and effective accountability systems.



**YOUNGO JTWG
Submission on JTM**



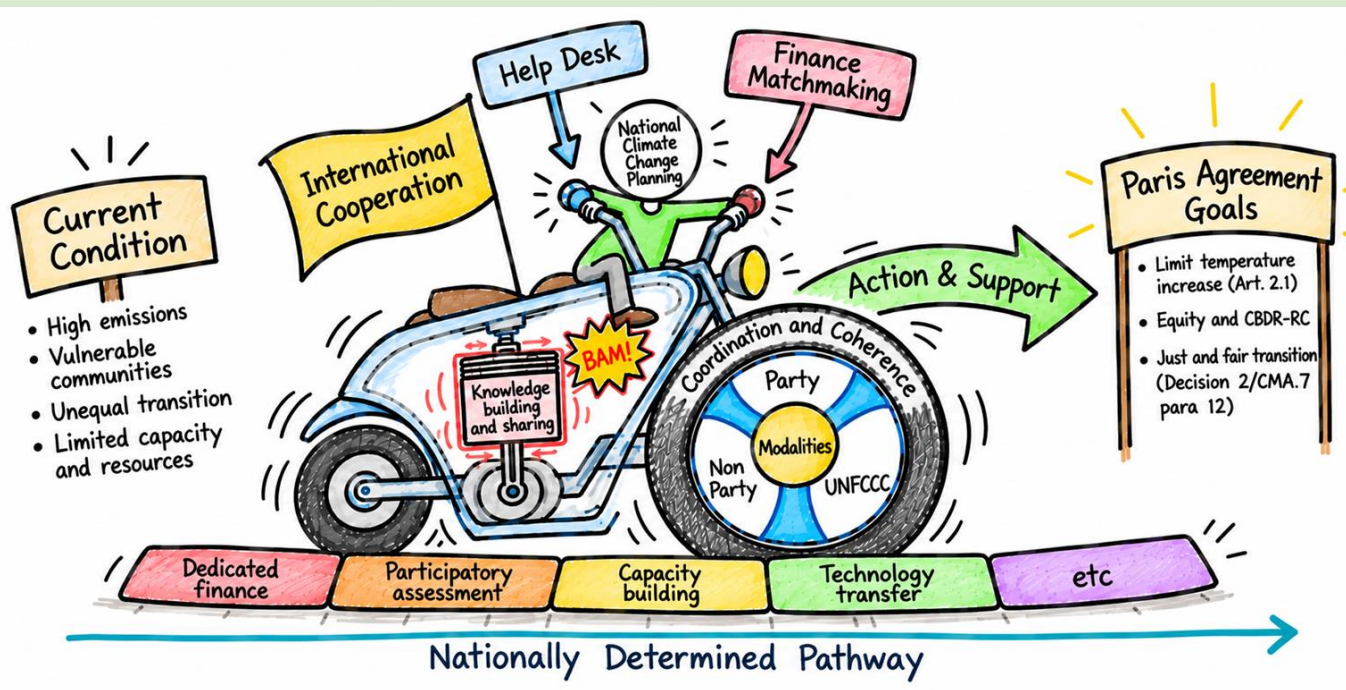
**2025 GYS Thematic
Version**

Purpose

25. *Decides* to develop a just transition mechanism, the purpose of which will be to enhance international cooperation, technical assistance, capacity-building and knowledge-sharing, and enable equitable, inclusive just transitions, noting that the mechanism is to be implemented in a manner that builds on and complements relevant workstreams under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, including the work programme, and *requests* the subsidiary bodies at their sixty-fourth sessions (June 2026) to recommend a draft decision on the process for its operationalization for consideration by the Conference of the Parties

- ❑ Laid out in paragraph 25 of Decision 2/CMA.7
- ❑ Serve as multilateral architecture
- ❑ Consistent with the goals of the Paris Agreement
- ❑ Anchored in the foundational principle of equity and CBDR-RC
- ❑ Considering paragraph 12 of Decision 2/CMA.7 (YOUNGO encourages Parties to remain open to expanding and refining this set of elements to reflect emerging knowledge, evolving country needs, and the full scope of sectors and communities implicated in the transition.)

Function



- A. Coordination
- B. Knowledge Building and Sharing
- C. Action and Support

Governance and institutional modalities of the just transition mechanism

Network

- Support of distributed repository
- Institution and Organisation

Operational Entity

- Establish and maintain the foundational conditions
- Dedicated UN Staff
- Platform administration, meeting coordination, resource mobilisation, institutional continuity

JT Technical Committee

- Expert driven technical intelligence
- Academia, civil society, Indigenous Peoples' organisations, the private sector, labour unions, and practitioner communities,

Joint Advisory Body

- Procedural and Substantive
- Parties, Observer Constituencies, UNFCCC Constituted Bodies

Potential relationship with the UAE JTWP

1. YOUNGO's view is that the establishment of the just transition mechanism does not render the JTWP redundant, it provides a dedicated space within the formal UNFCCC negotiating process for Parties to exchange views, build consensus, and advance the normative development of just transition principles and guidance. This function should be preserved,
2. The just transition mechanism, by contrast, is best positioned to assume and significantly enhance the JTWP's knowledge exchange and technical function. Structured knowledge and technical sharing is most effective when it is practitioner-oriented, grounded in the lived experience of implementation rather than constrained by the dynamics of political negotiation.
3. By housing this function within the mechanism, exchanges can be designed to be more targeted, actionable, and accessible to the national and subnational actors who are directly responsible for advancing just transition on the ground



2026 Contact Points:

Amany =

idarkaoui@outlook.com

-

fmubina30.fm@gmail.com