1st Conference
Transitioning
away from **Fossil Fuels**
Colombia – The Netherlands

Report

1st Conference on Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels

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Co-hosted by
Colombia &
The Netherlands

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1st Conference
Transitioning
away from Fossil Fuels
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Transitioning
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Executive Summary

"Let us take a first decisive step towards a clean, people-centered, secure, sovereign and inclusive energy future for all"

Selwin Hart, Special Advisor to the United Nations Secretary General on Climate Action and Just Transition.

From 24 to 29 April 2026 Colombia and the Netherlands organized the first Conference on Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels. The conference, hosted in Santa Marta, convened 57 countries and more than 1000 stakeholders to advance global commitments made under the Paris Agreement. Over the course of five days, **countries and representatives from 14 groups[1] created a safe space for dialogue on *how* to advance a just, orderly, and equitable transition away from fossil fuels.**

At COP28 in Dubai, t**he international community already recognized the need to transition away from fossil fuels in energy systems.** However, practical cooperation on how to do so remains limited. Discussions at COP30 in Belém further highlighted the need for a complementary process to advance action among countries and stakeholders.

Since the beginning of this year, growing geopolitical tensions and continued volatility in energy markets have reinforced the **urgency of reducing fossil fuel dependence.** It is necessary for energy security, economic resilience, and climate action. In this context, the first Conference on Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels developed an innovative, inclusive, and action-oriented space to help countries move towards more sustainable, sovereign and secure energy systems. In doing so, it has brought together a broad 'coalition of doers' from across the globe.

[1] Subnational governments, academia, social movements, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), trade unions, parliamentarians, the private sector, multilateral development banks, Indigenous Peoples, peoples of African descent, peasants, children and youth, women and diversities and faith-based groups.

A comprehensive, transparent, and inclusive process ensured the success of Santa Marta. In the weeks and months ahead, each stakeholder group came together to start collaborating on a shared vision for the conference. The conference brought them together with **countries representing 1/3 of global GDP, 30% of fossil fuel demand, and 20% of fossil fuel supply.**

Dialogues were open and constructive, and countries spoke honestly about the challenges they face. Seated in small breakout groups, there was **no doubt about the others' commitment and good will**. The dialogue worked because it was devoid of judgement. It worked because there was no need to come with negotiated outcomes. **It is this 'spirit of Santa Marta' that energizes the work ahead,** to advance and accelerate implementation, and give the transition away from fossil fuels a central place in global conversations.

The conference highlighted that **countries are already making progress in the transition.** Fossil fuels are responsible for over 75% of all greenhouse gas emissions worldwide[2]. However, rapid growth in renewable energy deployment, technological innovation, and investment confirms that the shift towards cleaner energy systems has gained significant momentum. By 2025, global renewable energy capacity is almost 50% higher than in 2023 and nearly all new energy demand is met through renewables[3]. **Actions taken to date prove that the energy transition is past its point of no return.**

At the same time, countries still have structural dependencies to overcome. This was likewise clear in the conversations in Santa Marta. Dependencies vary across countries, but they include fiscal and economic dependence, debt constraints, limited fiscal space, high costs of capital, technological constraints, and trade-related issues that can slow progress.

Based on the input from all participants ahead and during the conference, Colombia and the Netherlands have developed a 'Santa Marta Vision' for Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels. It contains ten key points:

1. **Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels is one of the defining priorities of our time.** It is essential to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement and keep a 1.5°C future within reach. It is also essential to respond to current

[2] International Energy Agency. "Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Energy," IEA, Paris. https://www.iea.org/data-and-statistics/data-product/greenhouse-gas-emissions-from-energy.
[3] International Energy Agency. (2025). World Energy Outlook 2025. IEA. https://www.iea.org/reports/world-energy-outlook-2025

economic, social, and geopolitical shocks while building long-term energy security, resilience, and a basis for economic prosperity that is grounded in social and environmental sustainability.

2. An open and flexible coalition of doers goes beyond the lowest common denominator. Meaningful progress often begins with a small group prepared to move forward. Collective action should be grounded in shared objectives while recognizing different national and territorial realities. Ambition and inclusiveness can advance together when countries cooperate around practical solutions and mutual support.

3. Favorable conditions for the transition exist, but accelerated progress requires stronger governance and action across multiple policy domains. These favorable conditions include falling renewable energy costs, technological innovation, and growing experience with implementation. Yet, opportunities and benefits remain unevenly distributed. Ensuring that all countries and communities can benefit requires stronger governance, international cooperation, and reforms to address barriers and implementation, to generate further ambition.

4. Transitioning away from fossil fuels is not simply about substituting one source of energy for another. It is a broad economic, political, social, and institutional transformation, from the global to the local level, to overcome structural dependencies. It involves governance systems, local knowledge, existing decision-making processes, and looking at financial flows, sectoral dynamics, value chains, and development pathways. It therefore requires whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches capable of aligning public and private action around long-term transformation.

5. Transforming energy supply and demand requires coordinated planning across the global energy system and economy. To accelerate the transition and expand easy, affordable, and reliable clean alternatives, a wide range of policies and instruments need to be implemented in a coherent manner – from extraction, processing and consumption of fossil fuels to the transformation of end-use sectors. Strategic planning, industrial policy, robust economic diversification, technological development, innovation, and international cooperation are all part of the solution.

6. The transition will be rights-based and territorially grounded. Locally-led solutions already exist and must be recognized, strengthened, and scaled. The transition should not reproduce inequalities within or between countries, nor create new forms of extractivism or dependence. It should help economies and communities move towards value chains of higher quality and new economic models, and towards more resilient and inclusive development pathways, for more equitable, sustainable, and resilient societies.

7. Domestic action and international cooperation, as well as improving conditions to enable these, are equally indispensable to the Transition Away from Fossil Fuels. Progress depends on system-wide coherence. At the heart are new or strengthened national or regional TAFF roadmaps, aligned with 1.5°C, that signal clear direction, to markets as well as domestic and international partners. This needs to be coupled with additional work on sustainable trade flows and advance green economic transformation. Pooling capacities, knowledge and resources across countries can generate significant synergies and speed-up progress.

8. Overcoming economic dependence on fossil fuels and boosting green economic transformation requires addressing a complex web of domestic and international constraints that operate differently across countries. Countries willing to accelerate the transition currently face conditions that differ. For some, addressing debt burdens, high costs of capital, limited fiscal space, technological barriers and investment frameworks are essential.

Accelerated deployment of Multilateral Development Banks (MDB) support, expanded non-debt-creating finance, technology transfer and capacity building are ways to do so. Financial flows continue to be unaligned, and in most countries fossil fuel subsidies and misaligned financial incentives keep fossil fuels artificially competitive. Identifying these incentives and subsidies is necessary, for example through the publication of national inventories. Likewise, research on how to reform these is essential to advance progress towards phasing out fossil fuel subsidies.

9. Success in the Transition Away from Fossil Fuels requires action both within and beyond the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Complementarity with UNFCCC processes and other existing governance frameworks is critical to avoid duplication. Future work following the first conference will aim to defragment efforts, and ensure alignment with existing initiatives, including the Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance (BOGA), the Powering Past Coal Alliance (PPCA), and the Clean Energy Transition Partnership (CETP). Countries working together can also contribute to advancing work in related processes, including the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the International Maritime Organization (IMO), and the UN Plastics Treaty. Progress in these areas will likewise benefit the global transition away from fossil fuels. The same goes for optimization of instruments from multilateral development banks and international financial institutions, among others. It will be equally important to address existing governance and implementation gaps through additional mechanisms, initiatives and agreements.

10. A world beyond fossil fuels is possible. Progress is already underway. Accelerating change requires catalytic forms of cooperation to match the scale of the challenge. By bringing together governments and a broad coalition of stakeholders, the first Conference on Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels advanced solution-oriented cooperation. With plurilateral action, grounded in multilateral consensus, we can build the practical pathways to move forward together.

The next steps in the Santa Marta process will bring this vision to life and **prepare for the second Conference on Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels in 2027.** The second conference is testament to the sustained commitment to deliver, which was evident from all participants.

Together with the next co-hosts, **Tuvalu and Ireland,** Colombia and the Netherlands will ensure these next steps follow the same spirit as the Santa Marta conference itself: open, inclusive, constructive. **The coordination group that comprises the four co-hosts will help to strengthen connections and avoid duplication.** They will connect with countries leading different alliances and initiatives that are implementing elements of the transition, and with the COP30 Activation Group *'Transitioning away from fossil fuels in a just, orderly and equitable manner.* With science as its anchor, the group will work to **sustain momentum throughout the year,** ensure **complementarity with UNFCCC and other existing frameworks,** and identify **areas where additional action is needed.** The three workstreams that were announced at the end of the conference will be launched at the end of July, bringing avenues for continued engagement, deeper analysis, and joint action.

Transitioning away from fossil fuels is complex, requiring time and careful management. It needs to ensure that communities and economies dependent on fossil fuel production and consumption can move to new economic models, while global energy access continues to expand as well. Above all, however, it is clear that **decarbonizing our economic, trade and energy systems is the best path towards equitable, sustainable and resilient societies.**

Resumen Ejecutivo

Demos un primer paso decisivo hacia un futuro energético limpio, centrado en las personas, seguro, soberano e inclusivo para todos.”

Selwin Hart, Asesor Especial del Secretario General de las Naciones Unidas sobre Acción Climática y Transición Justa.

Del 24 al 29 de abril de 2026, Colombia y los Países Bajos organizaron la primera **Conferencia sobre la Transición Más Allá de los Combustibles Fósiles**. La conferencia, celebrada en Santa Marta, reunió a 57 países y más de 1.000 actores clave para avanzar en los compromisos globales asumidos en el marco del Acuerdo de París. Durante cinco días, **países y representantes de 14 capítulos de actores interesados crearon un espacio seguro de diálogo sobre cómo avanzar hacia una transición justa, ordenada y equitativa para dejar atrás los combustibles fósiles.**

En la COP28 de Dubai, **la comunidad internacional ya había reconocido la necesidad de avanzar hacia una transición más allá de los combustibles fósiles en los sistemas energéticos**. Sin embargo, la cooperación sobre cómo lograrlo en la práctica sigue siendo limitada. Los debates de la COP30 en Belém destacaron aún más la necesidad de un proceso complementario que permita impulsar la acción entre países y actores relevantes.

Desde comienzos de este año, el aumento de las tensiones geopolíticas y la persistente volatilidad de los mercados energéticos han reforzado la **urgencia de reducir la dependencia de los combustibles fósiles.** Esto es necesario para fortalecer la seguridad energética, la resiliencia económica y la acción climática. En este contexto, la primera Conferencia sobre la Transición Más Allá de los Combustibles Fósiles desarrolló un espacio innovador, inclusivo y orientado a la acción para apoyar a los países en su avance hacia sistemas energéticos más sostenibles, soberanos y seguros. Al hacerlo, logró reunir una amplia “coalición de quienes actúan” de todas las regiones del mundo.

Un proceso integral, transparente e inclusivo garantizó el éxito de Santa Marta. En las semanas y meses previos, cada grupo de actores trabajó conjuntamente para construir una visión compartida de la conferencia. La reunión congregó a estos grupos junto con **países que representan un tercio del PIB mundial, el 30 % de la demanda global de combustibles fósiles y el 20 % de su ofert**a.

Los diálogos fueron abiertos y constructivos, y los países hablaron con franqueza sobre los desafíos que enfrentan. Sentados en pequeños grupos de trabajo, **no había dudas sobre el compromiso y la buena voluntad de los demás participantes.** El diálogo funcionó porque estuvo libre de juicios. Funcionó porque no existía la necesidad de llegar con resultados previamente negociados. **Es este "espíritu de Santa Marta" el que impulsa el trabajo futuro para avanzar y acelerar la implementación,** y para situar la transición más allá de los combustibles fósiles en un lugar central de las conversaciones globales.

La conferencia puso de relieve que **los países ya están avanzando en la transición.** Los combustibles fósiles son responsables de más del 75% de las emisiones mundiales de gases de efecto invernadero. Sin embargo, el rápido crecimiento de las energías renovables, la innovación tecnológica y las inversiones confirma que el cambio hacia sistemas energéticos más limpios ha adquirido un impulso significativo. Para 2025, la capacidad mundial de energías renovables es casi un 50% superior a la de 2023 y prácticamente toda la nueva demanda energética está siendo cubierta por fuentes renovables. **Las acciones emprendidas hasta la fecha demuestran que la transición energética ha superado el punto de no retorno.**

Al mismo tiempo, los países aún enfrentan dependencias estructurales que deben superar. Esto también quedó claro en las conversaciones de Santa Marta. Estas dependencias varían entre países, pero incluyen dependencia fiscal y económica de los combustibles fósiles, restricciones derivadas de la deuda, limitado espacio fiscal, elevados costos de capital, limitaciones tecnológicas y desafíos relacionados con el comercio que pueden ralentizar el progreso.

Visión de Santa Marta para la Transición Más Allá de los Combustibles Fósiles

Con base en los aportes de todos los participantes antes y durante la conferencia, Colombia y los Países Bajos han desarrollado una **"Visión de Santa Marta" para la Transición Mas Allá de los Combustibles Fósiles**. Esta visión contiene diez mensajes clave:

1. La transición más allá de los combustibles fósiles es una de las prioridades definitorias de nuestro tiempo. Es esencial para alcanzar los objetivos del Acuerdo de París y mantener al alcance un futuro compatible con 1,5 °C. También es fundamental para responder a las actuales perturbaciones económicas, sociales y geopolíticas, al tiempo que se construyen seguridad energética, resiliencia y una base para la prosperidad económica sustentada en la sostenibilidad social y ambiental.

2. Una coalición abierta y flexible de quienes actúan que va más allá del mínimo común denominador. Los avances significativos suelen comenzar con un grupo reducido dispuesto a avanzar. La acción colectiva debe basarse en objetivos compartidos, reconociendo al mismo tiempo las diferentes realidades nacionales y territoriales. La ambición y la inclusión pueden avanzar de manera conjunta cuando los países cooperan en torno a soluciones prácticas y apoyo mutuo.

3. Existen condiciones favorables para la transición, pero acelerar el progreso requiere una gobernanza más sólida y acciones en múltiples ámbitos de política pública. Estas condiciones favorables incluyen la disminución de los costos de las energías renovables, la innovación tecnológica y la creciente experiencia en la implementación. Sin embargo, las oportunidades y beneficios se siguen distribuyendo de manera desigual. Garantizar que todos los países y comunidades puedan beneficiarse requiere fortalecer la gobernanza, la cooperación internacional y las reformas necesarias para superar barreras de implementación y generar una mayor ambición.

4. La transición más allá de los combustibles fósiles no consiste simplemente en sustituir una fuente de energía por otra. Se trata de una amplia transformación económica, política, social e institucional, desde el nivel global hasta el local, orientada a superar dependencias estructurales. Involucra sistemas de gobernanza, conocimientos locales, procesos de toma de decisiones existentes, así como el análisis de flujos financieros, dinámicas sectoriales, cadenas de valor y trayectorias de desarrollo. Por ello, requiere enfoques integrales de gobierno y de sociedad capaces de alinear la acción pública y privada en torno a una transformación de largo plazo.

5. Transformar la oferta y la demanda de energía requiere una planificación coordinada a lo largo de todo el sistema energético y económico global. Para acelerar la transición y ampliar alternativas limpias que sean accesibles, asequibles y confiables, es necesario implementar de manera coherente una amplia gama de políticas e instrumentos, desde la extracción, procesamiento y consumo de combustibles fósiles hasta la transformación de los sectores de uso final. La planificación estratégica, la política industrial, la diversificación económica robusta, el desarrollo tecnológico, la innovación y la cooperación internacional forman parte de la solución.

6. La transición estará basada en derechos y arraigada en los territorios. Ya existen soluciones lideradas localmente que deben ser reconocidas, fortalecidas y ampliadas. La transición no debe reproducir desigualdades dentro de los países ni entre ellos, ni generar nuevas formas de extractivismo o dependencia. Debe contribuir a que las economías y comunidades avancen hacia cadenas de valor de mayor calidad y nuevos modelos económicos, así como hacia trayectorias de desarrollo más resilientes e inclusivas, para construir sociedades más equitativas, sostenibles y resilientes.

7. La acción doméstica y la cooperación internacional, así como la mejora de las condiciones que las hacen posibles, son igualmente indispensables para la transición más allá de los combustibles fósiles. El progreso depende de la coherencia de todo el sistema. En el centro de este esfuerzo se encuentran hojas de ruta nacionales o regionales nuevas o fortalecidas para la transición, alineadas con el objetivo de 1,5 °C, que proporcionen una señal clara a los mercados y a los socios nacionales e internacionales. Esto debe complementarse con trabajo adicional para promover flujos comerciales sostenibles e impulsar la transformación económica verde. La puesta en común de capacidades, conocimientos y recursos entre países puede generar importantes sinergias y acelerar el progreso.

8. Superar la dependencia económica de los combustibles fósiles e impulsar la transformación económica verde requiere abordar una compleja red de restricciones nacionales e internacionales que operan de manera diferente entre países. Los países que desean acelerar la transición enfrentan actualmente condiciones muy distintas. Para algunos, es esencial abordar las cargas de la deuda, los altos costos del capital, el limitado espacio fiscal, las barreras tecnológicas y los marcos de inversión. Una mayor movilización del apoyo de los bancos multilaterales de desarrollo, la ampliación del financiamiento que no genera deuda, la transferencia de tecnología y el fortalecimiento de capacidades son algunas de las vías para hacerlo. Los flujos financieros continúan desalineados y, en la mayoría de los países, los subsidios a los combustibles fósiles y otros incentivos financieros distorsionados siguen manteniéndolos artificialmente competitivos. Identificar estos incentivos y subsidios es necesario, por ejemplo, mediante la publicación de inventarios nacionales. Asimismo, la investigación sobre cómo reformarlos es fundamental para avanzar hacia la eliminación progresiva de los subsidios a los combustibles fósiles.

9. El éxito de la transición más allá de los combustibles fósiles requiere acción tanto dentro como fuera de la Convención Marco de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Cambio Climático (CMNUCC). La complementariedad con los procesos de la CMNUCC y otros marcos de gobernanza existentes es esencial para evitar duplicaciones. El trabajo futuro derivado de esta primera conferencia buscará reducir la fragmentación de esfuerzos y garantizar la alineación con iniciativas existentes, incluidas la Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance (BOGA), la Powering Past Coal Alliance (PPCA) y la Clean Energy Transition Partnership (CETP). Los países que trabajan conjuntamente también pueden contribuir a impulsar procesos relacionados, como los del Panel Intergubernamental sobre Cambio Climático (IPCC), la Organización Marítima Internacional (OMI) y el Tratado Mundial sobre los Plásticos de las Naciones Unidas. Los avances en estos ámbitos también beneficiarán la transición global más allá de los combustibles fósiles. Lo mismo aplica a la optimización de los instrumentos de los bancos multilaterales de desarrollo y las instituciones financieras internacionales, entre otros. Será igualmente importante abordar las brechas existentes de gobernanza e implementación mediante mecanismos, iniciativas y acuerdos adicionales.

10. Un mundo más allá de los combustibles fósiles es posible. El progreso ya está en marcha. Acelerar el cambio requiere formas catalizadoras de cooperación que estén a la altura de la magnitud del desafío. Al reunir gobiernos y una amplia coalición de actores, la primera Conferencia sobre la Transición Más Allá de los Combustibles Fósiles impulsó una cooperación orientada a soluciones. Mediante acciones plurilaterales, sustentadas en consensos multilaterales, podemos construir los caminos prácticos para avanzar juntos.

Próximos pasos

Los próximos pasos del proceso de Santa Marta buscarán materializar esta visión y preparar la segunda **Conferencia sobre la Transición Más Allá de los Combustibles Fósiles,** que se celebrará en 2027. La realización de esta segunda conferencia es una muestra del compromiso sostenido con la implementación y la acción concreta, compromiso que fue evidente entre todos los participantes.

Junto con los próximos países coanfitriones, **Tuvalu e Irlanda,** Colombia y los Países Bajos velarán por que estos pasos sigan el mismo espíritu que caracterizó a la conferencia de Santa Marta: apertura, inclusión y construcción colectiva. **El grupo de coordinación integrado por los cuatro países anfitriones contribuirá a fortalecer los vínculos entre iniciativas y a evitar duplicaciones de esfuerzos.** Asimismo, trabajará en estrecha articulación con los países que lideran distintas alianzas e iniciativas relacionadas con la implementación de elementos de la transición, así como con el Grupo de Activación de la COP30 sobre la "transición más allá de los combustibles fósiles de manera justa, ordenada y equitativa".

Con la ciencia como fundamento, este grupo trabajará para **mantener el impulso político a lo largo del año, asegurar la complementariedad con la CMNUCC y otros marcos existentes, e identificar ámbitos en los que se requieran acciones adicionales.** Los tres grupos de trabajo anunciados al cierre de la conferencia serán puestos en marcha a finales de julio, ofreciendo espacios para una participación continua, análisis más profundos y acciones conjuntas.

La transición más allá de los combustibles fósiles es un proceso complejo que requiere tiempo y una gestión cuidadosa. Es necesario garantizar que las comunidades y economías que actualmente dependen de la producción y el consumo de combustibles fósiles puedan avanzar hacia nuevos modelos económicos, al tiempo que continúa ampliándose el acceso universal a la energía. Sin embargo, por encima de todo, resulta cada vez más evidente que **la descarbonización de nuestros sistemas económicos, comerciales y energéticos constituye la mejor**


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Introduction

The first International Conference on Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels was held in Santa Marta, Colombia, from 24–29 April 2026, following a preparatory process launched in March 2026. Co-hosted by Colombia and the Netherlands, the Conference convened governments and a broad range of stakeholders committed to advancing the transition away from fossil fuels in line with the Paris Agreement and the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5°C. It created a space for collective learning, political dialogue, and practical cooperation, aimed at strengthening and aligning efforts across sectors, scales, and geographies.

The conference responded to the need for an implementation-focused space that is capable of bringing together governments and non-state actors to accelerate action. Its innovative, multi-stakeholder and multi-level approach seeks to complement existing multilateral processes, foster coordination, participation, and build concrete pathways for implementation.

Figure 1. Overview of stakeholder chapters in the first Conference on Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels

From consensus to implementation

At COP28 in Dubai, countries reached a historic agreement to transition away from fossil fuels in energy systems as part of the global response to climate change. Nearly three years later, however, limited progress has been made in translating this collective commitment into coordinated implementation. At the same time, recent disruptions linked to tensions in the Strait of Hormuz have served as a reminder of the vulnerabilities associated with continued dependence on fossil fuels. Advancing the transition away from fossil fuels is therefore not only essential for maintaining a livable planet, but also for strengthening energy security, enhancing economic resilience, and reducing exposure to geopolitical and market volatility.

The first Conference on Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels (TAFF-1) Santa Marta made clear that countries are already making good progress in the transition to more sustainable, sovereign and secure energy systems. Yet, the conference also made clear that the countries still have structural dependencies to overcome. Meanwhile, temperatures as well as the emissions from fossil fuel production and use have risen to new heights, increasing impacts of climate change in communities across the globe.

In Santa Marta, a diverse and growing coalition has come together around a shared commitment to accelerate the implementation of a just, orderly, and equitable transition beyond fossil fuels. Recognizing the plurality of national circumstances, development pathways, and worldviews, participants discussed context-specific approaches that would enable the transition while exploring the coordinated international actions and pathways needed to support one another and deliver impact, with a vision grounded in justice, solidarity, and international cooperation.

Reader's guide

This report summarizes the contributions of participants during the conference and its preparatory sessions. It also offers suggestions for next steps, additional partners, and linkages to other processes. There is a clear division between the report back and suggested future work.

The main section of the report is divided into five chapters, structuring the debates and outcomes of the conference process around five pathways:

- **Pathway 1: Collective action for the transition away from fossil fuels through global partnership.** This chapter describes the **innovative participatory process** that was developed in the run-up and during the conference. The methodology adopted is centered on action for just transition away from fossil fuels, guided by science and rights-based **approaches, shaped in collaboration with key social stakeholders**. This participatory process will remain central going forward.

- **Pathway 2: Accelerate global progress, spread the spirit of Santa Marta, and achieve system wide-coherence.** This chapter describes how countries can use cooperation and mutual learning to overcome different forms of dependence on fossil fuels.
- **Pathway 3: Develop or strengthen national and regional roadmaps to transition away from fossil fuels**, aligned with Nationally Determined Contributions and 1.5°C. This chapter describes how roadmaps based in **science and human rights can guide the transition away from fossil fuels**. Recognizing that countries face different national realities and starting points, the work on these roadmaps will continue through a **dedicated workstream**, under the leadership of the NDC Partnership and the newly launched Scientific Panel for the Global Energy Transition.
- **Pathway 4:** Overcoming **fossil fuel-related macroeconomic dependencies, scaling up transition investment,** and addressing barriers in the **international and domestic financial architecture**. This chapter summarizes conversations on the constraints faced by countries willing to accelerate, including debt, cost of capital, fiscal space, investment, access to finance and technology, and entrenched fossil fuel subsidies and fossil fuel tax revenues. To **deepen understanding and identify solutions**, a dedicated workstream will enable continuation of the work under the leadership of the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) and other relevant experts.
- **Pathway 5: Aligning producers and consumers towards decarbonised trade balances and supporting green economic transformation.** To transition away from fossil fuels, trade balances need to progressively decarbonize. Building green markets, boosting supply and demand for green products, and advancing green industrial policies and other forms of economic diversification support the development of fossil-free trade flows while promoting green economic transformation. This chapter summarizes insights from the conversations during the conference and its preparation, including on how to align supply-side and demand-side transformations, and on applying just transition principles. Further work on this pathway will be done under the leadership of the Organisation

of Economic Cooperation and Development and other relevant experts, to support mutually reinforcing incentives, reduce transition risks, and unlock new opportunities for sustainable production, trade, and development.

Each chapter contains the following sections:

Report back

1. The conceptual framework applied;
2. A summary of the discussions, including discussions held in the virtual and in-person meetings, as well as outcomes that the difference stakeholder chapters brought to the final high-level segment;

In addition, chapters 3 to 5 also provide inputs to next steps that can be undertaken through the dedicated workstreams. This will support preparation for the second TAFF conference in 2027. Further information on this work will be provided at the end of July, when the workstreams will be launched.

Suggestions for future work

3. Proposed actions;
4. Suggested key actors and stakeholders to that action;
5. Available instruments to achieve the desired results, as well as the enabling conditions and safeguards;

The pathways show the way towards a just, orderly and equitable transition away from fossil fuels, towards green economic transformation. Together, the collective power of an open, flexible, and broad coalition of doers can overcome the remaining challenges and barriers. It is no longer a question whether the transition away from fossil fuels will happen, but how it will be organized, governed, financed, and made fair across different national and territorial realities.

Conference Outcome Table

The following table synthesises how the engagement and momentum of the TAFF-1 Conference will be further enhanced by the following expected pathways and impacts.

Pathways	Impacts
P.1. Collective action for the transition away from fossil fuels (TAFF) through a global multi-stakeholder alliance.	The upcoming S**econd Conference for Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels;**
P.2. Accelerate global progress, spread the spirit of Santa Marta, and achieve system wide-coherence.	A dedicated **Coordination Group**, composed of TAFF host nations;
	The dissemination of the **TAFF-1 Conference Report** across vital international processes and forums;
P.3. Develop or strengthen national or regional roadmaps aligned with the 1.5ºC goal.	The **roadmaps workstream,** with technical supported by from the **Science Panel for the Global Energy Transition (SPGET) and the NDC-Partnership;**
P.4. Overcoming fossil fuel-related macroeconomic dependencies, scaling up transition investment, and addressing barriers in the international and domestic financial architecture.	The **macroeconomic dependencies and financial architecture workstream,** supported by the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD);
P.5. Aligning producers and consumers towards decarbonised trade balances and supporting green economic transformation.	The **producer–consumer alignment for fossil fuel transition** workstream, supported by the OECD.

The following table presents the different pathways that will be addressed in Sections 1-5 of this report.

Pathway	Actions	Supporting Actors[4]	Deliverables
P.1. Collective action for the transition away from fossil fuels (TAFF) through a global multi-stakeholder alliance.	1.1. A sustained commitment to deliver: the TAFF process and methodology	A dedicated Coordination Group, composed of TAFF host nations All TAFF participants	Second Conference for Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels TAFF Conference methodology Intersessional work-plan The dissemination of the TAFF-1 Conference Report across vital international processes and forums TAFF outcomes are aligned to the UNFCCC Climate Champion's Global Climate Action Agenda 2026-2030 TAFF coalition channel contributions towards the second Global Stocktake (GST2)

[4] In addition to the identified Madrinas to lead the work, there are links to other organisations and entities as well, including the ones listed

P.2 Position TAFF to inform global debates, spread the spirit of Santa Marta and achieve system wide-coherence.	2.1. Strengthening connections, avoiding duplication and channeling our collective power	A dedicated Coordination Group, composed of TAFF host nations All UNFCCC Parties All TAFF participants	Sustain and strengthen momentum on TAFF
P.3 Cooperation and mutual learning to develop TAFF national roadmaps aligned with the 1.5°C goal	3.1. Design, planning and implementation of science- and rights-based roadmaps for a socio-economic and energy transition and just workforce development, anchored in sustained economic diversification and new value chains. 3.2. Switching fossil fuels for clean energy, energy security and sovereignty 3.3. Access to clean energy for rural, remote and marginalized communities 3.4. Plan the phase down and definitive closure of fossil fuel extraction	Technical support from the Scientific Panel for the Global Energy Transition (SPGET) and NDC-Partnership Ministries of Finance and Energy Governments, subgovernments and cities The other two workstreams	Input to TAFF-2 for continued cooperation.

P4. Cooperation and mutual lear-ning to overcome macroeconomic dependencies, scale-up transition investment, and address barriers from the financial architecture	4.1 Strengthening sovereign tran-sition capacity by overcoming macro-economic dependencies and expanding fiscal space, including transformative action on tax and debt. 4.2 Unlocking finance and investment flows required for the transition and closing gaps in financial and investment sys-tems, including by accelerating and scaling-up deplo-yment of IFI and DFI finance and addressing na-tional and inter-national financial architecture barriers 4.3. Reforming Subsidies and aligning financial incentives with the energy tran-sition, including by: enhancing transparency and phasing out fossil fuel incentives, stimulating the transition.	IISD Ministries of Finance and Energy Central Banks MDBs and IFIs COFFIS	Input to TAFF-2 for continued coopera-tion. Support other works-treams

P5. Cooperation and mutual learning to decarbonise trade by aligning producers and consumers on TAFF and promote green economic transformation.	5.1. Align producers and consumers for transitioning away from fossil fuels, advance towards fossil fuel-free trade flows and supporting the green transformation 5.2. Address governance gaps of international investment systems	Technical support from OECD South Center Countries The other workstreams	Input to TAFF-2 for continued cooperation. Support other workstreams

Pathway 1: Collective action for the transition away from fossil fuels through global partnership

The First Conference on Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels (TAFF 1) convened in Santa Marta, Colombia, from 24–29 April 2026, co-hosted by Colombia and the Netherlands. Bringing together governments alongside 14 stakeholder chapters, the conference created a plurilateral space for dialogue and cooperation, designed to complement as well as to accelerate the implementation of existing multilateral efforts such as the UNFCCC and beyond.

The two-day High-Level Segment (28–29 April) was attended by 57 countries, including 27 represented at the level of ministers, deputy ministers, or ambassadors, as well as 1,500 representatives of civil society (IISD, 2026 in Annex III). The conference was structured around four preparatory days of stakeholder dialogues (24–27 April), six thematic technical roundtables held in parallel on both days of the High-Level Segment, and plenary sessions.

From 24 to 27 of April, stakeholder groups convened in self-managed, sector-led dialogues to share experiences, knowledge and build enabling pathways for the transition to contribute to the process. Each group's contributions drew on prior written submissions, virtual dialogues, a shared orientative summary per stakeholder chapter reflecting their contributions on the basis of these two activities, and in-person sessions in Santa Marta (see Annex IV). At the conclusion of day four, each sector designated two spokespersons to participate in the High-Level Segment.

During 28 and 29 of April, country representatives and stakeholder spokespersons met in technical roundtables and plenary during the High-Level Segment. The format differed from usual multilateral meetings: rather than pre-written speeches and declarations, discussions were direct and interactive, with representatives from

Photo: Philip Nugent, Director General for EU, International Affairs and Marine Affairs, Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications, Government of Ireland; Irene Vélez Torres, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development, Government of Colombia, Stientje Van Veldhoven, Minister of Climate and Green Growth, Government of the Netherlands,;Maina Vakafua Talia, Minister of Home Affairs, Climate Change, and Environment, Government of Tuvalu

the stakeholders —including sub-national governments, civil society and social movements— seated alongside ministers in small breakout sessions (IISD, 2026 in Annex III). For a chronological account of meetings held see Annex III.

The main outcomes of the TAFF-1 Santa Marta Conference are both substantive and procedural in nature. The establishment of a dedicated process for implementation of the transition, bringing together a coalition of doers, and adopting an open and participatory working methodology is in itself the first tangible outcome of the Conference. Furthermore, on a substantive level, the co-hosts' identification of pathways for joint action, based on the work of break-out groups comprising stakeholders and country representatives.

The three pillars addressed during the conference were:

- Overcoming economic dependence on fossil fuels,
- Transforming energy supply and demand, and
- Promoting international cooperation and climate diplomacy.

Based on the input from all participants ahead and during the conference, Colombia and the Netherlands have developed a **'Santa Marta Vision' for Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels.** It contains ten key points:

1. Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels is one of the defining priorities of our time. It is essential to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement and keep a 1.5°C future within reach. It is also essential to respond to current economic, social, and geopolitical shocks while building long-term energy security, resilience, and a basis for economic prosperity that is grounded in social and environmental sustainability.

2. An open and flexible coalition of doers goes beyond the lowest common denominator. Meaningful progress often begins with a small group prepared to move forward. Collective action should be grounded in shared objectives while recognizing different national and territorial realities. Ambition and inclusiveness can advance together when countries cooperate around practical solutions and mutual support.

3. Favorable conditions for the transition exist, but accelerated progress requires stronger governance and action across multiple policy domains. These favorable conditions include falling renewable energy costs, technological innovation, and growing experience with implementation. Yet, opportunities and benefits remain unevenly distributed. Ensuring that all countries and communities can benefit requires stronger governance, international cooperation, and reforms to address barriers and implementation, to generate further ambition.

4. Transitioning away from fossil fuels is not simply about substituting one source of energy for another. It is a broad economic, political, social, and institutional transformation, from the global to the local level, to overcome structural dependencies. It involves governance systems, local knowledge, existing decision-making processes, and looking at financial flows, sectoral dynamics, value chains, and development pathways. It therefore requires whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches capable of aligning public and private action around long-term transformation.

5. **Transforming energy supply and demand requires coordinated planning across the global energy system and economy.** To accelerate the transition and expand easy, affordable, and reliable clean alternatives, a wide range of policies and instruments need to be implemented in a coherent manner – from extraction, processing and consumption of fossil fuels to the transformation of end-use sectors. Strategic planning, industrial policy, robust economic diversification, technological development, innovation, and international cooperation are all part of the solution.

6. **The transition will be rights-based and territorially grounded.** Locally-led solutions already exist and must be recognized, strengthened, and scaled. The transition should not reproduce inequalities within or between countries, nor create new forms of extractivism or dependence. It should help economies and communities move towards value chains of higher quality and new economic models, and towards more resilient and inclusive development pathways, for more equitable, sustainable, and resilient societies.

7. **Domestic action and international cooperation, as well as improving conditions to enable these, are equally indispensable to the Transition Away from Fossil Fuels**. Progress depends on system-wide coherence. At the heart are new or strengthened national or regional TAFF roadmaps, aligned with 1.5°C, that signal clear direction, to markets as well as domestic and international partners. This needs to be coupled with additional work on sustainable trade flows and advance green economic transformation. Pooling capacities, knowledge and resources across countries can generate significant synergies and speed-up progress.

8. **Overcoming economic dependence on fossil fuels and boosting green economic transformation requires addressing a complex web of domestic and international constraints that operate differently across countries**. Countries willing to accelerate the transition currently face conditions that differ. For some, addressing debt burdens, high costs of capital, limited fiscal space, technological barriers and investment frameworks are essential. Accelerated deployment of Multilateral Development Banks (MDB) support, expanded non-

debt-creating finance, technology transfer and capacity building are ways to do so. Financial flows continue to be unaligned, and in most countries fossil fuel subsidies and misaligned financial incentives keep fossil fuels artificially competitive. Identifying these incentives and subsidies is necessary, for example through the publication of national inventories. Likewise, research on how to reform these is essential to advance progress towards phasing out fossil fuel subsidies.

9. Success in the Transition Away from Fossil Fuels requires action both within and beyond the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Complementarity with UNFCCC processes and other existing governance frameworks is critical to avoid duplication. Future work following the first conference will aim to defragment efforts, and ensure alignment with existing initiatives, including the Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance (BOGA), the Powering Past Coal Alliance (PPCA), and the Clean Energy Transition Partnership (CETP). Countries working together can also contribute to advancing work in related processes, including the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the International Maritime Organization (IMO), and the UN Plastics Treaty. Progress in these areas will likewise benefit the global transition away from fossil fuels. The same goes for optimization of instruments from multilateral development banks and international financial institutions, among others. It will be equally important to address existing governance and implementation gaps through additional mechanisms, initiatives and agreements.

10. A world beyond fossil fuels is possible. Progress is already underway. Accelerating change requires catalytic forms of cooperation to match the scale of the challenge. By bringing together governments and a broad coalition of stakeholders, the first Conference on Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels advanced solution-oriented cooperation. With plurilateral action, grounded in multilateral consensus, we can build the practical pathways to move forward together.

For a full overview of proposals based on stakeholders' submissions check the **online menu of TAFF solutions** compiled around these three pillars[5].

Based on the information and outcomes of the Conference, Pathway 1 on "Collective action for the transition away from fossil fuels through global

[5] Available at https://first-taff-conference-solutions.netlify.app/index.html

partnership" showcases the added value of the TAFF-1 process as a complement to implementation and contribution to global climate governance. This pathway includes one main action focused on how the Santa Marta process contributed to the consolidation of a global multi-stakeholder coalition around a shared agenda for action. The following sections will further develop the action within this Pathway.

Action 1.1: A sustained commitment to deliver: the TAFF process and methodology

Action 1.1 was about creating and sustaining an innovative participatory process in the field of climate diplomacy centred on action for transitioning away from fossil fuels. The first step in this process involved launching a comprehensive, multi-stakeholder, transparent and participatory process, committed to the transition away from fossil fuels, in the run-up to the first conference in Santa Marta.

In order to bring these groups of stakeholders together in an open and horizontal dialogue, a Conference Methodology was developed for this and future conferences (available as Annex II), in which each chapter of the final report is the result of a synthesis of inputs provided by all participating sectors and stakeholders, identifying a range of concrete proposals for pathways to facilitate the transition.
The Santa Marta Conference was structured as a methodological process in stages, enabling a progression from individual contributions to collective proposals, and from these to enabling pathways presented to the international community (See Annex II).

Conceptual framework

The conceptual framework that guided the TAFF Conference is based on the following principles:

- ***Willingness to move forward:*** Gather stakeholders willing to move towards implementing a transition based on the best available science and responsive to peoples' demands, recognising this as an action space on how to deliver the transition, rather than one for diagnosis or negotiation.

- ***Bottom-up working methodology building on input by ground-level actors and stakeholders:*** The Conference methodology is built to enhance the participation space for 14 sectors with "boots on the ground" in a conscious intent to provide an innovative space for horizontal debate among key actors and governments in the multilateral environmental sphere.

- ***Implementation as the central focus:*** Based on the shared scientific certainty that accelerating the transition is essential to achieving climate goals and guaranteeing human rights.

- Solutions-oriented approach: Prioritising measures that significantly support the transition, avoiding false solutions or delays.

- ***Regional balance and gender equity:*** Ensuring diverse geographical representation and gender equity in participation and leadership.
- ***Multidisciplinary approach:*** Integrating social, economic, environmental and technical knowledge from all sectors.

- ***Conflict of interest prevention:*** Safeguarding the integrity of the process in all spaces for dialogue.

Based on these principles, a process of co-creation, interpretation and synthesis of inputs provided by participants was carried out to identify enabling pathways for the transition away from fossil fuels, with a focus on reflecting concrete and collaborative measures, and prioritising inter-ethnic, geographical and gender representation, to achieve a just, orderly, equitable and accelerated transition.

The conceptual framework conceives of climate governance as a polycentric network within which it is possible to identify actors with common interests at different levels of action: territorial (local governments), national (states and parliamentarians), and international (international bodies and organisations), representing diverse sectors of society (workers, farmers, indigenous peoples, people of African descent, women and diversity groups, children and young people, the private sector, academia, NGOs and social movements).
Within this framework, Santa Marta serves as a laboratory for revitalizing multilateralism—one capable of bridging the gap between existing negotiations and what science and people demand. It seeks to align the pace of multilateral cooperation with the urgency underscored by scientific evidence and the needs of communities on the ground.

This is a plurilateral process that begins with national and individual commitments and builds towards collective action. It is not universal in nature—a model that increasingly appears vulnerable to prevent action by those who want it—but rather coordinated, collective, and focused on accelerating implementation. Santa Marta was born as a plurilateralism of the willing that can provide renewed dynamism to international cooperation. It complements existing frameworks while opening space for innovative forms of international coordinated action better suited to the scale and urgency of today's challenges. Commitment, readiness to act, and a shared sense of responsibility serve as its cornerstone and guiding principles.

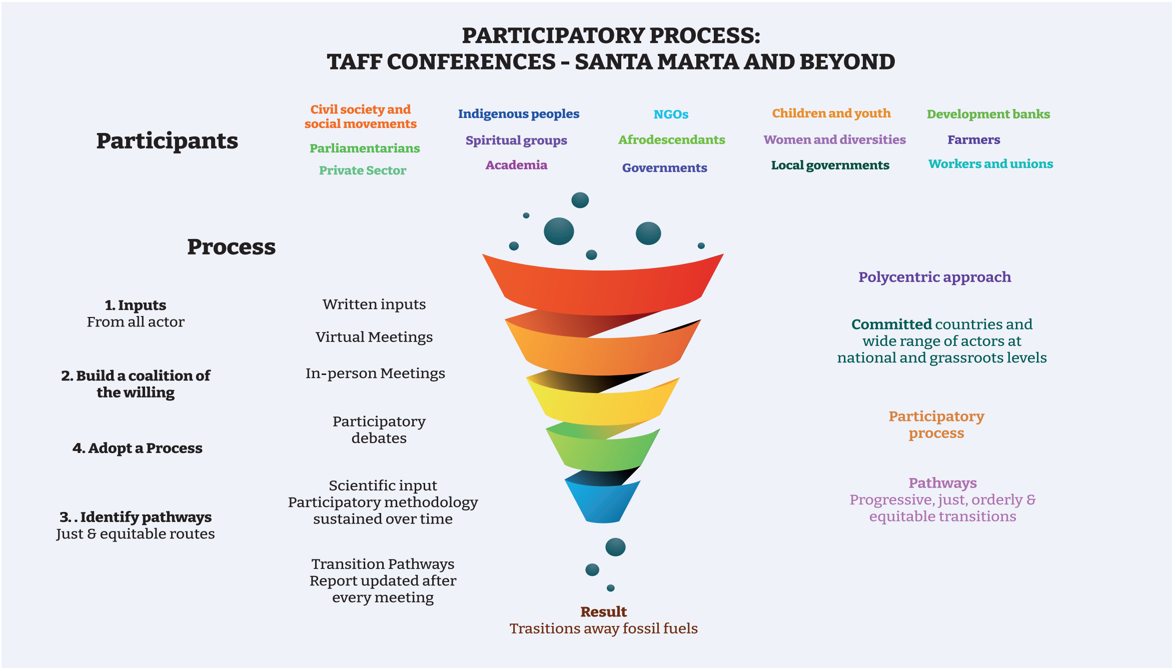


Figure 2. a depiction of the participatory process ahead of TAFF-1

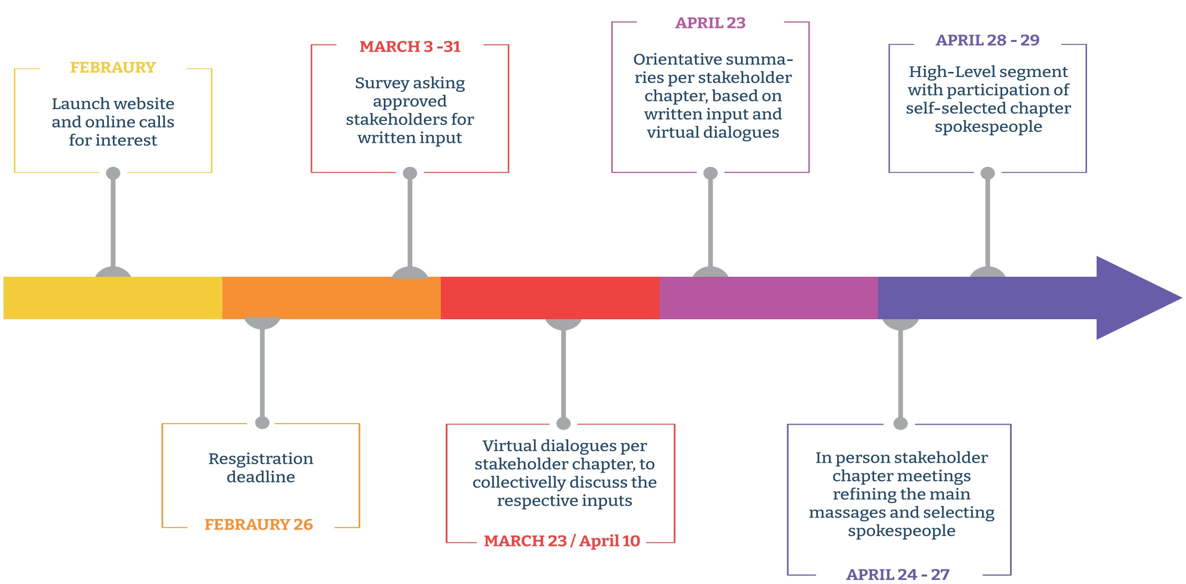


Figure 3. the timeline of the participatory process ahead of TAFF-1

In setting up the first TAFF conference, countries that already demonstrated a shared vision and commitment with the transition away from fossil fuels, including through their participation in existing initiatives to phase out coal, oil and gas, were invited. Selection criteria included: signatories of the Belém Declaration on transitioning away from fossil fuels; members of the Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance, the Powering Past Coal Alliance, and the Clean Energy Transition Partnership; countries supporting the Fossil Fuel Treaty Initiative; members of the Coalition on Fossil Fuel Incentives and Subsidies; countries with or that are active in a Just Energy Transition Partnership.

With regard to invited organisations and other entities, the original list of registrants was reviewed by a team of 1415 volunteers who are expert volunteers in conflicts of interest and integrity in climate change processes. The volunteers signed a confidentiality agreement prior to accessing the register of registrants and the development of criteria for identifying potential conflicts of interest, which were approved by the co-hosts. Organisations with potential conflicts of interest were reviewed by the co-hosts, and where both agreed that a conflict existed the organisations were removed from the list.

Result 1.1.1. Annual TAFF meeting held and Report presented to a wide audience

The Santa Marta meeting achieved the goal of bringing together actors from 57 countries and 10 sub-national governments, as well as 349 organizations, participating in the High-Level meeting held in Santa Marta, Colombia, in 2026. More than 1.400 participants met in 134 stakeholder group dialogue sessions over the course of the four-day conference.

Result 1.1.2. The annual TAFF meeting developed and applied a participatory, multi-stakeholder working methodology

A Conference methodology consisting of 8 stages was developed by the Co-hosts and applied during the TAFF-1 Conference in Santa Marta (see details in Annex II).

Figure 4. Funnel approach methodology.

The results in terms of outreach and participation are summarised in the following key points.

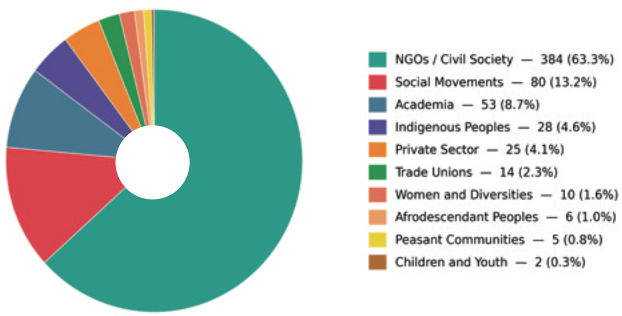
- Through an open online call for applications, 2,605 applications were received, which were assessed to rule out conflicts of interest by a team of 14 expert volunteers, with a final decision made by the co-hosts. Based on this review, 2,363 invitations were sent out to submit written contributions to compile an online database and to self-assign a sector.

After passing an initial review to confirm their commitment to climate action, the invited organisations were called upon to participate in four stages of collaborative work by sector: the submission of written proposals, participation in virtual working groups, participation in face-to-face working groups during the Santa Marta Conference, and participation through designated spokespersons during the final two days of high-level discussions. Each sector or chapter was coordinated by one or more Chapter Leads, who facilitated written submissions, organised virtual and in-person dialogues, coordinated the development of priorities and proposals, contributed to implement processes for designating spokespersons for the High-Level Dialogues, submitted a summary report of outcomes to Colombia and the Netherlands, and served as a channel of communication between the Co-hosts and the stakeholders.

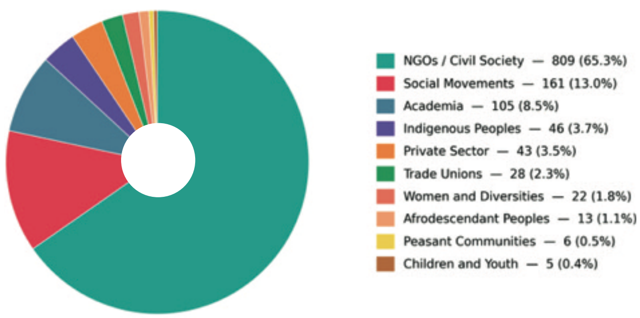
Stage 1: Written contributions

The call for written contributions resulted in 607 submissions and 1,238 concrete proposals from stakeholder groups, as well as 17 proposals from national and sub-national governments. The Parliamentary Chapter additionally conducted a survey that gathered 67 responses. (See Annex I).

Written Contributions by sector
607



Total nummber of solutions
1,238



Contributions by Language
1,238

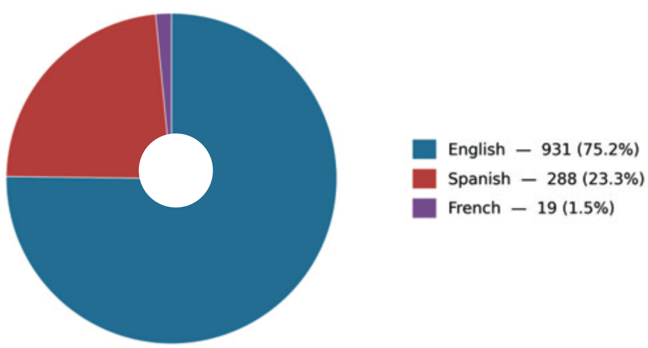


Figure 5. Participation in Stage 1. Number and type of submissions

Stage 2: Technical Synthesis

On the basis of these written contributions, the co-hosts drew up summary documents which were presented for the virtual dialogues of each stakeholder group (see thematic summaries in Annex III.

Stage 3: Virtual Dialogues per chapter:

The call for Virtual Dialogues saw the participation of approximately 900 individuals across 49 online sessions, each self-managed by a group of stakeholders. The thematic summaries produced during the Technical Synthesis served as a common reference for each group, providing the analytical foundation upon which the virtual exchanges were structured. The outcome of the virtual dialogues (Annex III) was an initial position paper for each group, the so-called orientative summaries.

Stage 4: Preliminary sector position papers

The exchanges conducted by each stakeholder group during the virtual dialogues served as the foundation for the elaboration of preliminary sector position papers, the orientative summaries of Stakeholder Chapters. These documents, published online before the in-person meetings at Santa Marta, distilled the collective priorities, concerns and proposals that each group had developed through their online interactions, and played a decisive role in shaping the architecture of the in-person dialogues in Santa Marta. Drawing on these papers, each sector was able to design its own agenda for the conference sessions — defining the structure, sequence and focus of the conversations it wished to advance — thereby ensuring that the dialogues held from 24–27 April reflected genuine, bottom-up deliberation from the outset.

Stages 5 & 6: In person chapter dialogues and selection of spokespersons:

From 24–27 April 2026, the Stakeholder Dialogues in Santa Marta brought together more than 1,400 participants who met in 7 stakeholder group dialogue sessions over the course of the four-day conference. Each group organised stakeholder-led dialogues during the conference with the aim of refining key messages from consolidating proposals for transition pathways and appointing sectoral spokespersons to participate in the high-level segment meetings.

Stage 7: High-level segment

Drawing on this diversity of voices, the high-level segment brought together 57 countries and 26 Spokespeople representing: Sub-National Governments, Academia, Parliamentarians, Trade Unions, Private Sector, Multilateral Development Banks (MDB) & Development Finance Institutions (DFI) and People's Assembly (Women

& Diversities, Children & Youth, People From African Descent, Indigenous People, Social Movements, NGO's and Peasant Communities, as well as 27 invited experts, to disseminate the contributions of each group, share experiences within the framework of international cooperation, announce the co-hosts of the TAFF-2 Conference, and detail a shared path and steps to be taken in the lead up to the TAFF-2 Conference. The High-level segment started with an opening plenary in which self-selected spokespersons from the stakeholder chapters shared their key recommendations to the ministers and other country representatives, informing the dedicated technical roundtables in which the aforementioned spokespersons were present. Background notes were prepared for these thematic sessions, on the basis of received input to that point, not conveying the position of either Colombia or the Netherlands, but intended to advance the inclusive dialogue.

The participatory process used in the preparation and conduct of the First Conference in Santa Marta was well-received by participants and offers a clear and transparent procedure, which should be maintained and refined at subsequent conferences.

Stage 8: TAFF-1 Co-host takeaways and Conference Report

On the last day, the co-hosts presented their initial take-aways in a document, containing their conclusions based on the entire process and an initial summary of the HLS, and announced the preparation of this Conference Report as an input for intersessional work and for the successful organization of the Second TAFF Conference.

Result 1.1.3. Announce the venue and date of the Second Conference.

During the High-Level Segment, on 29 April, Tuvalu and Ireland offered to host the next Conference, which is scheduled to take place in Tuvalu in 2027, with a pre-meeting in Ireland.

Result 1.1.4. Establish an intersessional work plan to maintain the commitment of participating stakeholders.

The Santa Marta meeting, including its initial co-host takeaways, outline the intersessional work leading to the second TAFF Conference, including: three workstreams: 1) work on roadmaps; 2) work on macroeconomic dependencies and financial architecture; 3) work on producer-consumer alignment for fossil fuel transition and promoting green economic transformation.

Highlights of the debate

The following table includes key messages received during the course of the meeting highlighting the value of the open, participatory and bottom-up process created for the TAFF-1 Conference.

Quotes from the final outcome by stakeholders groups

The following table presents specific quotes from the stakeholder outcome presentations to provide insight to the breadth and depth of discussions held, the full texts of conclusions and recommendations presented by each Chapter to the High-Level Segment may be consulted in Annex I.

Pathway 1: Collective action for the transition away from fossil fuels through a global multi-stakeholder partnership **Action 1.1. A sustained commitment to deliver: the TAFF Process and Methodology**	
Academic Workstreams	Ensure practices in multilateral fora that support listening and learning from all relevant voices and knowledge systems and that allow for honest conversation and genuine dialogue, with planetary, human health, social and natural sciences, Indigenous science and local knowledge, spiritual and faith traditions, as well as social movements across Global North and South. Create national-level systems models with partners in Santa Marta Coalition countries to help identify points of intervention and facilitate systemic dialogue on a national scale. To provide a platform for continued dialogue and research, World Resources Institute, Council on Economic Policies, LINGO and WRI, are setting up the Santa Marta Transition and Financial Stability Group, as a community of practice for central banks, policymakers, researchers, financiers and civil society[6]. Other proposals include a follow-up academic workshop on Zero Carbon Prosperity scheduled for October 2026, the establishment of a Methane Working Group under agenda, the creation of a dedicated subgroup within the scientific panel to promote binding methane mitigation at all levels.
Indigenous Peoples	In order for the solutions promoted to be practical, to strengthen multilateral objectives, and to effectively address the climate challenge, it is necessary to fund and guarantee the representativeness and full, equitable, inclusive, effective, and gender-responsive participation of Indigenous Peoples in all stages of decision-making, contributing to inclusive governance and global climate cooperation in the Just Transition.

[6] This and other announcements related to initiatives launched by participants in the Santa Marta Chapters have been collected and documented independently on this website: https://santamartaprocess.org

Parliamentarians	Parliamentarians helped bring political clarity to one of the Conference's central challenges: how to move from broad commitments to transition pathways that are just, enforceable and capable of being sustained over time. Parliaments have a central role in implementation through legislation, budgets and oversight.
Private Sector	The private sector recommends the establishment of a Private Sector TAFF Committee composed of frontrunner companies and business facing organizations that ensures continuity between conferences but is also tasked with building engagement across the private sector with TAFF. They also proposed corporate TAFF plans complementary with national. The private sector also proposes the establishment of guardrails around future engagement with the fossil fuel industry to protect TAFF as it gains momentum. These guardrails must ensure separation between the fossil fuel industry's views and those of the remainder of the private sector, and ensure engagement with the fossil fuel industry is transparent.
Faith-based groups	The inclusion of all actors in the process ensures solidarity and transparency. It is imperative that these vulnerable communities be active participants in the decision-making process.
Social Movements	Santa Marta did not end when the High-Level Segment closed. For the Social Movements Sector, it is a beginning. The organisations, communities, networks, and movements that convened here are returning to their territories with a clearer shared agenda and a stronger common voice. We will monitor whether the commitments made in this conference translate into policy. We will document the gaps between what was declared and what is implemented. And we will continue to build the coalitions, across Latin America and the Caribbean, across Africa, across the Global South, that are the real foundation of a just transition.

Subnational Governments	We thank the Governments of Colombia and Netherlands for recognising that a managed, equitable and accelerated transition is politically achievable when broad coalitions are built, and for enabling our participation throughout this process as contributors, not observers. The transition will not be delivered in conference halls. It will be delivered with, for, and by local communities and subnational governments Across the conference, the most compelling examples were not top-down policies, but local actors responding to realities on the ground. This is where progress is already being made... Let us build this transition as true partners. If we act as one, turning ambition into action, we can make a just transition not only possible, but unstoppable... We welcome the inclusive process established in Santa Marta. Subnational coalition networks, Under2 Coalition, ICLEI, C40 Cities, and GCOM, are committed to continuing this collaboration.
Trade Unions	The effective participation of trade unions, alongside urban and rural communities, indigenous peoples and other affected groups, is one of the key factors ensuring the legitimacy and political viability of achieving global climate justice that guarantees decent livelihoods for the entire working class.
Women & Diversities	Important models already exist for social dialogue and community-driven decision-making around water and natural resource governance that put consultation and consent at the center. Spaces for meaningful co-creation and participation in fossil fuel phaseout, procedural and reparative justice, and just transition policies and programming are a right, especially for impacted women and gender-diverse peoples, Indigenous Peoples, Afrodescendants, and other impacted communities.
Multilateral Development Banks and Development Finance Institutions	Multilateral Development Banks and other Development Finance Institutions are committed partners to governments and the private sector to navigate the short-term impacts of the current geopolitical and economic disruptions, and the long-term transition away from fossil fuel dependencies. Continued coordination and follow-up beyond Santa Marta will be critical. There is scope for closer coordination, in particular on the country level to improve the delivery on country-led transition pathways, tailored to their specific circumstances and building on best practices and global experiences

High-Level Segment in Santa Marta

Thematic break-out meetings during the TAFF Conference High-Level Segment were held under Chatham House rules to allow for a free exchange of views among participants. These break-out meetings where combined with broader plenary sessions. In the plenaries, countries and stakeholder representatives expressed their satisfaction with the process and methodology created for this conference, highlighting the following aspects (see Annex III for a more detailed account of proceedings):

- **Trade Unions** welcomed the conference's commitments and called on future host countries to ensure that trade union and civil society voices remain central. They called for strong public institutions and public services as part of a just transition, fiscal and tax justice, an end to financial instruments that push countries into debt, and withdrawal from the ISDS system as a barrier to equitable transition (IISD, 2026).
- **Ghana** acknowledged the leadership shown at the conference, stressed that no country can do the transition alone, and called for a fossil fuel treaty to create the necessary architecture for a just transition, with greater accountability building on the Tuvalu framework and beyond (IISD, 2026).
- **Singapore** congratulated the incoming hosts and identified three key enablers: critical cross-border clean energy infrastructure, regulatory frameworks including carbon pricing, and financial mechanisms (IISD, 2026).
- **Canada** highlighted that the conference provides "an important opportunity for practical in-depth exchanges on progress and barriers to the transition," recognizing that countries come from different contexts and realities but share commitments under the Paris Agreement and the Global Stocktake.
- **Panama** stated we must pave the way for a legal instrument that names what it phases out and how we finance it and while this instrument comes to life, decide on no more fossil fuel infrastructure, and a commitment for fossil-free zones of life
- **Peasants** called for environmental justice and anti-colonialist cooperation as a prerequisite for overcoming fossil fuel dependence, emphasizing productive diversification of ecosystems, agroecology, overcoming dependence on fossil fuel-derived inputs, dismantling subsidies to extractivist companies, and fulfillment of human rights obligations including compliance with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (UNDROP).
- **Children** emphasized that children are disproportionately harmed by fossil fuels and climate change

due to physiological vulnerability, noting that 8 out of 10 children are affected. She called on adults to make good decisions for both present and future generations (IISD, 2026).

- T**he Dominican Republic** praised the refreshing attitude of the conference despite difficult international circumstances (IISD, 2026).
- **Belgium** expressed conviction that the conference marks the beginning of a strong coalition for TAFF and called for expanding and consolidating that coalition. Belgium stressed the need to align with ongoing negotiations at the IMO, on plastics, and on World Bank climate commitments, urging ambitious outcomes across all related processes (IISD, 2026).
- **Spain** called for joint alliances through regional networks to accelerate electrification, welcomed the leadership of the two co-chairing ministers, and praised the broad participation of civil society including youth, children, peasants, unions, Indigenous peoples, and Afro-descendants.
- **Switzerland** congratulated the organizers on a very successful first conference, expressed willingness to continue the work, kept the door open for further engagement, and suggested fully exploring roadmaps including corporate roadmaps (IISD, 2026).
- **Malawi** said they came as observers and deeply appreciated being included, noting that the transition will require such inclusivity (IISD, 2026).
- **NGOs** called for an ambitious, just, and adequately financed transition away from fossil fuels aligned with the 1.5°C goal. The intervention emphasized the need to phase out fossil fuel production and consumption, reform the financial architecture through grant-based climate finance and debt relief, and prevent the influence of fossil fuel interests in multilateral processes. It also advocated for a legally binding treaty to support a rights-based and funded transition, while stressing that affected communities, civil society, and vulnerable groups must play a central role in shaping the pathway forward.
- **Subnational government**s called other actors in the process to recognise local realities and to "work with us, not around us".
- **Parliamentarians** welcomed the process.
- **Indigenous Peoples and local communities,** highlighted the need to further strengthen participation and collaboration mechanisms, ensuring that diverse knowledge systems, experiences, and solutions are fully reflected in the Santa Marta Process and contribute to a more inclusive, legitimate, and impactful outcome.

Many participants emphasized that the Santa Marta Process should build on existing work, initiatives, and coalitions related to the transition away from fossil fuels, rather than creating parallel structures or duplicating efforts. They highlighted the importance of articulating with ongoing processes at the global, regional, and national levels, fostering greater coherence and collaboration, and leveraging the knowledge, experience, and momentum already generated to accelerate collective progress.

Minister Van Veldhoven applauded participants for building the next foundational layer of "our joint house" the transition to disentangle fossil fuels from economic and political systems through openness and honesty, observing that "learning is not just dialogue; it involves innovating, demonstrating, and daring to share mistakes" (IISD, 2026). Minister Vélez Torres called the meeting inspiring, reminding that countries have the executive power to act, and that those actions will matter in the year ahead until TAFF-2 (IISD, 2026). Minister Vélez Torres closed the conference with the phrase: "El futuro es sin fósiles, ni en los combustibles, ni en la política" — "The future is without fossils, neither in fuels nor in politics."

Co-hosts summary

At the end of the conference, the co-hosts summarized key aspects related to collective action for closing governance gaps for TAFF implementation.
Participants highlighted the openness, depth, and inclusive multi-stakeholder participation of the Santa Marta Conference as a distinctive contribution to global climate governance, and encouraged other frontrunner countries to join the process. They particularly valued the Conference as a "safe space" for dialogue between governments and a wide range of stakeholders. Many noted that the absence of a negotiated outcome helped foster trust, openness, and more candid exchanges, making this environment possible.

Participants recognized that many of the barriers to transitioning away from fossil fuels cannot be overcome through national action alone, and that cooperation among frontrunner countries can help address shared challenges through collective action. They also emphasized that the diversity of countries involved—including both producers and consumers, with varying economic structures, regulatory frameworks, technological capabilities, financial resources, and levels of dependence on fossil fuels—constitutes a strategic asset. If harnessed through differentiated yet mutually reinforcing forms of cooperation, this diversity can help accelerate implementation, strengthen coherence across efforts, and advance transition pathways with greater clarity, purpose, and ambition.

Participants discussed that advancing a just, orderly, and equitable transition away from fossil fuels requires stronger international cooperation and more effective governance arrangements. They emphasized that existing multilateral frameworks remain essential for legitimacy and common direction, but that many of the practical conditions needed for implementation require more coordinated, targeted, and operational forms of collective action.

Participants discussed the development of operational mechanisms for cooperation among frontrunner countries, structured around three workstreams:

- Workstream 1: transition roadmaps supported by the Scientific Panel and NDC Partnership launched during the Conference;
- Workstream 2: macroeconomic dependencies and the international financial architecture; and
- Workstream 3: producer–consumer alignment to support the transition away from fossil fuels and promoting green economic transformation.

Participants emphasized the importance of grounding roadmaps in science and developing country clusters based on shared circumstances and challenges, potentially generating transition blueprints for different country profiles. They also highlighted the need to address fiscal constraints and explore alternative sources of public revenue, while welcoming the continued engagement of the academic group on central banks through the establishment of a Santa Marta Financial Stability Group.

Action Elements

Co-hosts of the conference will ensure publication of the methodology and handover to future co-hosts.

Suggested Key Actors and Stakeholders

- Countries and civil society, grouped into 8 Stakeholder Chapters gathering 14 committed groups/ sectors.
- TAFF Coordination Group will ensure continuity towards the second and subsequent conferences. It will be composed of the co-hosts of the most recent conference and the next scheduled conference.

Instruments, enabling conditions, and safeguards

The following instruments were developed for this pathway:

- To ensure that the work of the Santa Marta Conference had a broad territorial reach, a global impact, and an open, participatory and pluralistic process, a detailed working methodology was developed, which can be found in Annex II;

With regard to safeguards, the following apply:

- The methodology will be maintained in future work; and
- The group countries that came together in Santa Marta will remain open and flexible.

Pathway 1 Summary Table

The following table summarizes this pathway's key elements:

P1. Collective action for the transition away from fossil fuels through a global multi-stakeholder partnership		
Actions	**Actors**	**Enabling conditions, instruments and safeguards**
A sustained commitment to deliver: the TAFF process and methodology.	Countries and civil society, grouped into 14 committed groups/sectors. TAFF Coordination Group (last, present and next TAFF Conference co-hosts).	As an enabling condition for sustaining the process over time, the creation of a coordination group is envisaged... **Instrument:** a detailed working methodology was developed, which can be found in Annex II. **Safeguards:** This process will be integrated by organisations, states and bodies committed to a just energy transition, thereby preventing the process from being co-opted by fossil fuel lobbies or representatives of their interests; and towards the future, the group countries that has come together in Santa Marta will remain open and flexible.


NO MORE
OIL DRILLING
IN THE AMAZON
NACIONALIDAD ACHUAR DEL ECUADOR
NAWE
NAPE
PASTAZA KIKIN KICHWA RUNAKUNA
NACIONALIDAD KICHWA DE PASTAZA

Pathway 2: Accelerate global progress, spread the spirit of Santa Marta, and achieve system wide-coherence

"Many of the reforms needed to overcome fossil fuel dependence cut across multiple domains and actors, yet current cooperation often remains siloed by sector, institution, or policy area. This weakens coherence, slows implementation, and limits the ability of countries and stakeholders to act jointly on the deeper economic relationships that sustain fossil dependence and inequality." [7]

Strong international cooperation and effective governance frameworks are necessary conditions for achieving a transition away from fossil fuels. In the context of current geopolitical dynamics and evolving multilateral challenges, this section of the report focuses on identifying actionable pathways to enhance the effectiveness of existing institutions, as well as exploring complementary approaches to address persistent governance and implementation gaps, in order to advance the delivery of our agreed commitments and goals[8].

Action 2.1: Strengthening connections, avoiding duplication and channeling our collective power

Action 2.1 aims to strengthen connections and international cooperation between countries engaging the process to promote TAFF and overcome fossil fuel dependency both at the national level, but also channeling their collective power to deliver impact globally, whilst avoiding duplication of existing efforts and

[7] Thematic session document: Frontrunner Cooperation, facilitated by Colombia and the Netherlands, Irene Vélez-Torres, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development of Colombia, and Stientje van Veldhoven, Minister for Climate and Green Growth of the Netherlands.
[8] Adapted from: Thematic session document: Collective action to close governance gaps, facilitated by Tuvalu, Maina Talia – Minister of Home Affairs, Climate Change and Environment

making use of established structures, and emphasises its complementary and supportive role in relation to the UNFCCC. It also seeks to foster greater system-wide coherence by strengthening alignment across relevant international processes, institutions and areas of governance whose decisions influence the pace, feasibility, inclusivity and fairness of the transition away from fossil fuels.

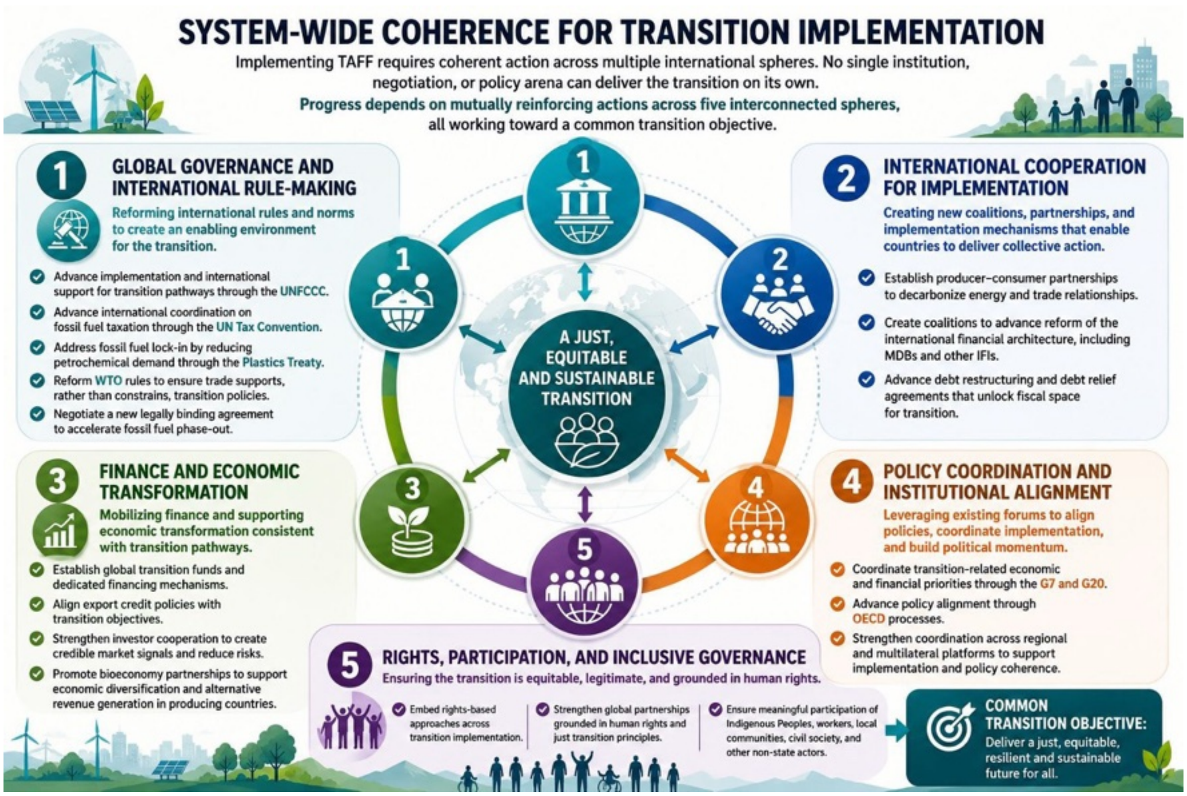


Figure 6. a non-exhaustive mapping of views expressed by stake-holders and participants in relation to system-wide coherence.

Conceptual Framework:

Many transition barriers cannot be overcome through national action alone. Countries acting individually face competitiveness concerns, legal exposure, fragmented transition efforts, uneven access to finance and technology, and limited influence over international rules that continue to privilege fossil-intensive pathways. Existing multilateral forums remain indispensable, but they have not yet generated sufficiently operational instruments to transition away from fossil fuels.

In that context, frontrunner cooperation becomes essential: it enables countries to coordinate where action is insufficient, where broader global processes remain too slow, too general, or too politically constrained.

The Santa Marta process brings together both producer and consumer countries, representing a significant share of global fossil fuel demand and production. Beyond their potential to influence supply and demand, their strength lies in the strategic integration of economic, regulatory, technological, financial, and logistical capacities, which span multiple dimensions of the global fossil fuel systems and connect it with other sectors. This diversity creates the possibility of differentiated but mutually reinforcing forms of cooperation that can reduce risks, overcome practical barriers to implementation, and widen policy space for countries facing tighter structural constraints. Some members are better placed to move on finance, insurance, or fiscal reform; others on industrial policy, trade, energy deployment, legal reform, or strategic minerals; others on political coalition-building and regional coordination. This diversity can therefore be a source of collective strength rather than fragmentation.

At the same time, frontrunner cooperation can be understood more broadly than coordination on a small number of sectoral initiatives. Through convergent action across climate and energy governance and other key domains — including finance, tax cooperation, debt, trade rules, investment regulation, financial flows, value chains, natural resource governance, human rights standards, and productive diversification — participating countries can help create the enabling conditions needed to overcome fossil fuel dependence and advance a more effective, just, and orderly transition. In that sense, the purpose of cooperation is not only to unlock international cooperation initiatives, but also to help reshape the wider economic and institutional conditions that continue to reinforce fossil dependence and delay implementation.

Despite decades of global commitments, the transition away from fossil fuels is not yet advancing at the scale, speed, or level of coordination required to meet the climate goals. While important political signals have been established, including through the Paris Agreement and its first Global Stocktake, the arrangements and mechanisms needed to translate these commitments into effective implementation remain insufficiently developed. As a result, structured cooperation among countries to overcome fossil fuel dependence, mobilizing adequate and accessible finance, and advancing coordinated approaches to support technology transfer and supply- and demand-side transitions need to be improved, and key areas such as fossil fuel use as feedstock needs to be addressed.

At the same time, different frameworks

and initiatives serve distinct and complementary purposes, and a wide range of efforts are already underway across the international landscape, both within the UN system and through alliances, partnerships, and coalitions. In this context, this pathway aims to identify concrete solutions that this group of countries and stakeholders could advance within the broader climate governance framework, with a view to better connecting efforts, aligning resources, and strengthening the collective effectiveness of ongoing work to enable the needed transformations.

Highlights of the debate

Submissions and virtual meetings' input:

Stakeholder contributions consistently emphasized that accelerating the transition away from fossil fuels requires addressing governance gaps that extend well beyond energy policy alone[9]. Participants highlighted the need for stronger international cooperation capable of aligning climate action with broader economic, financial, trade, investment and development governance frameworks. Across a wide range of submissions, common themes emerged: the importance of reinforcing and complementing existing multilateral frameworks, including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); enabling more meaningful participation of Indigenous Peoples, local communities, workers, youth, women and other historically underrepresented groups; strengthening coordination across related international processes; and creating more effective pathways for implementation.

Many stakeholders stressed that the UNFCCC should remain the central framework providing legitimacy, common direction and accountability for global climate action. At the same time, participants highlighted the need to complement existing processes with more operational forms of cooperation capable of advancing implementation on the ground. Several contributions expressed interest in exploring a dedicated international instrument, framework or transparency mechanism focused on the transition away from fossil fuels, while strengthening connections with related governance processes such as the UN Plastics Treaty negotiations, the International Maritime Organization, discussions on reforming the international financial architecture, and the UN Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation. Together, these processes were seen as opportunities to advance greater system-wide coherence around the objective of transitioning away from fossil fuels.

[9] Adapted from: Thematic session document: Collective action to close governance gaps, facilitated by Tuvalu, Maina Talia – Minister of Home Affairs, Climate Change and Environment

Stakeholders also emphasized that progress will likely require action through multiple and complementary pathways. Alongside universal multilateral processes, many highlighted the potential role of coalitions of willing countries, subnational governments and non-state actors in advancing cooperation, testing solutions and accelerating implementation. Several contributions stressed that these efforts should not be viewed as alternatives to multilateralism, but rather as complementary mechanisms capable of generating momentum, demonstrating feasibility and helping translate political commitments into practical action.

A recurring message across stakeholder chapters was that international cooperation must evolve beyond traditional models centred on conditional lending, fragmented projects and one-way technology transfer. Instead, cooperation should support country-led economic transformation, productive diversification and local value creation. A particularly strong theme across the submissions was the need to democratize climate governance itself. Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendant communities, peasants, workers, women, youth, social movements and subnational governments consistently called for participation mechanisms that move beyond consultation towards shared decision-making power. Contributions highlighted the importance of recognizing multiple knowledge systems, including Indigenous, ancestral, biocultural and community knowledge, on equal footing with scientific expertise. Many stakeholders advocated for binding participation rights, recognition of territorial autonomy, stronger protections for environmental defenders, and governance arrangements grounded in epistemic pluralism and energy democracy.

A number of more ambitious proposals emerged from the dialogue. Participants called for stronger international safeguards against green colonialism, land grabbing and the externalization of transition costs to vulnerable territories. Several chapters advocated for binding corporate accountability mechanisms, mandatory human rights and environmental due diligence across global value chains, and greater transparency regarding fossil fuel lobbying and influence over public decision-making. Some stakeholders proposed limiting the role of fossil fuel interests in international climate processes, while others advocated for a legally binding treaty on business and human rights and stronger international rules governing corporate conduct during the transition.

Several contributions also highlighted the growing importance of strengthening the international legal architecture supporting climate action. Stakeholders referred to the emerging role of international law in safeguarding the rights of present and future generations, including the Advisory Opinions on States´obligations in the context of climate change by the International Court of Justice, the Inter-American Court on Human Rights and other international tribunals. Some participants proposed stronger recognition of intergenerational justice principles, future generations commissions, intergenerational impact assessments, and legally binding protections against actions that lock future generations into fossil fuel dependence.

Ultimately, stakeholders converged around a common proposition: advancing the transition away from fossil fuels requires not only stronger climate policies, but also a broader transformation of international governance. The challenge is not merely to reduce emissions, but to align finance, trade, taxation, debt, investment, human rights, natural resources governance, development cooperation and international law with the objective of transitioning away from fossil fuels. Closing these governance gaps and building more participatory, accountable and coherent institutions was identified as one of the most important priorities for accelerating implementation in the years ahead.

Stakeholder meeting results in Santa Marta:

On Frontrunners cooperation[10], countries broadly converge on the need for stronger, more coordinated cooperation that builds on existing initiatives and reduces fragmentation. There is shared recognition that cooperation must address asymmetries in capacity and resources, and increasingly link the transition to economic diversification, regional integration and energy security. Several calls stand out: coordinated governance mechanisms for frontrunner countries, collective management of legal risks, joint economic cooperation including industrial policy and value chains, and coalition-based advocacy to reform the wider international system. Together, these reflect a common view that cooperation can drive practical progress while reinforcing multilateral efforts.

The contributions also point to a wider field of cooperation than is often captured in narrow energy discussions. Recurrent proposals include country platforms and implementation hubs; buyers' and sellers' clubs; joint finance and technology partnerships; debt-for-transition or debt-for-social-investment approaches; reforms to investment and trade frameworks; stronger tax cooperation and common standards; MDB and IFI reform; industrial and technological cooperation on low-carbon value chains; safeguards for critical minerals and natural resource governance; and

[10] Adapted from: Thematic session document: Frontrunner Cooperation, facilitated by Colombia and the Netherlands, Irene Vélez-Torres, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development of Colombia, and Stientje van Veldhoven, Minister for Climate and Green Growth of the Netherlands.

support for productive diversification and just transition planning in exposed territories. These proposals suggest that frontrunner cooperation is increasingly being seen not only as a vehicle for project coordination, but as a way to align reforms across multiple domains that shape the viability of transition pathways.

There are also differences in emphasis. Some countries and stakeholders favour more formalized and integrated cooperation arrangements, especially where legal, financial, or trade barriers are involved, while others prefer more flexible and pragmatic formats. Priorities also differ: some place greater weight on finance, tax, debt, and legal reform; others on industrial strategies, regional energy integration, or implementation platforms. There is broad support for these areas, but their relative sequencing and level of institutionalization vary according to national circumstances and development models.

Quotes from the final outcome by stakeholders groups[11]

The following table presents quotes from stakeholder groups to provide insight to the breadth and depth of discussions held. The full texts of conclusions and recommendations presented by each Chapter to the High-Level Segment may be consulted in Annex I.

P.1. Accelerate global progress, spread the spirit of Santa Marta, and achieve system wide-coherence

Group Name	Selected Quotes
Academic workstreams	Our offer to progressive countries from the Coalition of the Willing is therefore to draw on ideas from academia and civil society to provide economic options and evidence (including the experiences of countries from North and South in tackling the transition) that governments can use.
Academics	Like-minded nations have the opportunity to create international cooperations on carbon pricing, border carbon adjustment and fossil fuel subsidy removal. Such coalitions can amplify positive effects through reciprocity and help effective implementation through information sharing and common standards and procedures.

[11] See full texts in Annex I.

Indigenous Peoples	Consider equitable coalitions between governments and Indigenous Peoples, recognizing that Indigenous Peoples are governed by their own governance systems, which have resulted in the effective conservation of their territories, lands, and waters.
Parliamentarians	Advance climate and transition agendas in key international forums beyond the UNFCCC, such as G7, G20, WTO, and WEF, to enable coordinated political alignment and action. Strengthen and expand international agreements, including bilateral and plurilateral mechanisms, to support coordinated action on climate and energy transition.
Private Sector	Institutionalize global, multi-stakeholder coalitions. Support and expand coalitions that integrate private sector, governments, and civil society to accelerate sector-specific transitions. Create mechanisms to translate international climate objectives into clear, actionable guidance for companies.
Religious	From this conviction, we affirm that in addition to technical adjustments and agreements between governments, the Just Transition seeks to transform the way we relate to Earth and to one another. Earth is a sacred gift that must be cared for with responsibility, love for all creatures, and a commitment to the world's future generations. We emphasize that this crisis reflects a profound disconnection from the wisdom of Earth and from one another; and that the response must be a practice of active compassion, responsibility, and collective wisdom.
Social Movements	Commits to building and strengthening ongoing coalitions across Latin America, Africa, and the Global South to form the foundation of a just transition. Calls on the conference co-hosts, Colombia and the Netherlands, to actively champion the structural reforms needed for the Global South in every relevant multilateral forum: expanded concessional finance, reformed multilateral bank governance, technology treated as a global public good, and binding South-South cooperation frameworks that build genuine industrial capacity.
Subnational Governments	Closing global governance gaps: Barriers to transition can not be solved through domestic action alone. A stronger, more inclusive international platform is needed to continue this dialogue, potentially including an inclusive fossil fuel treaty.

Trade Unions	A central enabler identified is the strengthening of the international governance architecture through binding instruments and/or enhanced cooperation mechanisms. Proposals such as the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty, JETP-type alliances, and multilateral commitments to the gradual phase-out of fossil fuels make it possible to establish clear rules, avoid competitive asymmetries, and align global efforts with climate objectives. Likewise, the creation of global reserve registries and common standards helps improve transparency and evidence-based decision-making. We need to carry out a fundamental reform of the international framework to enable a just transition worldwide, and particularly in the Global South, one that is legally binding and subject to trade union oversight, starting with a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty and continuing with plans to phase out fossil fuels in order to achieve the 1.5-degree target.
Women & Diversities	To close existing loopholes in fossil fuel governance frameworks that allow fossil fuels to be used to further genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity, feminists demand mandatory end-use certification requirements for fossil fuels exports in any multilateral fossil fuel treaty framework.

High-Level Segment in Santa Marta

At the high-level meeting in Santa Marta, a thematic session on Frontrunner Cooperation was facilitated by Colombia and the Netherlands, Irene Vélez-Torres, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development of Colombia, and Stientje van Veldhoven, Minister for Climate and Green Growth of the Netherlands. The Frontrunner Cooperation session took place with participation of countries and spokespeople of the different stakeholder groups.

Also a thematic session on collective action to close governance gaps was facilitated by Maina Talia, Minister of Home Affairs, Climate Change and Environment of Tuvalu.
Minister Vélez Torres opened the session by presenting three proposed workstreams: (1) collaboration on roadmaps for transitioning away from fossil fuels for producers and consumers, including integration into NDCs with scientific panel support; (2) addressing three traps in the financial system — fiscal, debt, and subsidy — through transparency and concrete alternative mechanisms; and (3) trade balance decarbonization, focused on transitioning trade systems toward decarbonized products. Transparency was identified as a cross-cutting component, noting the importance of declaring incentives and subsidies for fossil fuels in order to know how to address them (IISD, 2026 in Annex III).

Colombia affirmed that the process beginning at this conference is meaningful and necessary, and called for it to be organized into several workstreams. Colombia emphasized the importance of the UNFCCC as an entry point, proposed building a strong coalition to bring these discussions to the second Global Stocktake (GST-2), and suggested organizing a high-level event during the next COP presidency to discuss Santa Marta outcomes.

Spain expressed support for a coalition of the willing, urged efforts to attract more countries, and called for workstreams to be open to all stakeholders through an open call for interest. Spain also supported Colombia's proposal to bring outcomes into the UNFCCC process and endorsed a high-level event at COP31, including exchanges with the IPCC.

Parliamentarians stressed that progress will not wait for consensus, and emphasized the need for operational mechanisms with accountability, including bilateral and multilateral agreements.

Netherlands highlighted the value of genuine dialogue among ministers and a wide range of actors in the absence of the pressure of a negotiated outcome, noting that productive exchanges had led to the identification of pathways and best practices.

Ghana expressed readiness and willingness to phase down fossil fuels but firmly rejected the use of loans as the mechanism for doing so, arguing that the burden of leaving oil in the ground cannot be placed on developing economies. Ghana stated that the TAFF framework cannot be built on the distress of those economies, and indicated readiness to publish research papers on roadmaps and debt resolution.

The NGO Sector called for a strong global architecture that excludes false solutions, the negotiation of a fossil fuel treaty, and a reengineering of the global financial architecture, stressing that the transition is coming and the question is whether it will be just.

Mexico welcomed the frank and honest conversations, describing the conference as a safe space for deep dialogue away from negotiation pressures. Mexico urged that these conversations be expanded beyond environment ministries to include finance and energy ministries, as well as all stakeholders.
Sweden noted the existence of 23 sectoral roadmaps developed over the years through the NDC Partnership, and flagged its work with the World Economic Forum (WEF) and other groups on trade systems. Sweden highlighted the key role of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on fiscal issues and suggested channeling reports to the IMF and the coalition of finance ministers, emphasizing the need to ensure existing initiatives support one another.

IISD expressed willingness to contribute to work on the three financial traps, describing them as concrete, actionable areas where early progress is possible without precluding broader work. WRI underscored that fossil fuels are systemic sources of financial instability, and reported that the Santa Marta pre-conference had convened central banks to discuss macroeconomic policy. He proposed forming a Santa Marta Central Bank Group to continue those discussions, and closed by affirming that *"we will win, and it will be beautiful."*

Uruguay stressed that this work is not starting from scratch and that the coalition of the willing must be complementary to the UNFCCC and NDCs, not a substitute. Uruguay highlighted the roadmap workstream as key, including linking roadmaps to Biennial Transparancy Reports (BTRs), and called for the financial architecture workstream to include assessment of fiscal constraints, revenue considerations, and synergies between mitigation and adaptation.

Singapore supported the UNFCCC work and agreed on roadmaps, provided they align with 1.5°C NDCs as the end goal, and called for engagement with the just transition mechanism adopted in Brazil. On trade, Singapore supported adding investment and clean energy alternatives, noting an upcoming trade and climate dialogue in the UNFCCC. On finance, Singapore acknowledged the three traps while pointing to other instruments including carbon markets and pricing, and called for transparency not only on fossil fuel subsidies but also on positive incentives for renewables.

The Private Sector proposed the concept of a "Frontrunners Club" designed to create FOMO [fear of missing out], and suggested roadmaps as a tool to encapsulate solutions in one document, stressing the importance of showing how investments will pay off over time. They also called for coordinating green corridors and subsidy reform to protect workers, sharing frontrunner company examples, and protecting the process from fossil fuel lobbies.

Switzerland offered support through technical assistance, the NDC Partnership, and other instruments, and called for cross-cutting elements to ensure existing initiatives can contribute and increase their impact. Switzerland emphasized bringing this openness back into the UNFCCC process.

Palau called for roadmaps to be cohesive, holistic, and aligned with the UNFCCC process, and stressed the importance of bringing in other coalitions to achieve critical mass. Palau agreed on the three financial traps and supported a more inclusive scientific panel incorporating indigenous and other knowledge sources.

Women and Diversities called for a fossil fuel treaty to extend responsibilities and demanded that states listen to civil society, urging immediate movement toward a legally binding framework.

Italy supported linking outcomes to the UNFCCC, stressed the importance of data and transparency for deci-

sion-making, and proposed increasing the coalition's visibility through an event during the UN General Assembly to project an alternative narrative.
Germany supported the roadmap workstream, suggesting clustering countries with similar challenges, and backed the trade-related approach. On finance, Germany raised the importance of increasing leverage factors and called for widening participation and increasing visibility in future meetings.

Indigenous Peoples acknowledged the significance of the gathering but called for more time and stronger engagement in the dialogue, and demanded inclusion in the scientific panel. They stressed that TAFF must not reproduce extractive approaches.

France agreed that the three workstreams allow focus on concrete solutions and urged completion of key actions before GST-2. France called on financial institutions for rapid responses to the energy crisis, encouraged the most ambitious countries to implement their roadmaps, and stressed the importance of engaging all actors.

The United Kingdom supported grouping countries with similar challenges and developing regional roadmaps, with a focus on emerging market producing countries. On trade, the UK backed multilateralism and alternative sources of export revenue, and encouraged bringing the conference's spirit into financial processes such as the Council of Finance Ministers, while also adding skills and reskilling for the next generation as a necessary workstream component. The UK noted that 82 countries had been present in Belém and that those missing should be invited.

The NDC Partnership noted that new, implementable NDCs are in place and that conditions and infrastructure for collaboration exist, offering long-term support and finance to help countries implement their NDCs.

The Center for Energy Policy Research (CEPR) flagged ISDS as one of the biggest obstacles to the energy transition, calling for it to be included in discussions on the financial architecture, and proposed a state-led group on ISDS. They noted that many countries are withdrawing from such treaties and that a new arbitration case had been filed against Colombia at the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes that very day.
Kenya expressed support for the three workstreams, emphasised resilience, diversification, and new development opportunities as key themes, and committed to continued engagement.
Panama stressed the need for focus in the phase-out process, flagging limited national capacity for additional reporting processes, and expressed support for fossil fuel-free zones.

Brazil called for broadening participation and reinforcing multilateral processes under the UNFCCC. On the workstreams, Brazil cautioned that broad roadmaps without concrete outcomes risk being disconnected from reality, and recommended focusing on regional actions for specific joint problems. Brazil also flagged concern about MDBs being under pressure to walk back climate commitments, and called for a clear message to multilaterals and IFIs. **Vanuatu,** speaking in the context of Pacific Island Developing States, noted the group had sought a net-zero framework at the IMO but that this had been delayed. Vanuatu urged that the coalition not be afraid of legally binding international frameworks and called for a fossil fuel treaty to be incorporated into governance structures moving forward to the next meeting.

Co-hosts summary

At the end of the conference, the co-hosts summarized key aspects related to collective action for closing governance gaps for TAFF implementation.
Participants discussed that a key prerequisite for transitioning away from fossil fuels are science as a basis for informed transition planning, stronger international cooperation and more effective governance frameworks. They recognized that implementation remains insufficiently coordinated and operationalized on this issue, and that governance gaps persist in relation to fossil fuel production and use, finance, technology transfer, and inclusive participation.

Participants identified supporting the continued evolution and effectiveness of the UNFCCC, building on the achievements of the Convention and the Paris Agreement and underlining the central importance of established multilateral processes, as a pathway to enhance conditions such as implementation-focused workstreams related to transitioning away from fossil fuels, with the possibility of the related Roadmap to feed into the next Global Stocktake, as well as enhance linkages between UNFCCC and other relevant international implementation platforms for complimentary purposes, improved coordination across relevant thematic areas, and continued political momentum through high-level processes.

Participants also identified addressing governance gaps on fossil fuel production and use as a key area. Various options were named, among which national and regional roadmaps for transitioning away from fossil fuels, as well as an instrument or framework that could contribute to build convergence on demand-side and supply-side measures for a managed phase-out, used by both fossil fuel producing and consuming countries. In this context IPCC, UN Plastics Treaty and IMO were also mentioned. Contributing to closing gaps in financial and investment systems.

Elements that appear across a wide range of submissions include: the need to reinforce and complement existing frameworks, including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, while enabling more inclusive participation of Indigenous

Peoples and other underrepresented groups; the need for a potential dedicated instrument on fossil fuel, alongside stronger coordination across related processes such as a global plastics treaty ; recognition of both coalitions of willing countries and multilateral approaches as pathways for implementation; and growing interest in strengthening the international legal architecture, including through the role of the International Court of Justice in safeguarding the rights of present and future generations.

The submissions also reflect areas where views diverge. On governance: some emphasize the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change as the central platform, while others highlight its limitations and the need for complementary frameworks, including differing views on a dedicated instrument for fossil fuels. On legal and institutional dimensions: some stress strengthening the international legal architecture, including through the International Court of Justice, while others emphasize legal risks and national sovereignty over resources. On finance: Global North contributions tend to favor market-based and blended approaches, while Global South perspectives prioritize concessional finance, debt relief, and predictable public funding, alongside varying support for parallel processes such as a global plastics treaty.

Action Elements

Suggested key actors and stakeholders

- The coordination group consisting of co-hosts of the last, present (and following) TAFF conferences: Colombia, the Netherlands, Tuvalu and Ireland.
- Supporting workstream institutions.
- All UNFCCC and Paris Agreement Parties are called to ensure complementarity and UNFCCC process support.

Instruments, enabling conditions, and safeguards

While the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change has provided, and continues to provide, an essential framework for global climate action, participants observed that advancing TAFF at the pace and scale required may benefit from stronger coordination with other key governance areas, more agile decision-making mechanisms to boost transformative action, broader and more meaningful participation of affected communities, and closer connections between international processes and implementation mechanisms.

Thus an enabling condition for this Pathway is to sustain a non-negotiated, experience sharing approach to the TAFF process, with open dialogues with all sectors of society.

Progress Status and Results

Results 2.1.1 TAFF-1 Report underway

TAFF-1 Co-hosts announced that they will hand over the **TAFF-1 Conference Report** to the COP30 Presidency to inform its roadmap, formally presenting it at London Climate Action Week. In coordination with the team of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, [they] will also hand over the conference report to him during New York Climate Week. Finally, [they] will work with the incoming COP presidencies to align the outcomes of this conference with the Global Climate Action Agenda and to channel these contributions toward the second Global Stocktake (GST2).

Results 2.1.2. Coordination group established.

The Santa Marta TAFF-1 Co-hosts announced the integration of a **Coordination Group** [that] will ensure continuity towards the second and subsequent conferences. It will consist of the co-hosts of the first and second conferences Colombia, the Netherlands, Tuvalu and Ireland. They will connect with the COP30 Activation Group 4: Transitioning away from fossil fuels in a just, orderly and equitable manner.

Pathway 1 Summary Table

The following table summarizes this pathway's key elements:

P2. Accelerate global progress, spread the spirit of Santa Marta, and achieve system wide-coherence		
Actions	**Key actors and stakeholders**	**Enabling conditions, instruments and safeguards**
1. Strengthening connections, avoiding duplication and channeling our collective power.	Coordination group (last, present and next TAFF co-hosts) Supporting institutions All UNFCCC and Paris Agreement Parties are called to ensure complementarity and UNFCCC process support	An enabling condition for this Pathway is to sustain a non-negotiated, experience sharing approach to the TAFF process, with open dialogues with all sectors of society

Box 1: Opportunities to advance TAFF within the UNFCCC

- The **UNFCCC remains a critical place to advance the conversation on the transition away from fossil fuels.** Countries, observers, and other stakeholders should seek to promote substantive discussions under existing and appropriate agenda items.
- The **TAFF Roadmap**, led by the COP30 Presidency through an inclusive and consultative process that benefited from inputs from a diverse range of stakeholders, represents a unique opportunity to catalyse further action and support for the transition. While it does not currently have a dedicated follow-up agenda within the UNFCCC process, **avenues should be explored to ensure that its findings and recommendations continue to inform discussions and decision-making.**
- The scientific findings, technical information, experiences, lessons learned, pathways, and solutions related to the transition away from fossil fuels—including those contained in the **TAFF Roadmap led by the COP30 Presidency and in the report of the Santa Marta Conference—should constitute key and early inputs to the Second Global Stocktake of the Paris Agreemen**t.
- The **COP30, COP31, and COP32 Presidencies** are encouraged to work together as a Troika to ensure that the progress made in the TAFF discussions is sustained. Such collaboration could help maintain political momentum, promote coordination across relevant processes, and support preparations for the Second Global Stocktake under the Paris Agreement. A **High-Level Event at COP3**1 on the subject would help to sustain and elevate the conversation within the UNFCCC.
- **Electrification** has been highlighted by the incoming presidency of the COP31 as a priority pathway for reducing the use of coal, oil, and gas across the economy. This discussion could be addressed in the context of the discussion of the roadmap and the broader conversation to transition away from fossil fuels.
- **The Global Climate Action Agenda plays** an important role in engaging non-State actors and has already mapped key solutions to accelerate the global transition away from fossil fuels. The global conversation should build on this work and connect with other existing initiatives to leverage progress already made.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Pathway 3: Develop or strengthen national and regional roadmaps to transition away from fossil fuels.

This section of the Report summarizes the results of debates, submissions and recommendations from participants regarding the development of national roadmaps for transitioning away from fossil fuels aligned with the 1.5°C goal.

Stakeholder contributions consistently highlighted that transitioning away from fossil fuels requires more than isolated policies or sector-specific interventions. It requires coherent national strategies capable of addressing the multiple and interconnected forms of dependence that continue to tie governments, decision-makers, workers, communities, national economies and territories to fossil fuels.

These dependencies take different forms across both producer and consumer countries and regions and are often deeply intertwined They include cultural and political factors, such as prevailing narratives that associate fossil fuels with development, prosperity, energy security or national identity; institutional and governance factors, including regulatory frameworks, vested interests, policy inertia and decision-making structures shaped around fossil-fuel-based systems; technological and infrastructural factors, such as long-lived energy assets, industrial systems, transport networks, technological gaps and energy access challenges; and economic and financial factors, including fiscal dependence on fossil fuel revenues, employment and livelihoods, export and trade structures, foreign exchange earnings, debt burdens, limited fiscal space, investment constraints and development pathways that remain closely linked to fossil fuel production and consumption. In many cases, these dimensions reinforce one another, creating an interconnected web of dependencies that can lock countries, regions and communities into fossil-fuel-based trajectories and make transitions more difficult unless addressed through coordinated and systemic strategies.

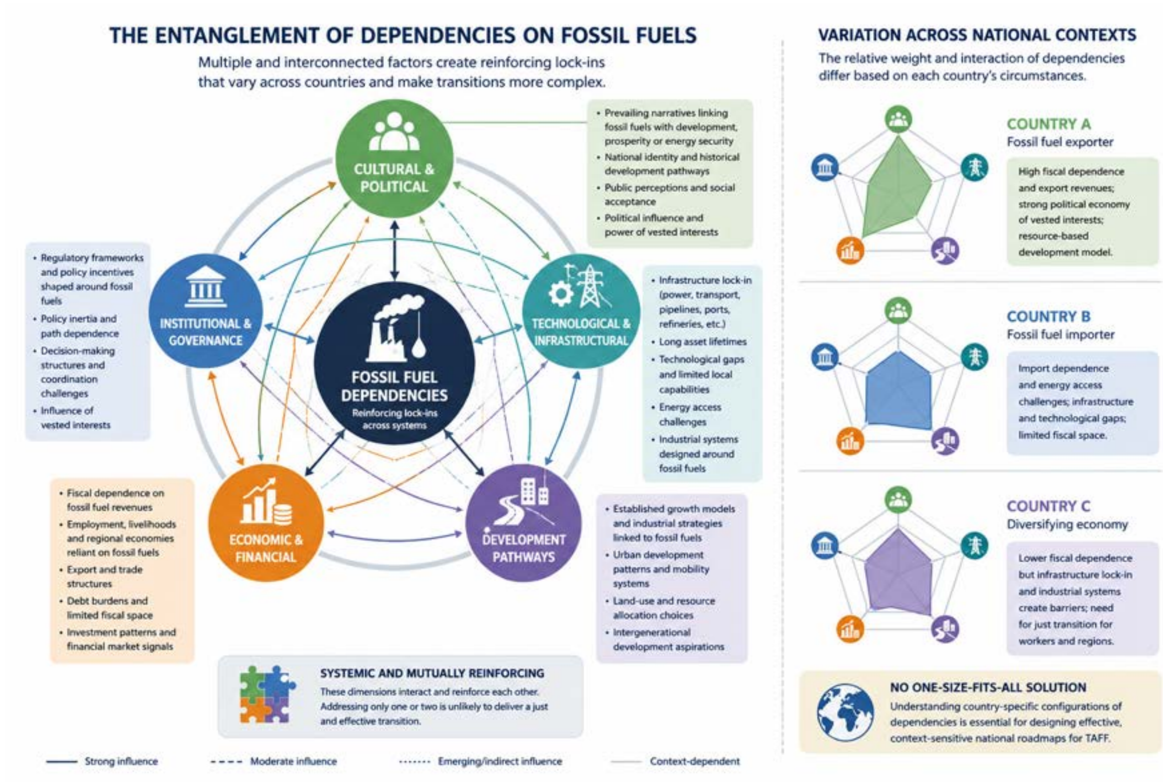

Figure 7. An indicative picture of how entanglement of dependencies on fossil fuels works

As a result, participants emphasized that effective transition planning must recognize the specific circumstances of each country while addressing the wider structural factors that can slow or delay change. Overcoming dependence on fossil fuels is not only a matter of replacing one source of public revenue or promoting isolated green sectors, but of transforming the productive, territorial, social, and international conditions that have sustained fossil fuel dependence and associated vulnerabilities.

At the same time, stakeholders stressed that national roadmaps should not focus solely on managing transitioning away from fossil fuels. They must also provide a forward-looking vision for how countries can transform their energy systems and economies through coordinated action on both the supply and demand sides. This includes measures to reduce dependence on fossil fuel production and consumption, accelerate the deployment of clean and reliable alternatives, expand energy access, promote transformation and economic diversification, strengthen resilience, and support just transition outcomes for workers and communities. A wide range of policies and instruments, including the employment of just transition principles of the International Labour Organization (ILO), are needed across the entire energy system and the broader economy—from fossil fuel extraction, processing and consumption to the transformation of end-use sectors—to drive the structural changes required for a just, orderly and equitable transition.

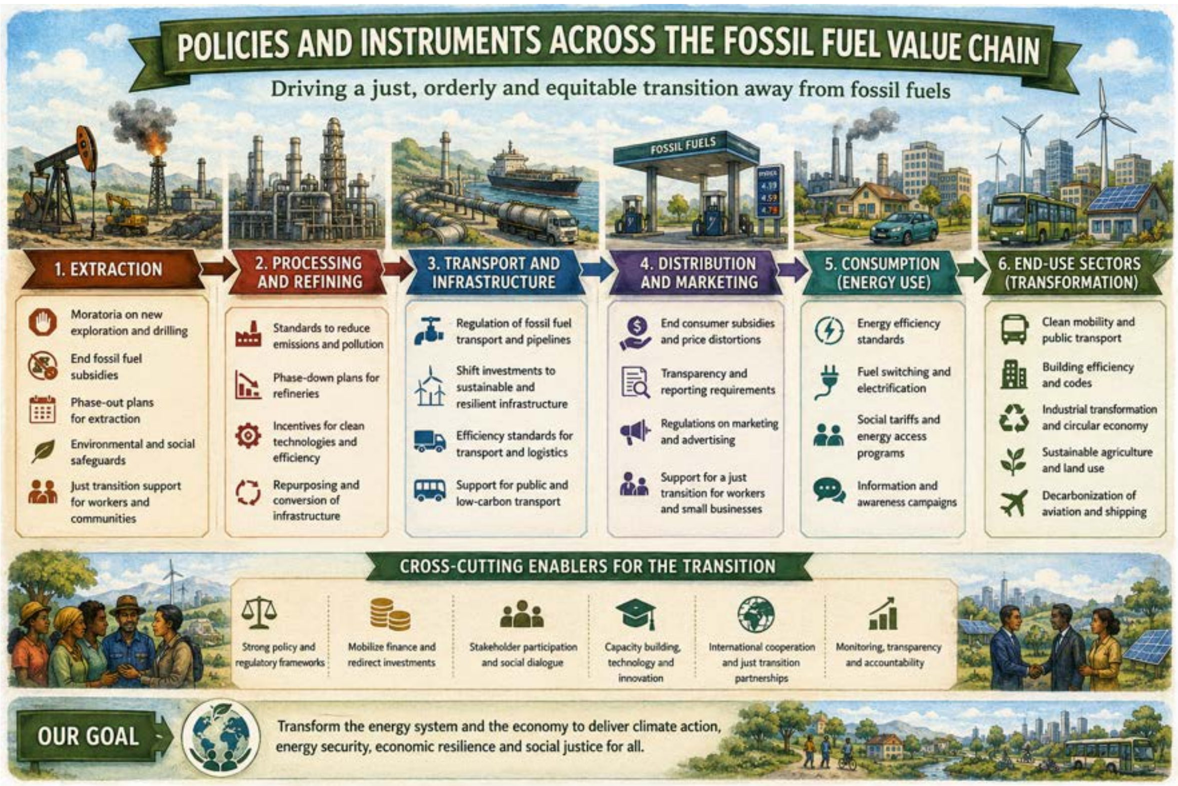

Figure 8. Mapping of possible policies and instruments for TAFF across the fossil fuel value chain based on stakeholders' submissions

Against this backdrop, participants identified cooperation and mutual learning on national roadmaps for transitioning away from fossil fuels as a key area for collective action. While countries face different starting points, capacities and development priorities, there is significant value in sharing methodologies, data, planning tools, policy experiences and implementation lessons. Strengthening cooperation in this area can help countries develop more robust, science-based and context-sensitive roadmaps aligned with the 1.5°C goal, while also identifying opportunities for investment, capacity building and international support that can accelerate implementation (see Diagram Z).

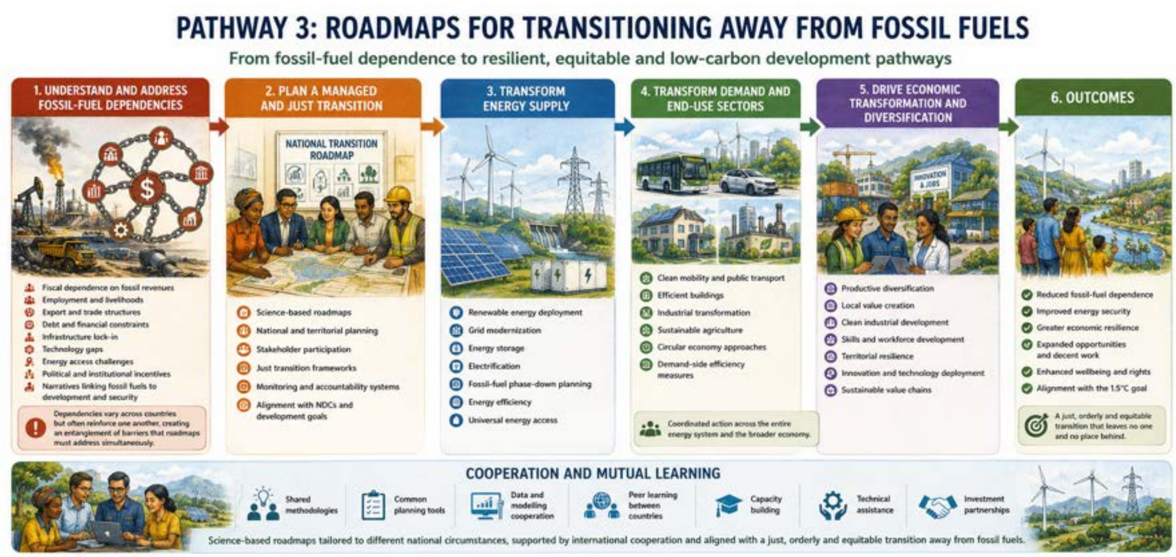

Figure 9. The strategic value of Pathway 3: Roadmaps for TAFF

Pathway 3 includes four main actions focused on building national or regional roadmaps for the transition away from fossil fuels: 1) design, planning and implementation of roadmaps for a productive transition and just workforce development, anchored in sustained economic diversification and new value chains; 2) switching fossil fuels for clean energy, energy security and sovereignty, 3) access to clean energy for rural, remote and marginalized communities; and 4) plan the phase down and definitive closure of fossil fuel extraction. Pathway 3 will be further developed by Workstream 1 in the preparation for the TAFF-2 Conference focusing on the design of national or regional roadmaps to transition away from fossil fuels — covering both the energy sector and the supply/production side — with linkage to NDCs. Companies can follow suit with corporate TAFF plans, complementary to the country roadmaps. This workstream will be supported by the Scientific Panel and NDC Partnership, including the option of regional roadmaps.

Action 3.1 Design, planning and implementation of science- and rights-based roadmaps for a socio-economic and energy transition and just workforce development, anchored in sustained economic diversification and new value chains

Fossil-fuel-dependent regions face risks of job loss, territorial decline, and social dislocation in the absence of coordinated transition frameworks. Gaps in worker training, social protection, institutional capacity, and structured social dialogue make it harder to manage change in a fair and anticipatory way. The benefits of the energy transition remain unevenly distributed and tend to continue to be concentrated in low-value-added activities while facing fiscal constraints, weak productive capacity, and the risk that new transition sectors—especially around critical minerals—reproduce extractive dependence rather than enable diversification[12]. This action proposes planning exercises for the development of transition roadmaps informed by science and with a strong focus on the human dimension.

Action 3.1 proposes a series of learning and mutual cooperation initiatives at various levels to address dependency and transition in areas broader than those of macroeconomics or finance (see Pathway 4).

Conceptual framework

Economic, productive and labour transition is one of the key enabling conditions for transitioning away from fossil fuels in a just, orderly, and equitable way. In many countries and territories, dependence on fossil fuels is embedded not only in energy systems, but also in employment structures, local value chains, public revenues, infrastructure, and regional development patterns. The challenge is therefore not only to replace energy sources, but to ensure that workers, communities, and territories have credible pathways toward new forms of economic activity, decent work, and long-term resilience[13].

Highlights of the debate

Submissions and virtual meetings' input[14]:

Across stakeholders' contributions, there is broad convergence that transitioning away from fossil fuels requires structural economic transformation rather than marginal adjustment. Productive diversification is widely treated as a precondition for a credible transition: countries and territories cannot move away from fossil fuels unless they simultaneously build alternative sources of income, public revenue, productive capacity, and decent work. There is also strong convergence around the need for territorially grounded approaches that connect diversification, labour transition, infrastructure, and social protection.

A second recurring message across stakeholders' contributions is that labour transition cannot be reduced to reskilling alone. Trade unions strongly emphasize worker participation, structured labour transition, employment protections and the importance of ILO just transition principles. Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendant communities, women-led organizations, campesino communities, NGOs, and social movements add that transition strategies must also be rights-based, territorially grounded,

[12] Thematic session document: Economic and Labour Transition
[13] Adapted from: Thematic session document: Economic and Labour Transition f
[14] Adapted from: Thematic session document: Economic and Labour Reconversion facilitated by Belgium — Jean-Luc Crucke, Minister of Mobility, Climate and Ecological Transition

and designed to avoid reproducing new forms of extractivism, exclusion, gender inequality, racialized burdens, or unequal access to finance, land, and markets.

Several stakeholder chapters also advanced more transformative perspectives on what productive diversification should entail. A recurring concern was that the transition should not simply replace one form of extractive dependence with another, particularly through expanded extraction of critical minerals, hydrogen production, or other transition-related commodities that leave countries trapped in low-value-added segments of global value chains. Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendant communities, peasant organizations, social movements, women-led groups and NGOs emphasized that diversification strategies should prioritize local value creation, territorial autonomy, energy sovereignty, food sovereignty, and regenerative economic models rather than reproducing patterns of resource extraction for external markets.

Across these contributions, there was a strong emphasis on the role of public planning, green industrial policy and public investment in steering structural transformation towards public value rather than short-term market signals alone. Stakeholders also highlighted the importance of strengthening regional cooperation, South-South collaboration and regional value chains as mechanisms to reduce dependence on commodity exports, build productive capacities, retain greater value within producing regions, and avoid reproducing the unequal terms of integration that have historically characterized extractive development models.

Many stressed that the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities should remain central to the design of transition pathways, with countries bearing greater historical responsibility for emissions expected to move first and fastest in reducing fossil fuel consumption, material throughput and excessive energy use. Some stakeholders explicitly called for exploring sufficiency- and degrowth-oriented approaches in high-consuming economies as part of a broader effort to transform unsustainable patterns of production and consumption.

Stakeholders' contributions also show different views that are important for discussion. These include differences on the pace and sequencing of transition, on the respective roles of the State, the private sector, and international markets, and on how to ensure that new sectors such as critical minerals, hydrogen, or green manufacturing do not reproduce exclusion or extractive dependence. These are important questions of design and political judgement rather than simple technical disagreements.

Stakeholder meeting results in Santa Marta[15]:

Economicand labour reconversion is a structural transformation challenge. In many contexts, fossil fuel dependence is tied to export structures, fiscal revenues, industrial systems, territorial employment, and existing infrastructure. Transition strategies that focus only on energy substitution, without addressing the productive and labour dimensions, risk deepening social resistance, weakening territorial economies, and leaving affected regions behind.

Countries also face very different starting points. Some depend heavily on fossil-fuel-linked exports or public revenues; others face concentrated employment in carbon-intensive sectors or weak institutional capacity to manage change. In many cases, the benefits of the transition are unevenly distributed, with some countries and regions capturing more value while others remain locked in low-value-added activities or face new risks of dependency linked to emerging sectors. A recurring priority is the need for integrated territorial transition frameworks that combine labour reconversion, social protection, skills development, and local participation. These are presented not only as employment policies, but as instruments to maintain social legitimacy, anticipate adjustment costs, and avoid territorial decline. Commonly proposed measures include territorial just transition plans, labour reconversion programmes, vocational training, institutionalised social dialogue, and dedicated transition funds.

These challenges are not only domestic. In many countries and territories—though not uniformly across all contexts— factors such as high costs of capital, debt burdens, weak access to concessional and non-debt-creating finance, fragmented standards, trade asymmetries, and limited technology access all affect the ability of countries and territories to diversify their economies, create new industries, and support workers through transition. At the same time, the transition also creates major opportunities: if managed well, it can support diversification into more resilient and sustainable sectors, expand decent employment, strengthen local value chains, and improve long-term economic resilience.

Quotes from the final outcome by stakeholders groups

The following table presents specific quotes from the stakeholder outcome presentations to provide insight to the breadth and depth of discussions held, the full texts of conclusions and recommendations presented by each Chapter to the High-Level Segment may be consulted in Annex I.

[15] Adapted from: Thematic session document: Economic and Labour Reconversion.

P. 3. Develop or strengthen national and regional roadmaps to transition away from fossil fuels.

1. Design, planning and implementation of science- and rights-based roadmaps for an inclusive transition and just workforce development, anchored in sustained economic diversification and new value chains.

Social Movements	"The transition we support is one where managed decline of fossil fuel industries is planned in dialogue with workers and communities, where retraining and economic reconversion are properly resourced, and where new productive alternatives are rooted in local economies rather than externally determined." "Territorial just transition plans: Designing region-specific strategies that integrate local actors and respond to territorial productive dynamics." "Promotion of distributed energy systems: Supporting community-based and local renewable energy initiatives." "Robust socio-environmental standards: Ensuring that energy projects respect territorial rights and environmental safeguards."
Religious	"We propose overcoming economic dependence by healing the ecological debt of the Global North and the oligarchies; by promoting care economies in which all people live with what is just, have decent work and vocations that sustain prosperous communities, and provide all beings with the opportunity to express themselves fully; strengthening international cooperation through a pact with life based on justice, interdependence, democracy, and the dignity of peoples."
Indigenous Peoples	The recognition and strengthening of Indigenous Peoples' own and regenerative economies is central to overcoming dependence on fossil fuels and as a foundation for sustainability, food sovereignty, and territorial autonomy within a Just Transition and phase-out of fossil fuels. This recognition must be consistent with Indigenous knowledge systems, sciences, and governance, guaranteeing the right to self-determination, governance, Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, and respect for their territories, lands, and waters. "Halt the expansion of extractive activities, land-use change, and infrastructure development in the territories of Indigenous Peoples, particularly in the territories of Indigenous Peoples in Voluntary Isolation and Initial Contact (PIACI), adopting, for these and for other Indigenous Peoples who so determine within the framework of their

	autonomy, legal measures to designate them as exclusion zones for any extractive activities, land-use change, and/or infrastructure development related to the energy sector and tech-based solutions." "Halt, reverse, and restore the territorial, social, cultural, and spiritual impacts of extractive activities and land-use change linked to fossil fuels, transition minerals, and biofuel production in the territories, lands, and waters of Indigenous Peoples, and adopt the corresponding reparation measures when applicable in accordance with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and ILO Convention No. 169."
Afro-Descendants	A just transition must redress environmental racism — not just restructure economies — by centering community-led, autonomously resourced restructuring for Afro-descendant territories, with land titling as a non-negotiable prerequisite. It must prevent displacement and new "sacrifice zones," protect community leaders, and impose material (not purely symbolic) reparations on extractive companies, including ecological restoration and binding accountability.
Private Sector	Territorial just transition plans should be co-created by the private sector, local governments, trade unions and affected communities, to ensure widespread stakeholder buy-in and increase the political durability. Binding tripartite social dialogue mechanisms (government, business, unions) are needed to address planning for labour reconversion, centering workers as actors in transition planning. Standardised, science based corporate transition plans and national fossil fuel phase out roadmaps are critical, with early capital allocation and clear sequencing of infrastructure and operational changes. "Investment protection frameworks (including both national law and investment treaty provisions) should be designed to give investors confidence, while also being compatible with governments' rights to regulate in the public interest."
Academics SMART	Proactively protect livelihoods and workers through early retraining, skills development, and community and regional redevelopment based on dialogue, ensuring the economic benefits and costs of the transition are distributed fairly.

	"Develop and implement a transition strategy with representatives from the North and South. Countries with structural dependence on raw material exports require targeted support to build local value chains in renewable energy and energy efficiency and the processing of critical minerals and materials, while respecting and protecting human rights and the environment." Incubate and invest in alternative revenue and livelihood opportunities that are not fossil-dependent, particularly in regions facing structural dependence on fossil extraction or processing... Develop and implement just transition plans consistent with national circumstances and development priorities including economic diversification, benefits sharing, and align it with plans to transition away from fossil fuels.
Academic workstreams	Country context. Not all options will work in all contexts. Co-creation and local ownership is therefore key. A solely top-down process for roadmaps will not deliver... Financial, institutional, political economy, legal and societal issues can hold back a transition even when cost-effective and technically feasible. Roadmaps must identify and address these. Undertake proactive, sequenced, and context-specific strategies for economic diversification, with continuous monitoring of social impacts and adaptive planning.... Few goods provide rents comparable to fossils, but alternatives exist, and might provide sustainable long-term revenue that is more compatible with longer-term development objectives. However, structural barriers often inhibit revenue diversification. Indebted producers have an acute lack of flexibility.
Peasants	Small-scale farmers must be recognized as rights-holders in transition policy design, with state protection for environmental defenders and accessible dissemination of relevant legislation to affected territories. Workers in extractive economies need retraining, social protection, and pathways to decent green employment during the transition.
Trade Unions	"It is emphasized that this process must be framed within systemic change, with an active role for the State, democratic participation, and an approach grounded in human rights and social and environmental justice." "... the energy transition must be guided by a human rights, equity, and social justice approach, including gender, territorial, and differential perspectives. It is emphasized that the transition must not deepen inequalities, but rather help reduce gaps between regions, countries, and populations. "

	"It is also emphasized that resources must be directed not only to decarbonization but also to social and labor protection." We demand that multinationals and mining companies ensure their closure and withdrawal processes from these territories are fair, participatory and locally focused, guaranteeing full redress for the social, labour, environmental and cultural harm caused by extractivism, as well as measures for restoration, economic restructuring and guarantees of non-repetition; and the government must act as the guarantor of this. To achieve effective retraining, we call for structured technical training and job placement programmes with a guarantee of decent employment.
Parliamentarians	"The most important contribution of the parliamentary process in Santa Marta was therefore twofold: first, it articulated a compelling common direction grounded in justice, implementation and accountability; and second, it emphasized that credible transition pathways must be matched by the financial, legal and institutional conditions that make them possible. In doing so, parliamentarians strengthened the political foundations for a positive Conference outcome and reaffirmed the central role of legislatures in shaping, overseeing and delivering the transition away from fossil fuels." Support national and sub-national economic diversification plans, with explicit attention to jobs, productive alternatives and community participation… Develop labour reconversion strategies for workers in the fossil fuel industry, taking into account technological transformations, including the impact of artificial intelligence on employment transitions. "Establish legal frameworks and incentives to support the development of energy communities and locally governed renewable energy systems."
Women & Diversities	Feminist and women's collectives have long encouraged investment in decentralized, democratized, community-centered energy solutions. By prioritizing deep and thoughtful processes of consultation and continuous consent, including free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC), with monitoring, reporting and evaluation mechanisms, communities can determine which energy solutions will actually work for them in their context, guaranteeing the participation of women." "While remaining accountable and complementary to the UNFCCC and any future JTWP mechanism, additional coordination spaces of participation for governments and civil society can advance sector or issue specific areas of knowledge as well as regional and context-specific best practices."

	An approach to fossil fuel phaseout, transitioning workers, creating new jobs or economic investments that does not include care work will fail to be gender-transformative. Additionally, energy models must center strong workers' rights protections and power, ensuring a just transition provides well-paid, safe, decent work as a catalyst for economic and social justice. The care economy must be recognized and supported as a low-carbon sector generating employment and resilience, with just transition funding incorporating a gender and rights perspective. No transition is just without challenging the patriarchal, colonial, and racial structures underpinning extractivism — requiring binding participation for women in climate governance, contingent on guaranteed safety, and direct benefits for rural, Indigenous, and Afro-descendant women.
Children and Youth	The transition is a legal mandate rather than a political choice — requiring the best interests of the child to be a binding criterion in fiscal and investment decisions. Just transition measures must include social protection and job retraining, ensuring adjustment costs don't fall on future generations, while mandatory corporate due diligence incorporates a child rights approach.
Subnational Governments	Territorial just transition planning to address the skills gap: the transition must be grounded in place. Long-term and multilevel plans for workers, communities, and regional economies are essential to manage fiscal risk and ensure fairness. Predictable financial support is needed to build new economic pathways at the local level, including for smaller-scale projects.
Multilateral Development Banks & Development Finance Institutions	The transition away from fossil fuels must be approached as a broader socio-economic transformation. Fossil fuels are deeply embedded in economies and financial systems. Many countries are consumers and producers of these commodities at the same time, and rely on them for essential economic activities, and for fiscal revenue.

High-Level Segment in Santa Marta

During the Santa Marta high-level segment, a technical roundtable on Economic and Labour Transition facilitated by Belgium — Jean-Luc Crucke, Minister of Mobility, Climate and Ecological Transition addressed, *inter alia*, the following aspects:

- Community involvement and participation are essential for a just transition. Workers must be at the center of the transition, including considerations for labor reconversion, reskilling and identification of labor demands in new sectors. Likewise, attending health impacts of past fossil fuel-related activities.

- Just transition requires addressing territorial specificities. Just transition has to be geographically just and goes beyond fossil fuel sectors but also must involve other sectors in the value chain (e.g., supplies, transport).
- Early planning is essential for successful transition, which includes the identification of potential effects, the mapping of needed changes (e.g., reskilling) and identifying funding alternatives.
- Funding is central in ensuring just transition. In this regard, countries can coordinate how to mobilize funding for just transition and help other countries address transition barriers.
- The transition away from fossil fuels is fundamentally about social and climate justice. Care work, informal labor, women, and local communities must be explicitly recognized and included - care jobs are green jobs, and governments must ensure renewable sector opportunities are accessible to all.
- Early planning, social dialogue, and worker-centered approaches are essential, and the importance of ILO just transition principles are mentioned. Successful transitions demonstrate that political commitment, strong labor unions, active community participation are non-negotiable. Reactive transitions leave communities behind.
- It was indicated that sometimes people might be more afraid of change than climate change, and it is crucial to communicate clearly and provide perspective to generate wider acceptance for transition policies.
- Economic diversification and targeted finance are critical enablers. Communities dependent on extractive industries need dedicated public funding, reskilling programs, and regional economic diversification strategies. Finance from both governments and the private sector must support workers and families, including through international leverage and following ILO guidelines and mechanisms.
- International experience-sharing and institutional coordination must be strengthened. Countries need platforms to exchange lessons learned on planning, consultation, and reskilling.
- Coordinated regional strategies, strong institutions for local transition, and clear roadmaps were highlighted as central parts of successful transitions, particularly for closing skills gaps and avoiding geographic and sectoral job mismatches.

Co-hosts summary

On socio-economic and labour reconversion, participants discussed that economic and labour transition is fundamentally about overcoming structural dependencies on fossil fuels, as well as social acceptance for the needed transition. Governments and other actors need to support the transformation of fossil-fuel dependent regional economies to new industries while managing social, territorial, and labour implications. The labour transition is not only about reskilling: the transition requires worker and community participation, and protection of worker's rights. Also, the economic reconversion to alternatives needs to fit the specific region's economic characteristics. Early planning and social dialogue are essential to reduce future costs and enhance implementation. Transition preparedness is a key driver of competitiveness and future growth. There were various views on the relative roles of the State, and private markets, and on how to prevent new forms of extractive dependence.

Participants emphasized the importance of territorial just transition plans and workforce development. Long-term just transition plans are essential, aligned with predictable finance, coordinated in a whole of government approach, and shaped through social dialogue with key stakeholders and communities. Specifically, territorial just transition plans can link labour reconversion to broader goals like reindustrialization, mine-closure planning, and environmental restoration. These region-specific plans should include ILO just transition principles as well as green skills training to prepare workers for the transition. It is not about the jobs, but it is about the workers.

Participants identified the need to enhance work on sustained economic and productive diversification and upgraded value chains. It is important to ensure that extractive industries for the new green economy go hand in hand with setting up local value chains. New sustainable industries can be supported through coordinated international investment. Governance frameworks that prioritize participation, and local benefit-sharing ensure that the new industries are locally led. Decentralized energy systems are good examples of new, community-led sustainable production. To leave no one behind, several participants explicitly mentioned the importance of human rights, labour rights, rights of Indigenous Peoples, People of African descent, care work, informal workers, local and rural communities, women, youth and children.

Participants emphasized the need for an enabling international environment, through pooled transition finance and capacity-building, North–South and South–South cooperation on technology, and market access. Key solutions are sharing best practices and having a learning community, for example on how to shape and enhance long-term territorial just transition plans, and how to effectively have inclusive consultations with communities. In this regard, an idea emerged to consider synthesising national experiences and bring them together in the COP Presidency Roadmap. Other suggestions include coordinated reduction of cost of capital, linking debt relief finance to labor transitions, and shared industrial standards for sustainable, local value chains. There were views by some on ISDS and long-term power purchase agreements.

Box 2. What Should National TAFF Roadmaps Include?

Lessons from the Santa Marta Stakeholder Chapters

A central conclusion emerging from the Santa Marta Process is that national roadmaps for transitioning away from fossil fuels should not be limited to energy planning. They should address rights, livelihoods, territorial realities, governance, economic transformation and justice. While stakeholder chapters approached these issues from different perspectives, a shared message emerged: successful TAFF roadmaps must be science-based, rights-based, participatory and territorially grounded.

Stakeholder Chapter	What TAFF Roadmaps Should Include
Academia	Evidence-based and participatory planning; energy access, decent jobs and health outcomes; protection of workers and communities; coordinated carbon pricing and trade measures; avoidance of new extractive dependencies linked to critical minerals; governance that integrates diverse knowledge systems and territorial perspectives.
Afro-descendant Peoples and Black Communities	Environmental and racial justice; territorial rights and land titling; community-led economic transformation; direct access to transition finance; community energy sovereignty; safeguards against green colonialism, displacement and new sacrifice zones; reparative approaches and corporate accountability.
Peasant Communities	Recognition of small-scale farmers as rights-holders; protection of environmental defenders; rural energy sovereignty; prioritisation of water, biodiversity and food systems; integration of ancestral knowledge; active participation of rural women and youth; just transition opportunities for workers in extractive sectors.

Women and Diversities	Recognition of the care economy as a strategic low-carbon sector; gender-responsive transition finance; women's leadership and participation in decision-making; protection against gender-based violence; redistribution of unpaid care work; energy as a human right; an ethic of care for people, territories and future generations.
Children and Youth	Intergenerational justice; meaningful participation mechanisms; integration of the best interests of children into public investment and fiscal decisions; access to climate justice; youth employment and training opportunities; child-rights safeguards across supply chains and critical minerals governance.
Social Movements	Energy democracy; community ownership and control; food sovereignty; decent work; rights to protest and participation; strong corporate accountability; transition strategies led by communities rather than externally imposed models; mechanisms to safeguard future generations.
NGOs and Civil Society	Debt relief and non-debt-creating climate finance; legally recognised community governance roles; territorial transition plans; economic diversification and workforce retraining; transparency and accountability; direct finance to communities; recognition of ecological debt and loss and damage.
Parliamentarians	Legislative frameworks for just transition; transparency in public and private energy sectors; responsible mine closure and remediation; technology transfer without new dependencies; participation of subnational governments and communities; energy access and energy security.
Indigenous Peoples	Self-determination, territorial autonomy and land rights; FPIC, including the right to withhold consent; Indigenous governance systems; Indigenous knowledge and data sovereignty; direct climate finance; protection of sacred sites and Indigenous defenders; rejection of false solutions that undermine Indigenous rights.
Private Sector	Stable regulatory frameworks; transparent transition plans; harmonised standards and taxonomies; workforce retraining; territorial transition plans; responsible subsidy reform; traceability and accountability across value chains; support for investment while respecting rights and community participation.
Trade Unions	Binding just transition plans; social protection; guaranteed retraining and income support; worker participation in decision-making; energy as a common good; public pathways to the transition; transformation of State-Owned Enterprises; labour rights embedded in climate policies; democratisation of skills and technological knowledge.

Subnational Governments	Multi-level governance; direct access to transition finance; regional transition funds; locally rooted planning; integrated supply-demand energy strategies; technical capacity-building; recognition of cities and regions as co-architects of the transition rather than mere implementers.

Cross-Cutting Design Principles for TAFF Roadmaps

Across all chapters, stakeholders emphasized that TAFF roadmaps should:

- **Address the entanglement of dependencies** that tie economies, fiscal systems, employment, trade patterns, infrastructure and development models to fossil fuels.
- **Incorporate differentiation based on national circumstances** and acknowledge that countries have varying levels of fossil fuel dependence, institutional capacities, responsibilities and development needs. As a result, pathways, timelines, and support requirements for transitioning away from fossil fuels will differ and should be tailored to each country's context.
- **Combine supply-side and demand-side transformation**, rather than focusing exclusively on renewable deployment.
- **Be rights-based and territorially grounded,** protecting environmental leaders and expanding civic space, respecting free and prior consent for indigenous peoples, self-determination, community participation and environmental justice.
- **Promote economic diversification and value creation,** avoiding new forms of extractivism and low-value-added dependence.
- **Ensure a just transition for workers and communities,** including social protection, skills development and decent work.
- **Strengthen energy sovereignty and energy democracy,** while expanding reliable and affordable energy access.
- **Mobilise direct, accessible and non-debt-creating finance**, particularly for communities, Indigenous Peoples, women, youth and subnational governments.
- **Recognise multiple knowledge systems**, integrating scientific evidence with Indigenous, local, ancestral and community knowledge.

- **Embed accountability, transparency and participation** throughout planning, implementation and monitoring processes.
- **Advance intergenerational, gender, racial and climate justice** as core objectives of the transition.

This diversity of perspectives reinforces a central lesson from Santa Marta: national TAFF roadmaps will be most effective when they are not conceived merely as energy plans, but as comprehensive societal roadmaps for economic transformation, rights protection, territorial resilience and prosperity grounded in local realities.

Action Elements

Key Actors and Stakeholders

- National and local governments
- Science Panel on the Global Energy Transition
- NDC Partnership
- All TAFF participants
- Other willing countries

Enabling conditions, instruments and safeguards

In terms of safeguards, stakeholders repeatedly underlined that this pathway should reduce structural asymmetries, and create enabling conditions for countries and territories to diversify on fairer terms, rather than compete through lower standards or renewed extractive dependence.

Also discussed were global transparency mechanisms to track production, infrastructure, and associated emissions; enhance and align existing data systems and reporting frameworks to support comprehensive, open-access tracking of fossil fuel production, reserves, infrastructure, and associated emissions, cooperation for technology transfer.

In terms of instruments, Workstream 1 on roadmaps will aim to connect countries with the Science Panel on the Global Energy Transition and the NDC Partnership. It will help countries develop roadmaps and align them with their NDCs. It will also facilitate cooperation between countries willing to provide and receive support for implementation. A different approach towards the roadmaps will be taken based on the country context. Some countries already have TAFF roadmaps. Other countries have included elements of TAFF roadmaps in their NDCs, Long Term Low Emission Development Strategies (LT-LEDS) or national planning documents, but would need to enhance or align these documents to include all relevant TAFF roadmap elements. There are also countries that don't have TAFF roadmaps yet and would need to develop TAFF roadmaps from scratch.

Some instruments discussed by States and other stakeholders that could be considered as part of roadmap design include[16]:

- Clear phase-out dates for different fossil fuels, in line with national realities;
- Territorial just transition plans co-designed with workers, communities, governments, and the private sector;
- Communication strategies for workers and communities in transition regions, to provide perspective with robust, inclusive TAFF plans, increasing the wider acceptance of such policies;
- Labour reconversion programmes and green-skills vocational training; and
- Institutionalised social dialogue mechanisms at national and subnational levels.
- Peer-learning platforms to share national and territorial transition experiences;
- Dedicated just transition funds and international financial support;
- Development of sustainable clean-energy value chains, including bioeconomy, clean manufacturing, and well-governed critical minerals sectors;
- Regional industrial cooperation to build shared productive capacities;
- Industrial and technological cooperation to build sustainable value chains across countries;
- Shared planning, standards, and cooperative arrangements for emerging sectors;
- Coordinated support for territorial diversification funds and workforce initiatives;
- Coalition-backed cooperation frameworks connecting national roadmaps with regional and international implementation.

Some enabling conditions discussed by States and stakeholders, to be considered by Workstream 1 in developing this pathway, include[17]:

- Pooled and targeted transition finance;
- Enhancing MDB and IFI support;
- Shared technical assistance and training platforms;
- North–South and South–South cooperation on technology, industrial policy, and market access;
- Regulatory and policy coordination to align investment, trade, and labour-transition objectives;
- Direct, accessible, and non-debt-creating finance for local and territorial actors;

[16] Adapted from: Thematic session document: Economic and Labour Transition
[17] Adapted from: Thematic session document: Economic and Labour Transition

- Improved market access arrangements and trade frameworks aligned with TAFF objectives;
- Stronger multilateral governance for critical minerals and related supply chains, including the right of Indigenous Peoples on free, prior and informed consent (FPIC); and
- works that prioritise community participation, local benefit-sharing, and the redirection of public support toward territorially grounded alternatives.

Among safeguards discussed are: ILO-aligned just transition principles, anti-extractivist safeguards, FPIC, together with locally led diversification strategies.

Action 3.2: Switching fossil fuels for clean energy, energy security and sovereignty

Conceptual framework[18]

Fuel and technological switching is central to the transition away from fossil fuels because it connects climate action with energy security, affordability, sovereignty, and industrial transformation. Replacing fossil fuels with cleaner alternatives can reduce exposure to volatile fuel markets, strengthen resilience, and increase the role of domestic energy resources, while also supporting cleaner production and consumption patterns across the wider economy. This also requires ensuring that new clean energy systems do not create new forms of dependence or exclusion.

Countries begin from different energy systems and levels of dependence, but the broad direction is clear: reducing fossil fuel demand through fuel switching is essential for meeting climate goals and strengthening long-term energy security. In many cases, enabling conditions for substitution already exist. Renewable power is now the cheapest source of new electricity in most regions, and electrification options such as electric vehicles and heat pumps already offer lower system costs in many applications. Clean alternatives are therefore no longer limited to long-term aspiration; in several sectors they are already technically and economically viable. Additionally, energy security and sovereignty, and the local development and reliance on non-fossil energy sources and storage have risen in the international agenda as necessary components of any productive transition or fossil fuel diversification strategy.

The transition can move fastest where alternatives are already available, notably in power generation, road transport, and heating in buildings, through policies that accelerate renewable deployment, electrification, and efficiency. In industry, especially in processes requiring low-temperature heat, electrification is also emerging

[18] Adapted from: Thematic session document: Fuel Switching

as a practical pathway. At the same time, progress in end-use sectors such as freight, aviation, shipping, petrochemicals, fertilizers, tourism, and food systems will require broader transformation through infrastructure, standards, public investment, efficiency, circularity, and in some cases alternative fuels for hard-to-abate uses.

The challenge is therefore not only technological. Fuel and technological switching depends on grids, storage, interconnections, regulatory frameworks, public support, and affordability, but also on social legitimacy. In many countries, high capital costs, weak networks, limited storage, and uneven access to clean technologies continue to slow implementation. At the same time, if poorly governed, the transition can create new dependencies linked to imported technologies, critical minerals, or centralized models that exclude communities from ownership, decision-making, and benefits. The core policy challenge is how to accelerate fuel substitution in ways that are reliable, affordable, equitable, and durable.

Highlights of the debate

Submissions, virtual meetings' input and stakeholder meeting results in Santa Marta[19]:

Across stakeholders' contributions and government inputs, there is broad convergence that fuel switching is essential both to reducing fossil fuel dependence and to improving long-term energy security. Renewable deployment, electrification, energy efficiency, and infrastructure modernization are widely seen as the main pillars of the transition. Governments and parliamentarians consistently stress that affordability, reliability, and system stability must be advanced through the transition, particularly for vulnerable households and countries exposed to energy insecurity.

A second recurring message is that fuel switching must be aligned with transformation in end-use sectors, not treated only as a power-sector issue. Many contributions point to transport, buildings, industry, tourism, freight, petrochemicals, fertilizers, and food systems as areas where the pace of transition will depend on coordinated infrastructure, standards, efficiency measures, public investment, and technology deployment. Private-sector contributions also underline opportunities in circular economy approaches and low-carbon industrial value chains, while many civil society actors emphasize that demand reduction, agroecology, relocalized food systems, and sufficiency measures are also part of a credible pathway.

A third recurring theme is that the legitimacy of fuel switching depends on ownership, participation, and territorial

[19] Adapted from: Thematic session document: Fuel Switching

fairness. Governments highlight energy communities and self-consumption as tools to build public support. Indigenous, Afro-descendant, women-led, peasant, and social movement contributions go further by emphasizing community ownership, distributed generation, local governance, and the need to avoid reproducing extractive, centralized, or exclusionary models under a green label.

Several stakeholder chapters also emphasized that the transition should not be understood solely as a technological substitution of fuels, but as an opportunity to transform the governance, ownership and purpose of energy systems. Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendant communities, trade unions, peasant organizations and social movements repeatedly highlighted the concepts of energy sovereignty and energy democracy, arguing that the transition should expand collective control over energy systems, strengthen public and community ownership, and treat energy as a human right and common good rather than exclusively as a market commodity. Many contributions emphasized the role of public enterprises, local energy communities, municipal utilities, cooperatives and community-managed renewable systems in ensuring that the benefits of the transition remain rooted in territories and contribute to local development. Several stakeholders also stressed that energy planning should be integrated with broader objectives such as food sovereignty, water security, territorial resilience and the reduction of energy poverty.

A further theme emerging from several stakeholder chapters was the need to prevent the transition from reproducing new forms of extractivism under a low-carbon label. Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendant communities, women-led organizations, peasant movements, youth and NGOs expressed concern that growing demand for critical minerals, hydrogen, bioenergy and other transition-related commodities could generate new sacrifice zones, territorial conflicts and forms of dependency if not governed differently from past extractive models. These stakeholders emphasized the importance of free, prior and informed consent, territorial autonomy, community-led decision-making, local value addition and stronger environmental and human rights safeguards across supply chains. Some also questioned the role of technologies and approaches perceived as delaying fossil fuel phase-out—including carbon capture and storage, geoengineering, certain carbon market mechanisms and other "false solutions"—arguing that priority should be given to absolute emissions reductions, public investment in proven clean technologies and reductions in excessive energy and material consumption, particularly in high-income economies.

Stakeholders' contributions also reflect important differences in emphasis. These include different views on the role of transitional fuels and technologies in hard-to-abate sectors, on the balance between large-scale deployment and decentralized approaches, on the respective roles of public, private and community actors in owning and governing energy systems, and on the pace of transition where affordability, grid capacity, energy access or alternatives remain constrained.

Quotes from the final outcome by stakeholders groups

The following table presents specific quotes from the stakeholder outcome presentations to provide insight to the breadth and depth of discussions held, the full texts of conclusions and recommendations presented by each Chapter to the High-Level Segment may be consulted in Annex I.

P3. Develop or strengthen national and regional roadmaps to transition away from fossil fuels.

Action 3.2. Switching fossil fuels for clean energy, energy security and sovereignty

Group Name	Selected Quotes
Indigenous Peoples	Develop and strengthen decentralized energy systems designed and owned by Indigenous Peoples, ensuring their production and management in accordance with their right to self-determination.
Private Sector	"A shift to alternative clean energy sources produced domestically or with close trading partners will reduce vulnerability to price shocks and supply disruptions."
Academics SMART	Take immediate measures to prevent future emissions. Ban new fossil infrastructure, mandate deep legally binding cuts to methane emissions in the energy sector, accelerate electrification of energy end uses. Inscribe fossil fuel phase down targets in NDCs while supporting renewable energy pathways in low- and middle-income countries.
Academic workstreams	The expansion of renewable energy infrastructure must be done respecting the rights of Indigenous peoples and local communities, whose territories are disproportionately affected by extractive activities. It is urgent to reduce overall material and energy consumption (social metabolism) by reorganising systems of provision around sufficiency and public sharing instead of the current privatised models of consumption.

Trade Unions	A just transition represents a historic opportunity to democratise the energy system, ensuring that energy is a fundamental right, led by public enterprises and forms of management that involve social and community participation.
Parliamentarians	Establish coordinated public policies for the energy transition that include clear fossil fuel phase-out plans, embed concrete regulatory norms, engage existing firms as transition actors, and mobilize public procurement to create stable demand for clean alternatives.
Women & Diversities	In a just transition, we must invest in democratized, community-centered energy models that decentralize energy governance, decision-making, and co-benefits, moving from an energy system dominated by the few to one shared and governed by many.
Subnational Governments	We stand ready to bridge that gap as ambitious doers and de-risking agents. Already, we are: Planning economic diversification and new sources of public income; Delivering energy systems - grids, renewables, energy storage and decentralised solutions; Ensuring a just and inclusive transition that improves access, affordability and reliability; and Working directly with workers, communities, businesses and local industries at scale.
Religious	We reaffirm our commitment to accompany these processes with active hope, resisting through the ethics of care and concrete action, promoting a comprehensive transformation that does not merely swap one energy source for another, but rather transforms the very system of life, remembering that another way of relating to the world is still possible and indispensable.
Multilateral Development Banks & Development Finance Institutions	Priority can be given to deploy, replicate, and scale workable and impactful solutions, based on country context and real-world experience, in particular in the field of: ... Infrastructure development, specifically in accelerating electrification of key end-uses and strengthening power systems to support energy efficiency, demand response, and integration of renewables and flexibility for a long-term transition away from fossil fuel dependency.

High-Level Segment in Santa Marta

During the Santa Marta high-level segment, a technical roundtable on Fuel Switching, Energy Security and Sovereignty facilitated by Sara Aagesen Muñoz, Third Vice-President of the Government and Minister for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge (Spain), addressed the following issues:

- Grid electrification requires cooperation among countries, both connections among countries to allow renewable deployment at scale; and funding to provide the needed technologies to those countries that are committed to a transition;

- Combining policies and investments, and removing barriers such as fossil fuel subsidies, is key to provide investors and the climate sector a predictable investment climate;
- Transition in steel and cement, and mining is already underway using renewables, and it is important to continue supporting the FF phase out in the IMO for international maritime transport;
- Fuel switching requires scaling up clean energy supply particularly renewables, through electrification and system integration and flexibility including storage;
- Every country requires a different mix of renewables, as well as connections to others, to achieve its optimal energy matrix;
- Find ways within existing market structures to eliminate distortions and incorporate the full price of fossil fuels, with opinions diverging on the use of carbon markets as part of fuel switching strategies;
- Build electricity grids and power systems at the speed that growing demand requires, and with the capacity to support the expansion of electrification, with the flexibility and variability required for renewables. In this respect they proposed a cooperation system for a "a global grids accelerator";
- Planning for future energy systems;
- Sharing examples on legal and incentive framework design and implementation, as well as on interconnectedness planning and experience;
- Ensure solutions overcome the inequalities derived from extractivism approaches; and support frontrunner communities and subnational entities in renewable energy generation, distribution and management.

Co-hosts summary

Participants recognized that fuel switching, and moving to a future-proof electricity grid, is central to the transition away from fossil fuels because it connects climate action with energy security, affordability, sovereignty, and industrial transformation. Reducing fossil fuel demand through substitution is increasingly feasible, but countries differ significantly in energy systems, and their exposure to lock-ins, as well as affordability and reliability risks. Fuel switching must extend beyond power generation to transport, buildings, industry, tourism, freight, petrochemicals, fertilizers, and food systems. There were different perspectives on the role of transitional fuels and technologies.

Participants discussed necessary transformations towards a sustainable, reliable and equitable energy system. Clear targets and planning frameworks can support this. For the transformation in the end-use sectors, electrification and energy efficiency are crucial factors. They need to come together with inclusivity and affordability. Participants discussed that a clear move is visible from molecules to electrons, and to green electrons. For hard-to-abate sectors like aviation and the maritime sector, sustainable fuels are important. Key supply-side solutions include accelerated renewable deployment, grid modernization and increased storage capacity.

Participants discussed that fragmented implementation could be alleviated through coordinated cooperation and transboundary grid integration. To ensure stronger regional cooperation and planning, countries could work together on common technical frameworks, and grid interconnections. Multilateral cooperation could focus on predictable support for infrastructure, concessional and blended finance, and technology transfer.

Action Elements

Key Actors and Stakeholders

- Ministries of energy and economy
- Energy and grid regulators
- Workstream 1 participants
- Suggestions Workstream 2, supporting the roadmaps
- ILO
- Private sector

Enabling conditions, instruments and safeguards

Enabling conditions that were discussed and could be further discussed by Workstream 1, include:

- Clear targets and planning frameworks; public investment and concessional finance; regulatory support for electrification and distributed systems; stronger institutional capacity to coordinate infrastructure and demand transformation; and safeguards that maintain affordability, reliability, and social legitimacy[20 21].
- build a more supportive cooperative environment for fuel switching, especially where high capital costs, fragmented standards, weak infrastructure coordination, and dependence on imported technologies slow progress.
- Coordinated international cooperation platforms; predictable support for infrastructure and deployment; common technical and regulatory frameworks; stronger regional and cross-border planning; and investment, trade, and industrial arrangements that lower costs and reduce new dependencies[22].
- Instruments that were discussed and could be further discussed by Workstream 1, include:
- integrated action on renewables, electrification, efficiency, grids, storage, and public infrastructure
- grid interconnections, technology transfer, shared standards, joint research and development, clean

[20] Adapted from: Thematic session document: Fuel Switching
[21] From fossil lock-in to reliable and equitable system transformation
[22] Adapted from: Thematic session document: Fuel Switching
[23] Adapted from: Thematic session document: Fuel Switching

technology partnerships, and safeguards for critical minerals and other transition inputs[23].
- renewable deployment, grid modernization, storage, energy efficiency, public and rail transport, electrification in buildings and industry, decentralized and community-based systems[24].
- Safeguards that were discussed and could be further discussed by Workstream 1, include:
- ensuring affordability, reliability, and social legitimacy.
- social protection measures to address energy poverty[25].

Action 3.3. Access to clean energy for rural, remote and marginalized communities

Energy access deficits persist where centralized and fossil-dependent systems have failed to reach rural, remote, low-income, and marginalized communities, and where affordability constraints, insufficient local infrastructure, and limited technical capacity prevent clean, local alternatives from being adopted and maintained.

Even though decentralized renewable technologies are increasingly competitive, countries face shared constraints that limit deployment at community and territorial scale: weak, restrictive or absent regulatory frameworks for distributed generation and mini-grids, limited local technical capacity, insufficient financing instruments adapted to community-based solutions, and gaps in technology transfer and international cooperation.

Conceptual framework [26]

Energy access gaps — concentrated in rural, remote, and marginalized communities — are among the clearest signs that current energy systems are falling short to deliver on human development, equity, and achievement of sustainable development goals. Transitioning away from fossil fuels is instrumental to expanding energy access. Placing energy access at the center of the transition is one of the clearest ways to deliver immediate and tangible benefits to those who have long been excluded from reliable and affordable energy.

Energy access must be addressed not only as a technical infrastructure challenge but as part of a broader transformation aimed at ensuring affordability, reliability, and people-centered systems.
In many countries, access gaps reflect structural development deficits, territorial exclusion, and an energy system organization that has not adequately served rural communities, local productive sectors, or essential social services. Centralized, fossil-fuel-

[24] Adapted from: Thematic session document: Fuel Switching
[25] Adapted from: Thematic session document: Fuel Switching
[26] Adapted from: Thematic session document: Energy Access

dependent models can perpetuate these exclusions; a transition to decentralized, renewables-based systems offers genuine opportunities to replace outdated and insufficient infrastructure while reducing external energy dependence and strengthening local ownership. A just transition, however, must also confront the structural factors that continue to exclude communities: unequal access to finance and technology, insufficient regulatory frameworks for distributed generation, limited local technical capacity, and the risk that renewable projects reproduce extractive or exclusionary dynamics when deployed without consent, territorial rights, or fair benefit-sharing.

Addressing these barriers at scale requires more than national policy reform. Expanding decentralized renewable access to the most excluded communities depends on supportive frameworks for distributed generation and mini-grids, local technical capacity, and financing instruments adapted to the scale and risk profile of community-based solutions. Technology transfer, South-South and North-South cooperation, and direct-access mechanisms for Indigenous, women-led, and community organizations are essential complements to national electrification strategies.

Highlights of the debate[27]

Submissions, virtual meetings' input and stakeholder meeting results in Santa Marta[28]*:*

Common elements across stakeholder groups and government submissions include: the importance of community-owned and locally governed renewable systems set up with informed consent; the need to integrate health co-benefits — including those from reduced air pollution — into national climate plans; broad support for technical training and entrepreneurship programmes targeted at women and rural communities; and the call for direct-access financing and community co-design processes that prioritize gender equity and territorial rights for Indigenous peoples and vulnerable communities.

Several stakeholder chapters also emphasized that expanding access to clean energy is not only a question of infrastructure deployment, but also one of rights, self-determination and territorial justice. Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendant communities, peasant organizations, social movements and trade unions repeatedly framed energy as a human right and common good rather than solely a commodity or service. Many contributions argued that access strategies should strengthen energy sovereignty and energy democracy by enabling communities to participate not only as consumers but also as

[27] Press Release "Co-Host Takeaways On The First Conference On Transitioning Away From Fossil Fuels Santa Marta, Colombia" 30 April 2026. https://transitionawayconference.com/s/TAFF-Conference_Co-host-Takeaways_DEF.pdf
[28] Adapted from: Thematic session document: Energy Access

owners, producers and decision-makers. This includes support for community-managed renewable systems, local cooperatives, municipal utilities, and decentralized energy solutions designed according to local priorities and governance systems. For several stakeholders, free, prior and informed consent, territorial autonomy, land rights and community control over energy decisions are not complementary safeguards but foundational conditions for legitimate energy access initiatives.

A second recurring theme was that energy access should be understood within broader territorial systems that sustain life and wellbeing. Peasant organizations emphasized the importance of prioritizing water, biodiversity and food production as forms of "vital energy" that are inseparable from discussions on electrification and infrastructure. Women's organizations highlighted the links between energy poverty, unpaid care work and gender inequality, arguing that access strategies should reduce care burdens, strengthen the care economy and expand opportunities for women's economic participation and leadership. Afro-descendant organizations stressed that energy investments should contribute to overcoming environmental racism and historical exclusion rather than creating new forms of territorial dispossession. Across several chapters there was also strong support for direct-access financing mechanisms that allow Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women-led organizations and subnational governments to access resources without excessive intermediaries, while strengthening local capacities and retaining benefits within communities.

The submissions also reflect areas with differing views. On scale and governance: some actors emphasize nationally led electrification and utility strengthening, while others prioritize community-owned, territorially governed systems and caution against centralized models that overlook local conditions. On the role of private and blended finance: some see these as necessary for reaching scale, while others point to risks of costly financing conditions, exclusion of smaller or community-based initiatives, and the reproduction of unequal power relations. On pace and process: while there is broad recognition of urgency, contributions from women's, Indigenous, Afro-descendant and peasant organizations stress that rapid deployment without meaningful participation, free, prior and informed consent, fair benefit-sharing and recognition of territorial rights risks reproducing the exclusions and injustices of previous energy systems.

Quotes from the final outcome by stakeholders groups

The following table presents specific quotes from the stakeholder outcome presentations to provide insight to the breadth and depth of discussions held, the full texts of conclusions and recommendations presented by each Chapter to the High -Level Segment may be consulted in Annex I.

P3. Develop or strengthen national and regional roadmaps to transition away from fossil fuels.

Action 3.3. Access to clean energy

Group Name	Selected Quotes
Social Movements	The Social Movements Sector was united around a common objective: decentralised, community-owned renewable energy systems that guarantee equitable access and end energy poverty.
Indigenous Peoples	Equitable, sufficient, and culturally appropriate access to renewable energy, without generating harm to their territories, ways of life, and rights.
Private Sector	Decentralised renewable solutions such as solar home systems, mini-grids and efficient appliances are a cost-effective way to increase energy access and reduce emissions in vulnerable communities.
Academic Works-treams	"Seize the opportunities arising from renewable energy systems, which are already market-competitive, creating jobs, and enhancing wellbeing, while enabling secure, affordable and low-income groups friendly energy access via storage and flexible grids integrated with AI."
Academic SMART	TAFF roadmaps should integrate multiple elements, including energy access;
Trade Unions	A just transition represents a historic opportunity to democratize the energy system, ensuring that energy is recognized as a fundamental right and led by public enterprises and management models that involve social and community participation.
Parliamentarians	Participants emphasized that legislation must do at least three things at once: accelerate clean energy deployment, curb continued lock-in across fossil fuel value chains and protect access, affordability and fairness.

Women & Diversities	Understanding capitalism, patriarchy and colonialism as root causes of the climate crisis, feminists know we must abandon an energy model rooted in exploitation of land, water, bodies, workers, and communities, and move towards one that understands energy as a right. At the same time, the need to guarantee this right must not entail the violation of other human rights and the rights of nature by perpetuating extractive renewable energy policies, which offer a false solution to the climate crisis.
Subnational Governments	We stand ready to bridge that gap as ambitious doers and de-risking agents. Already, we are ensuring a just and inclusive transition that improves access, affordability and reliability.

High-Level Segment in Santa Marta

During the Santa Marta high-level segment, a technical roundtable on Energy Access facilitated by Pierre Hélé, Minister of the Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development (Cameroon), addressed the following issues:

- International cooperation and innovative mechanisms are essential for advancing renewable energy and sustainable business.
- Land distribution must be reformed, agricultural decarbonization must be accelerated, and community-based energy must be promoted.
- Clear roadmaps are needed for sectors such as green tourism and to strengthen territorial development.
- Exchange between communities and governments, along with regulatory frameworks that recognize energy as a right, is essential to enable rights and benefit communities.
- How to ensure TAFF includes extending access to energy to communities that are still excluded from the grid, widening the reach of energy security through renewables, with a people-centered approach that benefits those most vulnerable, including off-grid rural populations, women and youth, and protecting communities from the volatility of fossil fuel prices.

Co-hosts summary

Participants discussed that energy access gaps, especially in rural, remote, and marginalized communities, show that current energy systems are not yet delivering adequately on development and equity. Placing energy access and clean energy solutions at the centre of the transition can generate immediate and tangible benefits for communities long excluded from reliable and affordable energy. Especially the roll-out of decentralized systems and renewables could be a big improvement. However, important challenges remain, like missing electricity grids and storage in rural areas. Countries differ in their views on the balance between nationally led electrification and community-owned systems.

Participants aim to transition to inclusive, affordable, decentralized, and people-centred access, through community-owned distributed renewable systems, off-grid and mini-grid development, clean cooking and technical training, especially for youth, women and rural communities. The latter highlights the importance of social inclusion, hence, community co-design processes, and social policies to address affordability are important. Participants stressed the need to protect and enforce energy access for excluded communities.

Participants discussed building an international enabling environment for community-level implementation. South–South and North–South exchange, direct-access modalities in financing instruments, differential access to financing and technology and frameworks for co-design and equitable benefit-sharing could contribute. Targeted financing instruments can help countries, Indigenous peoples, women-led, and community organizations to improve energy access, just as community finance instruments.

Action Elements

Key Actors and Stakeholders

- Ministries of energy and rural development
- Countries, subnational governments and cities
- Energy and grid regulators, community-grid developers
- Energy sector developers
- UNDP (SDG7)
- IEA (hosting the clean cooking secretariat)
- Workstream 1 participants.
- Workstream participants 2 where relevant

Enabling conditions, instruments and safeguards

Enabling conditions[29] Regulatory frameworks for distributed generation and mini-grids; public support for grid extension and modernization where needed; technical and vocational training adapted to local conditions; community co-design processes and free, prior, and informed consent frameworks; social policies to address affordability and energy poverty; and governance arrangements that strengthen local ownership, participation, and fair distribution of benefits.

Multilateral and bilateral cooperation platforms for technology transfer, policy, and regulatory support around community-level implementation; shared legislative and regulatory models for distributed generation and energy communities; technical assistance programmes for local capacity development, including gender-targeted training; South-South and North-South knowledge exchange and cooperation mechanisms; direct-

[29] Adapted from: Thematic session document: Energy Access

access modalities within multilateral and regional financing instruments; and frameworks that ensure community co-design, free, prior, and informed consent, and equitable benefit-sharing in renewable deployment.

Instruments[30] Distributed renewable systems; off-grid and mini-grid deployment; affordability incentives for clean energy; community-owned and community-governed energy systems; clean cooking and productive-use applications; targeted technical training, entrepreneurship, and technology access programmes especially for women and rural communities; and integrated approaches connecting energy access to health, education, water, and local economic opportunity.

Shared regulatory models and technical standards for distributed generation and mini-grids; coordinated technical assistance and capacity-building programmes adapted to territorial conditions; joint technology transfer and procurement frameworks; direct-access financing instruments for Indigenous, women-led, and community organizations; green microcredit and community finance instruments for households and SMEs; South-South, North-South, and triangular cooperation platforms on decentralized renewable deployment; and shared monitoring frameworks tracking access at community and household level.

Action 3.4. Plan the phase down and definitive closure of fossil fuel extraction

This action proposes to complement supply-side decline with clearer planning, stronger policy signals, and the accelerated build-out of alternatives.

Conceptual Framework [31]

A planned phase-down and closure of fossil fuel extraction is one of the clearest tests of whether the transition away from fossil fuels can move from political recognition to coordinated and feasible implementation. The issue is not only whether extraction must decline, but how to organize that decline in a managed, fair, and politically viable way across countries with different levels of dependence and exposure.

Reducing and phasing down fossil fuel extraction is not only an energy and climate issue. In many countries it is also a question of development strategy, fiscal stability, territorial cohesion, sovereignty, and risk management. Extraction is often tied to public revenues, export structures, infrastructure, employment, and regional economies, which makes unmanaged decline politically and economically difficult.

At the same time, the challenge is not purely material. Long-lived fossil infrastructure, policy and investment

[30] Adapted from: Thematic session document: Energy Access
[31] Adapted from: Thematic session document: Planned Phase Down and Closure of Fossil Fuel Extraction

lock-in, and exposure to transition costs continue to delay action, but so do broader barriers of power and legitimacy: fossil industry influence over regulation, public narratives that equate extraction with development and security, weak social legitimacy for closure strategies where alternatives are unclear, and limited institutional capacity to plan and govern fair closure. A planned phase-down therefore also requires stronger public understanding, political credibility, and confidence that alternatives can support economic stability and social wellbeing. Broader geopolitical dynamics can also shape national choices, as competition among major powers, shifting trade and investment alignments, and pressures linked to strategic supply, energy security, and wider security dynamics may create drivers for some countries to expand or preserve fossil fuel production, even where the longer-term direction of transition is clear.

A managed phase-down therefore requires more than restricting supply. It requires coordinated planning, credible policy signals, fiscal and regulatory reform, management of environmental liabilities, and support for affected countries and territories to diversify and protect workers and communities. It also requires aligning supply-side action with demand-side transformation so that reductions in extraction are reinforced by clean alternatives rather than undermined by continued lock-in elsewhere in the economy.

Highlights of the debate

Submissions, virtual meetings' input and stakeholder meeting results in Santa Marta[32]:

Across stakeholders' contributions, there is broad convergence that supply-side decisions need to be aligned with long-term transition planning and demand-side transformation. A recurring message is that planned phase-down cannot be treated only as a restriction measure; it must be linked to broader structural change, including stronger planning frameworks, cleaner alternatives, productive diversification, and support for affected workers and territories. Commonly recurring solutions include legal moratoria on new licences, fossil-fuel-free zones, fossil asset registries, closure planning that accounts for environmental liabilities, and stronger coordination through international frameworks, including treaty-based approaches.

Stakeholders' contributions also indicate that the barriers are broader than finance or infrastructure alone. Several contributions point to distorted price signals, fossil industry capture of regulators, the long lifetime of fossil infrastructure, debt burdens, and the absence of binding international coordination on fossil fuel production. Others emphasize the need to shift public narratives and political common sense: making managed decline legible as a development and risk-

[29] Adapted from: Thematic session document: Planned Phase Down and Closure of Fossil Fuel Extraction.

management strategy rather than as sacrifice, building public legitimacy for closure, and countering the influence of fossil interests in public discourse and policymaking. Civil society organisations highlighted deeper enabling conditions around narrative change, public learning, participation, planning capacity, and the need to challenge dominant models of economic progress that keep fossil expansion politically normalised.

At the same time, stakeholders' contributions show important differences in emphasis. There are different views on pace and sequencing, particularly between those calling for stronger immediate non-expansion commitments and those stressing the need for gradual, well-financed pathways in highly exposed producer countries. There are also different views on which fiscal and pricing tools are most appropriate. In addition to moratoria and closure planning, recurring proposals include carbon pricing, extraction taxes and royalty reform, removal of fossil tax incentives, subsidy reform, and other instruments that can reduce the attractiveness of continued expansion while helping fund transition support. Some stakeholders also emphasise stronger safeguards so that transition pathways do not create new forms of extractivism around critical minerals or other transition inputs.

Several stakeholder chapters also framed the phase-down and closure of fossil fuel extraction as a question of rights, justice and historical responsibility rather than solely one of economic management. Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendant communities, youth organizations, NGOs and social movements emphasized that new fossil fuel expansion is increasingly incompatible with climate objectives and the rights of present and future generations. Many contributions called for stronger international commitments to prevent new exploration and extraction, including fossil fuel non-proliferation approaches, treaty-based cooperation, fossil-fuel-free zones, and legal mechanisms capable of holding both governments and corporations accountable for delaying the transition. Several stakeholders stressed that countries with the greatest historical responsibility and highest levels of fossil fuel consumption should move first and fastest in reducing production and consumption, while supporting developing countries through finance, technology and capacity-building. Youth organizations in particular emphasized that managed phase-down should be understood as an obligation to future generations rather than a discretionary political choice.

A second recurring theme among civil society organizations, Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendant communities, women-led groups and social movements was that closure planning must address not only future extraction but also the legacy of past extraction. Stakeholders called for stronger mechanisms to ensure remediation of environmental liabilities, restoration of ecosystems, reparations for affected communities, and accountability for cumulative social and environmental harms. Several contributions emphasized that communities should not bear the costs of abandoned infrastructure, contamination or degraded ecosystems, and that fossil fuel companies should assume responsibility for remediation and restoration. Others highlighted the need to remove legal protections that shield fossil fuel investments from climate policies, including reforms to investor-state dispute settlement mechanisms and stronger safeguards against corporate capture of public decision-making. Many stakeholders also stressed that closure pathways should be grounded in free, prior and informed consent, territorial autonomy and community participation, including the right of affected communities to reject projects that threaten their territories and livelihoods.

Stakeholders repeatedly indicate that extraction persists not only because of revenues and infrastructure, but because of power asymmetries, insufficient stakeholder participation, and narratives that present fossil production as inevitable.

Quotes from the final outcome by stakeholders groups

The following table presents specific quotes from the stakeholder outcome presentations, the full texts may be consulted in Annex I.

P3. Develop or strengthen national and regional roadmaps to transition away from fossil fuels.
Action 3.4. Plan the phase down and definitive closure of fossil fuel extraction

Group Name	Selected Quotes
Indigenous Peoples	A Just Transition must include frameworks to halt, reverse, and restore the environmental, social, cultural, and spiritual impacts of extractive activities and land-use change linked to fossil fuels, transition minerals, petrochemical industry and its applications, agribusiness, and biofuel production in the territories, lands, and waters of Indigenous Peoples. The transition must focus on leaving fossil fuels in the ground, rather than relying on offset mechanisms that commodify nature.
Religious	We demand divestment from fossil fuels and investment in comprehensive development based on 'buen vivir' (community well being) and the common good.

Academics SMART	Require annual public reporting by states and extraction companies on phase-out trajectories, closure liabilities, and exported emissions in a comparable format, initially focusing on four core items: production, expected decline, decommission
Academic workstreams	A Just Transition will require both policies to phase down extraction and to transform the economic systems that rely on oil, coal, and gas for energy and material production. Urgent measures include a moratorium on new and expanded facilities and a declining cap on production.
Trade Unions	We demand that multinationals and mining companies ensure that their closure and withdrawal processes are fair, participatory and locally focused, guaranteeing full redress for the social, labour, environmental and cultural harm caused by extractivism, as well as measures for restoration, economic restructuring and guarantees of non-repetition; the government must act as the guarantor of this.
Parliamentarians	Adopt legally binding national fossil fuel phase-out roadmaps that include clear timelines, assigned institutional responsibilities, and defined financing strategies.
Women & Diversities	A fossil fuel phaseout and subsequent transition cannot lock countries or communities, particularly in the Global South, into even deeper traps of debt, loans, and exploitative relationships that enrich state and private actors in the Global North.

High-Level Segment in Santa Marta

During the Santa Marta high-level segment, a technical roundtable on planned phase down and closure of fossil fuel extraction facilitated by Abubakar Momoh, Minister of Regional Development (Nigeria), addressed the following issues:

- the planned phasedown and closure of fossil fuel extraction discussing moratoriums on new licenses, fossil fuel-free zones, asset mapping, and comprehensive closure plans;
- While some alerted that failing to start the transition in time, results in excessive economic costs, specific countries shared their political experience of setting the end of exploration for 2050, while simultaneously supporting alternative industries;
- On the importance of international cooperation, participants emphasized that countries choosing to reduce extraction unilaterally face high risks to competitiveness and geopolitical pressures, making coordinated action vital;
- The importance of coordinated transition financing mechanisms was underscored by many, including the need for concessional and non-debt-creating support, to help countries move on fairer terms

and reduce economic isolation;

- Participants also cautioned the transition must have an ethnic and territorial approach to avoid "green extractivism" and the environmental degradation left by mining in the past;
- Including children and youth at the policy decision-making table was considered a priority, as well as ensuring labor and social protection measures for the thousands of workers who currently depend on coal.
- The creation of hydrocarbon-free zones in protected areas was suggested,
- A coalition of countries to lead change was also proposed, including a new economic agreement that prevents expansion, controls the price of oil during the transition and allows for the creation of a new economic model.

Initial Summary

Participants discussed not only whether extraction must decline, but how to organize that decline in a managed, fair, and politically viable way. Participants stressed the importance of clear policy signals, and long-term planning, including clearer strategies for State-Owned-Enterprises. This helps create certainty for the necessary investments in renewable energy and to reskill workers.

Countries vary in exposure and dependence, especially in relation to public revenues, export structures, and regional economies. A barrier related to legitimacy is the narrative that extraction is equal to development and security. Also, there is weak public legitimacy for closure when alternatives remain uncertain. Lastly, wider geopolitical and security dynamics may create pressures to preserve fossil production.

Participants discussed a socially grounded phase-down can contribute to more legitimacy and trust in the transition, for example through place-based and community-led participation. Also, clear narratives on transition pathways and alternative employment opportunities in renewable sectors, could help building trust among the impacted communities, while new forms of extractivism must be prevented.

Participants agreed that a managed decline with demand-supply alignment is important, and a wide range of solutions have been put forward. Participants have different views on the need to advance international cooperation to phase out fossil fuels in an orderly and just manner.

Participants see the importance of coordinated international conditions for phase-down. International cooperation limits the political and economic risk countries face when acting alone. Cooperation frameworks can link phase-down to development and just transition objectives.

Action Elements

Key Actors and Stakeholders

- Countries
- ILO
- Participants in Workstream 1 (particularly those representing social movements)
- Fossil-phase down cooperation initiatives, such as BOGA, PPCA and CETP

Enabling conditions, instruments and safeguards

Enabling conditions: To ensure effective cooperation, existing platforms should be optimally utilized, ad hoc coalitions facilitated and data sharing between countries intensified.

Frequently mentioned enabling measures include coordinated transition finance, concessional support, diversification-linked assistance, and stronger international governance that makes national phase-down efforts more credible and less isolated.

Instruments: Integrated planning frameworks that align extraction decisions with demand reduction, electrification, energy efficiency, and clean infrastructure deployment, while providing greater certainty to workers, communities, and investors.

To limit expansion of extraction: closure plans, fossil-fuel-free zones where relevant, halt the issuance of new licenses, stranded asset management, the fair distribution of closure costs, or auction the closure of fossil fuel production plants over time.
Support can be provided through coordinated transition finance, and concessional and nondebt-creating support.

Instruments to achieve such objectives include moratoria on new licences, fossil-fuel-free zones, asset mapping, closure plans, monitoring of liabilities, and tighter alignment between extraction decisions and progress in demand reduction, electrification, and clean infrastructure. Frequently mentioned accompanying measures include carbon pricing, targeted incentives, fossil subsidy reform, and reforms to tax incentives that still favour expansion[33].

Instruments to achieve such objectives include common political signals, treaty-based or other cooperation frameworks, harmonised standards, robust data systems, and support mechanisms for countries facing higher transition costs[34].

This points to the need for stronger public planning institutions, more transparent regulation, community

[33] Adapted from: planned phase down and closure of fossil fuel extraction
[34] Adapted from: planned phase down and closure of fossil fuel extraction
[35] Adapted from: planned phase down and closure of fossil fuel extraction

participation, social legitimacy for closure strategies, and narrative change that frames managed decline as part of a fairer development pathway[35].

Frequently mentioned enabling measures include stronger planning capacities, community-led and place-based transition frameworks, public learning and communication[36], and safeguards that reduce harm and prevent new sacrifice zones or green extractivism[37].

Pathway 3 Summary Table

The following table summarizes this pathway's key elements:

P3. Develop or strengthen national and regional roadmaps to transition away from fossil fuels.		
Actions	**Key actors and stakeholders**	**Enabling conditions, instruments and safeguards**
3.1. Design, planning and implementation of roadmaps for the energy transition and just workforce development, anchored in sustained economic diversification and new value chains	National and local governments Science Panel on the Global Energy Transition NDC Partnership All TAFF-1 participants Other willing countries Workstream 1 participants	To be completed by the **Roadmaps Workstream 1.**

[36] Adapted from: planned phase down and closure of fossil fuel extraction
[37] Adapted from: planned phase down and closure of fossil fuel extraction held on 28th April, facilitated by Nigeria -- Abubakar Momoh, Minister of Regional Development

3.2 Switching fossil fuels for clean energy, energy security and sovereignty.	Ministries of energy and trade Energy and grid regulators Scientific Panel NDC Partnership Workstream 1 participants	To be completed by the **Roadmaps Workstream 1.**
3.3. Access to clean energy for rural, remote and marginalized communities	Ministries of energy and rural development Countries, subnational governments and cities Energy and grid regulators, community-grid developers Energy sector developers Clean Cooking secretariat (IEA) UNDP (SDG7) Workstream 1 participants	To be completed by the **Roadmaps Workstream 1.**
3.4. Plan the phase down and definitive closure of fossil fuel extraction	Countries Scientific Panel NDC Partnership Fossil-phase down cooperation initiatives Workstream 1 participants	To be completed by the **Roadmaps Workstream 1.**

Pathway 4: Overcoming fossil fuel-related macroeconomic dependencies, scaling up transition investment, and addressing barriers in the international and domestic financial architecture

While national and subnational leadership remains essential, the effectiveness of efforts to transition away from fossil fuels is greatly enhanced by an international environment that enables countries to accelerate diversification and reduce dependence on fossil fuels. Those efforts operate in a context that often reproduces fossil fuel dependence. High costs of capital, debt burdens, limited access to concessional and non-debt-creating finance, technology gaps, fragmented financial regulation and standards, and investment rules and practice may privilege incumbent extractive sectors and reduce countries' ability to accelerate and scale up investment in the energy transition, building new industries, and supporting affected workers and territories. Whether in response to external shocks or as part of long-term development strategies, countries that choose to reduce their dependence on fossil fuels should be able to rely on a supportive international environment that enables successful and sustainable transitions.

Conceptual Framework[38]:

In many countries, public revenues, foreign exchange, and macroeconomic stability remain tied to oil, gas, or coal, making

[38] Adapted from: Thematic session document: Fiscal Dependence

transition decisions harder to sustain politically and fiscally. Within the broader context of macroeconomic vulnerabilities, the fiscal dimension is particularly important. Dependence on fossil-related revenues can leave public budgets exposed to volatile revenue cycles, fossil fuel subsidies and tax abatements can add to significant budgetary constraints, causing difficult trade-offs between near-term stability and longer-term transition objectives. In some cases, decarbonization policies may intensify these pressures by reducing revenue streams before alternative sources are fully in place. Macro-economic and fiscal constraints triggered by fossil fuel dependencies may limit the capacity of countries to invest in transition away from those dependencies.

Fiscal dependence on fossil fuels is one of the most consequential barriers to a just and orderly transition as it exposes many countries to structural vulnerabilities beyond energy. Where public revenues remain closely tied to oil, gas, or coal, governments may also face wider exposure to international price volatility and external shocks, with implications for trade balances, inflation, and, in some contexts, currency and debt pressures. These dynamics can narrow fiscal space and limit the ability of states to sustain productive, social, and transition-related investment precisely when long-term transformation requires it most.

Overcoming this dependence requires action on debt management, taxation, public revenue reform, economic transformation, and the wider national and international conditions that shape fiscal space. Countries experience dependence differently – ranging from extraction-related public revenues to price shock vulnerability and financing pressures for importing nations. Both producing and importing countries experience revenue dependency.

At the same time, national and international financial and tax arrangements do not always provide timely or adequate support: debt restructuring can be challenging, and tax rules may leave significant fossil rents, including extraordinary windfall profits, only partially captured, a problem that is further exacerbated by gaps in tax compliance and enforcement or loopholes that create opportunities for tax avoidance by major polluters. Addressing fiscal dependence therefore requires not only diversifying revenue sources, but also strengthening fiscal systems and improving the broader enabling environment. This includes, where relevant, better capture of resource rents, more effective and inclusive tax cooperation, access to affordable and non-debt-creating finance, and debt and budgetary approaches that help preserve fiscal space for transition investment.

The coalition brings together countries with different fiscal dependencies on fossil fuels. Some are producers, whose public revenues are more directly linked to extraction. Others are importers, more exposed to price volatility, inflation, and external financing pressures. Many see significant fiscal space used for fossil fuel subsidies. These differences can be a source of complementarity: they create space for exchange and cooperation on fiscal reform, debt treatment, tax cooperation, and broader efforts to scale international finance that can help members reduce vulnerability and strengthen fiscal resilience.

While fiscal and tax topics are discussed in other international fora, the work related to TAFF remains relevant in helping identify what kinds of joint initiatives, partnerships, and political signals should be advanced. Participants emphasized closer coordination across ministries, particularly finance, energy, and environment, as essential for addressing fiscal dependence effectively. Leveraging the coalition's collective power is therefore important to reduce fiscal dependence and expand fiscal space in support of a responsible and sustainable transition pathway.

Pathway 4 includes three main actions related to macroeconomic dependencies and financial architecture: 1) Strengthening sovereign transition capacity by overcoming macro-economic dependencies, including transformative action on debt and tax, 2) unlocking finance and investment flows required for the transition, including by accelerating and scaling-up deployment of IFI and DFI finance and addressing barriers in national and international financial architecture, 3) Reforming Subsidies and aligning financial incentives with the energy transition, including by enhancing transparency, phasing out fossil fuel incentives, stimulating transition investment

This pathway will be supported by Workstream 2 on addressing macroeconomic dependencies and financial architecture, including analysis in the preparation for the TAFF-2 Conference on how to overcome the fiscal, debt, and subsidy traps. Workstream 2 will be supported by the International Institute for Sustainable Development.

Action 4.1 Strengthening sovereign transition capacity by overcoming macro-economic dependencies, including transformative action on debt and tax.

Budgetary and fiscal constraints and debt burdens limit countries' ability to invest in the transition and align finance with long-term transformation needs. Fossil revenue dependence and external debt can jointly compress fiscal space, creating a double lock-in in which public budgets remain tied to volatile hydrocarbon income while debt service absorbs resources needed for transition, social protection, and productive investment. In some contexts, this is compounded by narrow tax bases, lack of instruments to tax high concentration of wealth, and limited alternative sources of public revenue able to replace dependence on extractive sectors.

Highlights of the debate

Submissions, virtual meetings' input and stakeholder consultations held at Santa Marta[39]:

Common elements across stakeholders' contributions and government submissions include volatile hydrocarbon revenues embedded in fiscal cycles, high external debt, loan-based climate finance, and an international financial environment that keeps the cost of capital high for many developing economies. There is broad convergence that fiscal dependence is not only a budgetary issue, but an economic, territorial, and social one, requiring structural reform rather than marginal adjustment.

A second recurring message is that fiscal reform must combine domestic revenue measures with multilateral action on debt and taxation. Frequently mentioned measures include debt-for-transition swaps, debt restructuring linked to transition investment, sovereign transition funds, coordinated tax reform on fossil rents, extraction taxes and royalty reform, taxation of extraordinary profits, carbon pricing and related fiscal instruments, green fiscal reform, financial transaction taxes, and the removal of fossil tax incentives. Several contributions also stress the need to tackle tax abuse, close loopholes, and strengthen anti-evasion and anti-avoidance cooperation so that public revenues are not eroded precisely when fiscal space is most needed.

Several stakeholder chapters also framed macroeconomic dependence as a question of economic sovereignty, historical inequality and structural power within the international economy. Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendant communities, NGOs, social movements, women-led organizations and parliamentarians emphasized that many countries remain trapped in fossil fuel dependence not because of a lack of ambition, but because debt burdens, unequal trade relations, volatile commodity revenues, tax abuse and limited fiscal space constrain their ability to pursue alternative development pathways. A third theme was that debt should be understood not only as a financial issue but as a structural obstacle to decarbonization and self-determination. Several stakeholders therefore called for more transformative approaches, including debt cancellation for countries facing unsustainable debt burdens, recognition of ecological debt and historical responsibilities, and a shift from loan-based climate finance towards grants-based, concessional and reparative forms of support. Many

[39] Adapted from: Thematic session document: Fiscal Dependence

contributions argued that countries cannot be expected to leave fossil fuels in the ground while simultaneously prioritizing debt servicing and navigating international financial conditions that continue to reward extraction and penalize diversification.

A fourth recurring theme was that strengthening sovereign transition capacity requires reforming the international rules and institutions that shape fiscal space. Stakeholders highlighted the importance of tackling tax abuse, illicit financial flows, profit shifting and harmful tax competition, while strengthening international tax cooperation through processes such as the UN Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation. Several contributions called for coordinated taxation of extraordinary fossil fuel profits, stronger application of polluter-pays principles, and reforms capable of capturing a fairer share of value from extractive activities to finance economic transformation. Others emphasized the need to democratize global financial governance, strengthen Global South representation in international financial institutions, improve access to concessional finance, and reform credit rating methodologies, lending practices and investment frameworks that can restrict policy space for transition. Across many submissions there was also strong support for ensuring that transition finance reaches communities, Indigenous Peoples, local governments and territorial actors directly, rather than remaining concentrated in national institutions or large financial intermediaries.

The contributions also reflect areas where views differ. On sequencing, some emphasize early subsidy reform and fossil-rent capture, while others stress that viable alternatives, economic diversification strategies and social protections must be in place first. On financing, some see blended and private finance as necessary for scale, while others warn that this can reproduce extractive logics, deepen inequality or constrain policy autonomy if public goals and risk allocation are not carefully designed. On implementation and access: while there is broad recognition of the need to scale investment, some submissions emphasize the importance of ensuring finance reaches subnational governments, Indigenous Peoples and local communities directly, alongside emerging perspectives on new metrics and approaches to better capture transition progress, wellbeing and resilience. There are also different views on the pace and feasibility of multilateral reforms on debt, taxation and financial governance, although many stakeholders stress that meaningful progress on these issues is ultimately indispensable for a just and durable transition away from fossil fuels

Quotes from the final outcome by stakeholders groups

The following table presents specific quotes from the stakeholder outcome presentations, the full texts may be consulted in Annex I.

P. 4. Develop or strengthen national and regional roadmaps to transition away from fossil fuels

Action 4.1. Strengthening sovereign transition capacity by overcoming macro-economic dependencies and expanding fiscal space

Group Name	Selected Quotes
Social Movements	The international financial architecture is not a neutral backdrop to the transition. It is one of its primary obstacles. Debt constrains the fiscal space countries need to invest in their own transitions. Debt-for-transition mechanisms, progressive taxation of fossil fuel rents, and direct finance channels for community-based organisations are not technical preferences. They are the prerequisites for a just transition".
Faith-based groups	We demand an end to the conditions that impose austerity measures, privatizations, and the surrender of common goods as collateral for payments to interests that do not serve our peoples. We can no longer accept that external debts become mechanisms of pressure that dictate our sovereign decisions and the fate of our territories
Indigenous Peoples	All relevant actors-including governments, the private sector, and corporations-must address their climate debt through direct public finance and prioritize absolute and direct emissions reductions, avoiding reliance on market-based schemes, such as those related to carbon and biodiversity, and any other current or future offset mechanisms that commodify nature.
Private Sector	Free up fiscal space in indebted countries for investment in green projects by scaling concessional and grant finance, guarantees, and well designed debt relief and restructuring (including debt for climate swaps), channelled through national development institutions and trust funds to support diversification, SMEs and community level projects. Increase the scale and ambition of carbon pricing schemes but ensure careful design and sequencing. Affordable green alternatives and targeted compensation via revenue recycling must be available to avoid harming low-income households and causing social unrest.
Academics SMART	Develop a multilateral legal framework under the UN, in harmony with a possible future Tax Convention, that would comprehensively address unsustainable and illegitimate debt, including through extensive debt cancellation, international trade reform, and equitable international climate funding, technology, and capacity transfers that offer a just transition for all to meet basic needs beyond fossil fuels.

As part of their core financial and price stability mandates, central banks need to deploy their monetary, prudential and other policy levers to support capital reallocation from high carbon assets to a clean energy system, as fossil fuels are a systemic source of economic and financial instability.

Provide targeted incentives and support green financing for systemic integration of clean energy production and end-use systems. Implement harmonised fossil fuel supply levies to stabilize prices, aligning market signals with decarbonisation while creating revenue to support regional transitions and invest in economic diversification... Internationally coordinated supply levies would help reflect national supply levies in international fossil fuel market prices and reduce the risk of market leakage.

Ministries in charge of climate change/environment, energy, finance, and trade Action recommendations:

a) Implement or strengthen carbon taxes or emissions trading schemes with broad coverage and policy settings geared for ambition.

b) Use targeted recycling of carbon revenues to address social impacts on vulnerable groups to increase fairness and acceptance.

c) Harmonise trade settings for energy-intensive commodities including petrochemicals to create an international level playing field, for example through border carbon adjustment

Trade Unions

The Global North must assume its own reparative responsibilities by canceling the debt owed by the Global South, accelerating the phase-out of fossil fuels, and transferring technologies and financial resources for mitigation, adaptation, loss and damage, and a just transition for the global South countries.

In this regard, we assert that the fight against tax evasion—aimed at generating extraordinary revenues—and the promotion of mandatory investment bonds for peace with nature must become legitimate sources of international financing. This requires a new global governance framework that confronts tax havens, controls capital flows, and recognizes the rights of nature as a limit to market power. There will be no real just transition if profits are privatized and costs are socialized; climate justice demands fiscal justice, union power, and a definitive break with the capitalist logic that turned life into a commodity.

Parliamentarians	A strong consensus emerged that decoupling fiscal health from fossil fuel revenues is essential to enabling the transition. Reform fiscal systems and energy subsidies to shift incentives away from fossil fuels and toward clean energy, while protecting vulnerable populations and supporting SMEs and rural communities... Institutionalization of green budgeting and budget tagging to track and redirect public finance.
Women & Diversities	It is fundamental to establish strong national and global policies that open up fiscal space towards social protections and remove barriers, such as debt cancellation, provision of highly-concessional, non-debt creating, public climate finance, and the reduction of military spending.
Subnational Governments	Whole-of-government coordination is critical. Subnationals must be formally included in decision-making processes and national government, state, city partnerships encouraged to bridge fossil fuel revenue and skills gaps.
Social Movements	Debt-for-transition mechanisms, progressive taxation of fossil fuel rents, and direct finance channels for community-based organisations are not technical preferences." "They are the prerequisites for a just transition.
Academic workstreams	To accelerate renewable energy while ensuring efficient public spending, countries could design support with exit plans to avoid dependency, strengthen ministerial capacity, and build on existing methodologies to assess combined policy impacts, sharing approaches across countries. Macro-fiscal challenges: For vulnerable countries, declining fossil fuel revenues and rising investment needs create debt risks, requiring flexible fiscal frameworks, improved debt assessments, and stronger international support, including concessional finance and debt relief. Economic rules, fiscal systems, and incentives will determine the outcome: Global systems of taxation, finance, trade, and investment currently sustain fossil fuel dependence... Reforming these systems -through fair taxation, better incentives, and stronger international cooperation- is essential to enable a just, effective, and sustainable transition".

Multilateral Development Banks & Development Finance Institutions	The transition from an economic structure that is deeply dependent on fossil fuels can be challenging, particularly while shifting to new sources of government revenue, moving from fossil fuel jobs to green jobs, and protecting the poor and vulnerable during the transition, including at times of price spikes and when disruptions occur. Targeting concessional finance and mobilizing private finance for transition investments will be essential for implementation at speed and scale, and to deliver the desired socio-economic outcomes.

High-Level Segment in Santa Marta

A technical roundtable on fiscal dependence facilitated by Irene Vélez-Torres, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development of Colombia discussed fiscal dependence as a major barrier to transition, for many producer countries, but also for import-dependent economies exposed to fossil-fuel price volatility, trade imbalances, and debt pressures. During the sessions participants discussed and highlighted:

- Fiscal dependence should be understood as part of a broader challenge of structural economic transformation, not simply as replacing one revenue source with another;
- Reforms need to be sequenced carefully, including investment in grids, interconnections, storage, clean cooking, and energy access, so that fiscal reform supports rather than undermines the transition;
- Domestic reforms will remain insufficient without changes in the wider international environment, especially regarding debt burdens, concessional and non-debt-creating finance, and broader reforms to the international financial architecture;
- Areas for cooperation include exporter-importer coordination, country platforms bringing together public and private actors, interministerial dialogue, stronger support for grid and infrastructure financing, and reform of multilateral development banks.
- Reducing fiscal dependence requires both stronger domestic institutions and a more supportive international framework that expands fiscal space, enables investment in alternatives, and links fiscal reform to long-term development and social benefit.

Co-hosts summary

Participants discussed that fiscal dependence on fossil fuels is a key constraint for countries to transition away from fossil fuels. It is not only a budgetary issue, but also a broader structural economic transformation and development challenge. Participants emphasized closer coordination across ministries, particularly finance, energy, and environment, as essential for addressing fiscal dependence effectively. Participants emphasized moving from fiscal lock-in and debt-constrained fiscal space to sovereign transition capacity, built on robust public financial management. Key suggestions include debt for climate swaps linked to transition investment, strengthened oversight of fossil assets, and the diversification of revenue sources like taxation. Leveraging debt restructuring, alongside sovereign funds, can unlock investment space. Ensuring funding direct access for indigenous peoples and other local communities is crucial, as is adopting time-based crisis measures to prevent undesirable fossil lock-in and new stranded assets.

Participants stressed the need to move from under-taxed fossil rents and revenue leakages to transformative fiscal policies. This transition is supported by an overview of national fossil rents, fossil-related revenue, incentives and taxes. Based on this overview, governments can coordinate reform of fossil rents, royalties and extraction taxes, and windfall profits. Participants also emphasized that taxation should send clear signals to fossil fuel companies and investors to redirect capital toward new sectors, while supporting revenue diversification through progressive tax reform, green budgeting and strategic public investment. Such measures should help level the playing field for green investments and industrialization, ensuring that fiscal policy both reduces fossil fuel dependence and supports equitable development pathways.

Participants discussed how to move from debt constraints to an enabling, international financial architecture. This would require stronger governance in international financial architecture such as coordinated positions in IFIs and MDBs. Participants highlighted the importance of the right conditions for scaling renewable energy, such as grid infrastructure and interconnectedness which IFIs and MDBs could take up in a coordinated approach. Proposed solutions focused on expanding concessional and non-debt-creating finance, exporter-importer coordination, improved access to climate finance, and multilateral approaches to sovereign debt and tax cooperation. A factor to take into account is that diversifying revenue sources could impact bond markets and credit ratings of countries. Ways forward could be looking at different methodologies for credit ratings that enable upfront investments for the transition. Finally, country platforms are crucial for aligning investments, risk sharing, and ensuring coherency with national plans. Hereby, bilateral or multilateral cooperation between importers and exporters could help develop more resilient and clean value chains.

Action Elements

Key Actors and Stakeholders

- Workstream participants
- TAFF Country Participants
- Ministers of Finance
- Central Banks (incl Academia Panel on central banks?)

Enabling conditions, instruments and safeguards

Enabling Conditions: Stronger coordination between fiscal, development, planning and transition institutions is essential to ensure that revenue reforms, debt strategies and public investment decisions support long-term economic transformation rather than short-term adjustment alone. Transition planning frameworks should link fiscal reform to national development objectives, productive diversification strategies, infrastructure planning and just transition priorities. Robust territorial information systems can help identify fiscal vulnerabilities, economic dependencies, transition risks and investment opportunities across regions and sectors, supporting more informed and targeted policy responses. Strengthened institutional and technical capacities, credible national transition plans and investment pipelines, and enhanced coordination across governments, financial institutions and stakeholders are also important enabling conditions for implementation.

Instruments: A broad range of fiscal, financial and institutional instruments can help countries overcome macroeconomic dependencies while expanding policy space for the transition away from fossil fuels. These include debt-for-transition swaps, debt restructuring and debt relief linked to transition investments, sovereign transition funds, and other mechanisms capable of reducing fiscal pressures while enabling long-term investments in economic transformation. In many cases, fossil-sector rents, extraordinary profits, related wealth and profit flows remain under-taxed, while loopholes, tax abuse, and weak international coordination allow revenue leakages that erode public resources. This can continue to favour investment in extractive sectors, limit states' ability to discourage expansion, and reduce the resources available for industrial policy, economic diversification, and broader structural transformation.

Additional instruments include progressive tax reforms to broaden and diversify the tax base; taxation of extraordinary profits, high-net-worth individuals and other forms of concentrated wealth, including where relevant large-scale land ownership; financial transaction taxes; carbon pricing and other fiscal instruments aligned with climate objectives; and measures to tackle tax abuse, illicit financial flows and revenue leakage. Country platforms, national transition plans and investment frameworks can help align public, private and international finance with transition priorities. Direct-access financing windows for territorial and community organizations, including Indigenous Peoples, can help ensure that resources reach actors at the forefront of implementation. Fiscal and financial strategies can further support the transition by channeling resources towards social protection, clean infrastructure, productive diversification, local value creation and other investments that reduce dependence on extractive activities.

Safeguards: Safeguards should ensure that fiscal and financial reforms strengthen economic resilience, expand policy space and support equitable development outcomes. Strong public financial management systems, transparency mechanisms and accountability frameworks are essential to ensure effective use of public resources and maintain public trust. Social compensation mechanisms and targeted support for vulnerable households, workers and affected territories should accompany fiscal reforms to avoid disproportionate impacts and strengthen political viability.

Environmental considerations should be integrated into fiscal decision-making through tools such as the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) and other approaches that account for environmental assets, ecosystem services and long-term sustainability. Safeguards should also ensure that debt, taxation and financial reforms contribute to productive diversification, territorial development and a just transition, while avoiding the reproduction of new forms of dependency, inequality or extractivism through transition-related investment and financing frameworks.

Action 4.2: Unlocking finance and investment flows required for the transition, including by accelerating and scaling-up deployment of IFI and DFI finance and addressing barriers in national and international financial architecture

The current financial architecture is not optimised to support the transition at scale. Finance can be fragmented, difficult to access, and insufficiently aligned with long-term structural transformation, limiting effectiveness of deployment of multilateral development bank instruments. High costs of capital, perceived risks, and limited concessional finance constrain investment, particularly in developing economies, while private capital mobilization can be accelerated.

Highlights of the debate

Submissions, virtual meetings' input and stakeholder meeting results in Santa Marta[40]:

Across submissions, finance is consistently identified as both a critical enabler and a systemic constraint to the transition away from fossil fuels. Countries highlight persistent barriers, including high costs of capital, limited access to concessional finance, and significant debt burdens that constrain fiscal space and crowd out investment. Financial flows are widely described as insufficient and poorly aligned with the needs of long-term structural transformation, with particular concern over the effectiveness and accessibility of multilateral development bank instruments. In response, there is strong convergence around priorities such as reforming multilateral development banks, advancing debt relief and debt-for-transition mechanisms, scaling blended finance and risk-sharing instruments, and strengthening country platforms to better align finance with national implementation needs.

Elements that appear across a range of submissions include: the importance of advancing proposed solutions through stronger articulation and coordination across existing international fora, including financial institutions, multilateral development banks, and climate processes; attention to country platforms, targeted coalitions, and dedicated coordination spaces to support implementation; and interest in better connecting financial, legal, and policy discussions, including through direct-access financing, debt-related approaches, and community co-design processes that emphasize gender equity and territorial rights for Indigenous Peoples and vulnerable communities.

Several stakeholder chapters also framed the challenge of financing the transition as a question of justice, power and international economic governance rather than simply one of mobilizing larger volumes of capital. Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendant communities, NGOs, social movements, women-led organizations and youth groups repeatedly emphasized that the current international financial architecture often reproduces the very dependencies that the transition seeks to overcome. Many contributions argued that countries and communities should not be expected to finance the transition through additional debt, particularly in contexts where historical emissions, unequal terms of trade and extractive development models have contributed to current vulnerabilities. A recurring proposal was therefore to expand grants-based, concessional and non-debt-creating forms of

[40] Adapted from: Thematic session document: Contributing to closing gaps in financial and investment systems

finance, while recognizing historical responsibilities and incorporating reparative approaches into climate and transition finance. Several stakeholders also highlighted the need to address structural barriers such as credit-rating methodologies, risk perceptions, lending conditionalities and financial regulations that continue to raise borrowing costs for developing countries pursuing ambitious transition pathways.

A second recurring theme was that questions of access and control over finance are as important as overall financial volumes. Many stakeholder chapters argued that transition finance should increasingly reach Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendant communities, women-led organizations, local governments, workers' organizations and other territorial actors directly rather than relying exclusively on national or international intermediaries. Contributions emphasized the importance of community co-design, free, prior and informed consent, gender-responsive financing mechanisms and stronger safeguards against green colonialism, land grabbing and the concentration of financial benefits among large corporations. Several stakeholders also stressed that public development banks, multilateral development banks and development finance institutions should play a more active role in supporting productive diversification, local value creation, territorial transition plans and community-owned energy systems, rather than focusing primarily on narrow project finance. Across many submissions there was a call to align financial flows not only with emissions reductions, but also with broader objectives of economic transformation, social justice, resilience and human rights.

The submissions also reflect areas where views are more differentiated. On institutional approaches: some emphasize reinforcing existing frameworks, while others highlight the potential role of complementary approaches, dedicated transition mechanisms and new international instruments. On finance: some contributions underscore the role of private and blended finance in mobilizing investment at scale, while others emphasize concessional public finance, debt relief, grants-based support and stronger public leadership, warning that poorly designed financial instruments can reproduce inequalities, concentrate benefits and constrain policy space. On legal pathways: perspectives range from targeted reforms to broader systemic changes addressing investment governance, debt architecture, credit-rating practices and litigation risks, alongside differing views on international financial responsibilities and the role of parallel processes such as MDB reform efforts, World Bank and International Monetary Fund processes, and Financing for Development discussions. While views differ on pathways and pace, there is broad recognition that unlocking the scale of finance required for the transition will ultimately depend on addressing deeper structural barriers within both national and international financial systems.

Quotes from the final outcome by stakeholders groups

The following table presents specific quotes from the stakeholder outcome presentations, the full texts may be consulted in Annex I.

P4. Overcoming fossil fuel-related macroeconomic dependencies, scaling up transition investment, and addressing barriers in the international and domestic

Action 4.2. Unlocking finance and investment flows required for the transition and closing gaps in financial and investment systems

Group Name	Selected Quotes
Social Movements	We call on the governments, and particularly on Colombia and the Netherlands as co-hosts, to champion in every relevant multilateral forum the structural reforms that communities and territories in the Global South need: expanded concessional finance, reformed multilateral bank governance, technology treated as a global public good, and binding South-South cooperation frameworks that build genuine industrial capacity.
Academics SMART	Countries should redirect public and private financial institutions' support of fossil fuel expansion, including overseas; and redirect those resources to support effective, evidence-based Just Transition activities.
Trade Unions	The international framework must undergo substantial reform to enable a just transition worldwide—and particularly in the Global South—that is legally binding and subject to union oversight, beginning with a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty and continuing with a phased-out plan for fossil fuels to meet the 1.5-degree target.
Parliamentarians	Reform the mandate and operational frameworks of development banks to align their activities with the objectives of a just and sustainable transition.

Academic workstreams	Reform international financial and trade systems (debt relief, climate finance, SDRs, reduced conditionalities) to expand policy space for Global South transitions.
Multilateral Development Banks and Development Finance Institutions	The development finance institutions have a large and proven toolbox of instruments, including recent innovations in the field of policy support, concessional finance, guarantees, risk mitigation, and investment mobilization. Priority can be given to deploy, replicate, and scale workable and impactful solutions, based on country context and real-world experience
Children and Youth	Climate finance must reach vulnerable children and youth without debt or sovereignty-undermining conditions, backed by accessible, binding participation mechanisms and access to climate justice.

High-Level Segment in Santa Marta

A technical roundtable on Contributing to closing gaps in financial and investment systems was facilitated by Irene Velez-Torres, Ministry of Environment of Colombia . At the roundtable participants discussed how financial and investment systems can better support the transition away from fossil fuels.

Participants discussed and highlighted that:

- Financial institutions need to be faster, better coordinated, and more responsive to country needs;
- Support should follow nationally defined pathways and priorities, not be imposed externally;
- Strong domestic enabling conditions were seen as essential: clear plans, roadmaps, regulation, and investment strategies; and a more functional international financial architecture is needed, with timely and concessional support.

Key financing needs mentioned included grids, storage, transport, public infrastructure, and broader economic transition, while debt pressures, limited fiscal space, and several participants mentioned that ISDS-related legal barriers were major obstacles. Suggested next steps included stronger country platforms, and mechanisms to match plans with finance, as well as work on debt, tax, and investment-system reform.

Additionally there was a broad discussion that the current international framework is insufficient because it does not directly address the production of fossil fuels or end-use sectors such as petrochemicals. NGOs noted that even “leading” countries like Norway and Australia continue to expand their production, which requires a clear roadmap for Tuvalu and the use of instruments such as the plastics treaty to address petrochemicals. The development of a dedicated international instrument for a managed phase-out and global transparency mechanisms to openly track reserves and infrastructure was discussed.

Participants also mentioned that governance cannot be effective without financial tools that support political decisions for transition, especially for the most vulnerable countries, noting currently there is no specific financial tool designed to support this transition on a large scale.

Co-hosts summary

The initial summary identifies a series of instruments and enabling conditions that will be further considered by the Workstream 2 Participants. Instruments and enabling conditions are included in Action 4.1.

Participants discussed that financial, legal, and investment systems continue to constrain implementation of the transition away from fossil fuels. It was clear that many countries cannot transition without expanding fiscal space, lowering the cost of capital, and ensuring that financial stability considerations are aligned with transition needs. They noted that finance is widely seen both as a critical enabler and a systemic constraint, and progress can jointly be made in relation to high costs of capital, availability and quality of concessional finance, innovative solutions to address debt burdens and expanding fiscal space, delay in fund flow, and the implementation of the full potential of the instruments of Multilateral Development Banks, development finance and International Financial Institutions. They discussed the use of tools such as Special Drawing Rights (SDRs), including through access and reallocation mechanisms that can better support low- and middle-income countries. They also discussed the link between transition policies and international legal and investment frameworks. This includes examples such as Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS), which by some were perceived as creating barriers, while the extent to which these barriers are perceived varies.

Participants identified aligning public and private finance with transition needs critical to enhance credible national transition plans and pipelines. They stressed the need for governments to provide clear and consistent direction for finance, better coordination with financial institutions, stronger institutional and technical capacity, effective public finance, enhance leveraging private sector finance, country-led investments such as NDCs and fiscal tools such as, debt relief, debt swaps, carbon pricing, green taxonomies and sovereign transition funds. Participants also highlighted guarantee schemes, equity instruments, country platforms, and legal frameworks for green bonds as practical ways to mobilize finance and reduce risks. A stronger role for public institutions was highlighted, including country led investment plans for MDBs and DFIs, with central banks also identified as relevant actors for managing transition-related financial stability risks and avoiding higher capital costs for transition finance. Key financing needs mentioned included grids, storage, transport, public infrastructure, and broader economic transition.

Participants discussed managing financial and legal dimensions and strengthening coordinated approaches to enable implementation to transition away from fossil fuels. Dialogue platforms, joint initiative and requests to multilateral financial institutions, technical assistance, and knowledge-sharing on the financial and legal dimensions can significantly accelerate the transition. Key examples are reviewing and improving international investment agreements, alignment of trade rules, as well as clarification of the legitimacy of transition policies within investment regimes. Broader cooperation ideas included a space on financial stability for the transition, and more work on exchanging solutions on financial structuring, debt, fiscal space strategies, and mobilising investments. Some participants also highlighted the importance of coordinated approaches to address legal risks due to regulatory action in favour of the transition, strengthen corporate accountability, protect policy space, and ensure that transition finance and investment do not create unsustainable debt burdens, extractive dependencies or social and environmental harm.

Action Elements

Key Actors and Stakeholders

- Ministers of Finance (IFI Board members)
- IFIs
- DFIs

Enabling conditions, instruments and safeguards

Enabling Conditions: Scaled-up deployment of concessional and blended finance from international financial institutions (IFIs) and development finance institutions (DFIs); Lower cost of capital and improved access to finance for developing countries; Reforms to international financial architecture that expand fiscal space and address debt constraints; Strong policy certainty, investment pipelines, and regulatory frameworks aligned with transition goals.

Instruments: Concessional loans, guarantees, blended finance facilities, and risk-sharing mechanisms; Debt-for-climate, debt-for-transition, and debt-for-development swaps; Transition investment platforms and country-led financing partnerships; Public development banks and sovereign transition funds to crowd in private investment; Innovative fiscal and financial mechanisms that mobilize new resources for diversification and clean energy deployment.

Safeguards: Finance aligned with just, orderly, and equitable transition principles; Prioritization of vulnerable countries and fossil-fuel-dependent economies; Transparency, accountability, and measurable development and climate outcomes; Protection of fiscal sovereignty and avoidance of unsustainable debt burdens; Support for workers, communities, and productive diversification as part of transition investments.

Action 4.3: Reforming Subsidies and aligning financial incentives with the energy transition, including by: enhancing transparency and phasing out fossil fuel incentives, stimulating the transition.

Conceptual Framework[41]

Fossil-fuel subsidies and other financial incentives are deeply embedded in broader systems of affordability management, industrial support, and political stabilization. Their removal can trigger regressive impacts, inflationary pressures, resistance from affected sectors, and loss of public trust — especially where clean alternatives remain inaccessible or underdeveloped.

Even where domestic willingness exists, governments often operate in an environment that still favours fossil fuels: high costs of capital for clean alternatives, public and private finance locked into long-lived fossil infrastructure, competitiveness concerns, inconsistent subsidy definitions and reporting across jurisdictions, and international financial arrangements that make reform politically and economically harder to sustain.

Fossil fuel subsidies and misaligned financial incentives keep fossil fuels artificially competitive, delay the deployment of clean alternatives, often predominantly benefit the richest parts of the population and impose disproportionate costs on vulnerable households — while the political economy of reform makes it hard for any country to act alone. Redirecting these incentives requires coordinated efforts among a group of countries and actors that can share the costs of reform and create the international conditions that make it more feasible.

[41] Adapted from: Thematic session document: Financial Incentives, held on 28 April, facilitated by the Netherlands — Stientje van Veldhoven, Minister of Climate Policy and Green Growth.

Fossil fuel subsidies and misaligned financial incentives keep fossil fuel use artificially competitive, weaken incentives for efficiency and electrification, and delay the scale-up of clean alternatives. In many countries they serve overlapping functions — managing energy prices, containing inflationary pressures, and responding to energy poverty — which makes reform politically complex even where the economic and climate case is clear. The core challenge is not only whether subsidies should be reduced, but how to redesign the broader system of incentives that continues to privilege fossil fuels, replacing generalized support with more targeted support and equitable instruments and redirecting public finance toward clean energy, energy access, and social protection.

Fragmented carbon pricing and uncoordinated subsidy policies create competitiveness concerns and present risks that require shared solutions. Therefore, international cooperation is essential. For many economies — particularly those with limited fiscal space or high costs of capital — reform will be easier to sustain with shared definitions, transparent reporting, peer accountability, and access to concessional finance. The reorientation of financial incentives is both a domestic policy challenge and a matter for international cooperation.

Highlights of the debate

Submissions, virtual meetings' input and stakeholder meeting results in Santa Marta[42]:

Elements that appear with frequency across stakeholder groups and government submissions include: comprehensive subsidy inventories as a prerequisite for credible reform; replacement of generalized subsidies with targeted transfers for vulnerable households rather than removal without compensation; predictable and differentiated phase-out timelines; and reinvestment of savings into renewable energy, energy access, and social protection to sustain political viability.
Several stakeholder chapters also framed subsidy reform as a broader question of public priorities, political economy and justice. Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendant communities, NGOs, social movements, women-led organizations and academic contributors emphasized that fossil fuel subsidies should be understood not only as fiscal expenditures but as mechanisms that shape investment decisions, development trajectories and the distribution of public resources. Many contributions called for comprehensive transparency regarding fossil fuel subsidies, tax expenditures, public guarantees, concessional lending,

[42] Adapted from: Thematic session document: Financial Incentives, held on 28 April, facilitated by the Netherlands — Stientje van Veldhoven, Minister of Climate Policy and Green Growth.

export credit support and other forms of direct and indirect financial assistance that continue to favour fossil fuel production and consumption. A recurring message was that reform efforts should be guided by the polluter-pays principle and accompanied by stronger taxation of extraordinary fossil fuel profits, ensuring that those who have benefited most from fossil fuel extraction contribute fairly to financing the transition.

A recurring theme was that the objective should not be limited to phasing out harmful incentives but also to actively redirect public support towards socially desirable alternatives. Several stakeholder chapters highlighted opportunities to channel resources into community-owned renewable energy systems, energy access initiatives, public transport, territorial transition plans, agroecology, ecosystem restoration, care economies and other sectors capable of generating social and environmental benefits. Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendant communities and social movements emphasized that new financial incentives should not reproduce extractive models under a green label and should be designed in accordance with free, prior and informed consent, territorial rights and fair benefit-sharing principles. Trade unions and community-based organizations further stressed the importance of ensuring that savings from subsidy reform support workers, vulnerable households and affected territories through robust social protection measures and long-term public investment.

The submissions also reflect areas where views differ. On sequencing, a significant share of contributions—particularly from governments with high fossil-fuel dependence, trade unions and social movements—favour building viable clean alternatives and social protection systems before removing subsidies, while others—including international climate finance actors and academics—point to the fiscal, environmental and political risks of prolonged delay. On the broader architecture of financial incentives, the private sector synthesis and several government submissions see stronger emissions trading systems, carbon pricing and other market-based instruments as necessary long-term signals for investment. Social movement organizations, women-led groups and community-based organizations note that without robust redistribution mechanisms, democratic oversight and explicit safeguards, these instruments may shift costs onto lower-income households and vulnerable communities. Indigenous Peoples and Afro-descendant contributors add a further consideration, stressing that the reorientation of public support should strengthen territorial rights, self-determination and local value creation rather than creating new forms of extractive dependence. Across contributions there are also differing views regarding the pace and scale of reform, although there is broad agreement that financial incentives across the economy should become progressively aligned with the objective of a just, orderly and equitable transition away from fossil fuels

Quotes from the final outcome by stakeholders groups

The following table presents specific quotes from the stakeholder outcome presentations, the full texts may be consulted in Annex I.

P. 4. Mutual cooperation and learning to overcome fossil-fuel-related macro-economic dependencies and reform the international financial architecture

ction 4.3. Reforming Subsidies and aligning financial incentives with the energy transition, including by: enhancing transparency and phasing out fossil fuel incentives, stimulating the transition.

Group Name	Selected Quotes
Social Move-ments	Governments must now move from the declarations made in this conference to binding implementation. That means long- lasting debt restructuring linked to the transition investments that benefit all. It means eliminating fossil fuel subsidies and redirecting those resour-ces to social protection and community energy access. And it means countries in the Global South having the fiscal space to lead their own transitions rather than receiving them as conditioned packages from outside.
Indigenous Peoples	rioritize the activities and initiatives of Indigenous Peoples that con-tribute to local, regional, and global climate regulation, including their pathways for a Just Transition, when considering schemes for the elimination and/or redirection of fossil fuel subsidies and incentives for low-carbon technologies.
Private Sector	The importance of fossil fuel subsidy reform is widely recogni-sed, but reforms must be carefully sequenced and designed to protect vulnerable communities and low income households. Governments should map their fossil fuel subsidies, using recent methodologies such as developed by countries in the COFFIS initiative. Reform must be twinned with cash transfers, targeted subsidies, lifeline tariffs and rebates to protect the vul-nerable and reduce the risk of social backlash. Subsidy reform should also direct funding into decarbonisation projects and, in some cases, be used to support businesses.
A cademics (SMART)	Ministries in charge of climate change/environment, energy, fi-nance, and trade Action recommendations: Phase out subsidies on fossil fuel production and consumption.

Trade Unions	We propose financing based on common but differentiated responsibilities, provided through grants and debt-for-climate swaps, grounded in principles of fiscal justice that directly combat tax evasion, tax havens, illicit financial flows, and the reorientation of fossil fuel subsidies, while taxing the windfall profits of energy corporations, ensuring that the cost does not fall on household bills or public debt.
Parliamentarians	Reform of energy taxation and subsidy systems to remove fossil fuel incentives. Strengthening of oversight mechanisms, including scrutiny of public investment, climate-related liabilities, and alignment with international obligations and treaties. Progressive phase-out of fossil fuel subsidies and reallocation toward clean energy and public services
Women & Diversities	All state actors, particularly those in the Global North, due to their historical debt and responsibility, are responsible for the critical reallocation of public resources away from fossil-fuel-based and militarized sectors and towards stronger social protections and care-based sectors.
Subnational Governments	Subnationals grapple with the same issues as national governments - fiscal dependence, subsidy reform, and the complexities of a just workforce transition. Countries can collectively reform fossil fuel subsidies by agreeing on a standard methodology for FFS inventories, with a common minimum baseline while allowing more ambitious approaches, such as incorporating externalities... To partially address carbon leakage—where removing tax incentives shifts industry without reducing emissions—countries could endorse the Global Minimum Tax.
Academic workstreams	To accelerate renewable energy while ensuring efficient public spending, countries could design support with exit plans to avoid dependency, strengthen ministerial capacity, and build on existing methodologies to assess combined policy impacts, sharing approaches across countries.

High-Level Segment in Santa Marta

During the Santa Marta high-level segment, a technical roundtable on Financial Incentives facilitated by Stientje van Veldhoven, Minister of Climate Policy and Green Growth (the Netherlands), addressed the following issues:

- Fossil fuel subsidies disproportionately benefit high-income households.
- Reform must redirect support toward vulnerable populations and clean energy, backed by green budgeting and public communication to gain support and counter misinformation.

- Carbon taxes and pricing mechanisms are widely recognized as effective policy levers, but implementation capacity—especially in the Global South—remains low.
- Revenues from carbon taxes must be earmarked to protect low-income households and/or support the transition, not absorbed into general budgets.
- Combining positive incentives for renewables, the elimination of fossil fuel subsidies, and carbon pricing;
- Subsidies must be progressive and socially targeted;
- Coalitions like COFFIS can support subsidy phase-out processes, while transparency inventories are a concrete near-term commitment;
- Savings and revenues should be reinvested in energy efficiency, technology, public infrastructure, and R&D — but with context-sensitive priorities: e.g., electric vehicles and appliances in the Global North; public transportation and other public investment in the Global South where public transportation is still an unresolved issue that needs attention.

Co-host summary

Participants discussed that fossil fuel subsidies and misaligned financial incentives continue to keep fossil fuels artificially competitive, delay clean alternatives, and create distributional tensions. They recognized that countries differ in the social and political functions of subsidies, in fiscal space and institutional capacities, as well as in access to clean alternatives. This can affect the timing of reform.

Participants identified credible fossil fuel subsidy transparency and reform as an important step. Discussed actions include fossil fuel subsidy inventories, progress tracking, including shared approaches to defining and reporting subsidies.

The Coalition on Phasing Out of Fossil Fuel Incentives Including Subsidies (COFFIS) stands ready to support countries with taking the first step: identifying fossil fuel subsidies and making them transparent in a way that covers explicit and implicit subsidies, fiscal costs, distribution and impacts.

Furthermore, participants frequently discussed replacement of generalized subsidies with targeted transfers for vulnerable groups, and policy packages linking gained fiscal space with (financial) support for investment in clean alternatives. Participants stressed the need to establish proper safeguards so that incentives benefit people most in need rather than higher-income groups.

Participants also discussed creating an enabling international environment for meaningful financial incentives reform. Commonly discussed solutions include stronger carbon pricing with a broader coverage in terms of sectors and geographies, and peer review and technical cooperation. Subsidy reform should go hand in hand with financial incentives for cleaner alternatives.

Action Elements

Key Actors and Stakeholders

- COFFIS
- IISD
- IFIs (including IMF)
- OECD
- Ministries of Finance and of Energy
- Workstream 2 participants including Parlamentarians

Enabling conditions, instruments and safeguards

Enabling conditions:[43] National transparency frameworks for fossil-fuel support; social registries and compensatory delivery mechanisms; strong public communication and narrative-building; integrated planning linking subsidy reform to affordability, infrastructure, and clean-energy access; monitoring systems tracking both savings and redistribution; and participatory mechanisms allowing workers, communities, and affected groups to shape reform design and sequencing.

Transparency and reporting platforms backed by participating countries; technical assistance and shared legislative or regulatory models; stronger alignment across development banks, export credit agencies, and public finance institutions; coordinated positions on fiscal and financial reforms in relevant international forums; de-risking and concessional financing windows for clean alternatives; and cooperation mechanisms that help members demonstrate reform is compatible with equity, energy security, and development priorities.

Instruments:[44] Comprehensive subsidy inventories and disclosure frameworks; predictable and differentiated phase-out timelines; replacement of generalized fossil-fuel subsidies with targeted transfers and social protection for vulnerable households; reinvestment of reform savings into renewable energy, energy access, public transport, energy efficiency, and other visible public goods; and policy packages combining subsidy reform with complementary demand-side measures and support for clean alternatives.

Shared approaches to defining and reporting fossil-fuel subsidies; peer review and technical cooperation mechanisms; coordinated efforts to phase out public support for fossil infrastructure and to strengthen climate-aligned carbon pricing and fiscal instruments; concessional and non-debt-creating finance to scale alternatives; multilateral development bank and development finance institution reform to stop reinforcing fossil lock-in; and cooperative approaches supporting reinvestment in clean energy and socially just transition measures.

[43] Adapted from: Thematic session document: Financial Incentives, held on 28 April, facilitated by The Netherlands — Stientje van Veldhoven, Minister of Climate Policy and Green Growth.
[44] Adapted from: Thematic session document: Financial Incentives, held on 28 April, facilitated by The Netherlands — Stientje van Veldhoven, Minister of Climate Policy and Green Growth.

Pathway 4 Summary Table

The following table summarizes this pathway's key elements:

P4. Overcoming fossil fuel-related macroeconomic dependencies, scaling up transition investment, and addressing barriers in the international and domestic		
Actions	**Key actors and stakeholders**	**Enabling conditions, instruments and safeguards**
4.1 Strengthening sovereign transition capacity by overcoming macro-economic dependencies and expanding fiscal space, including transformative action on tax and debt.	Workstream 2 participants TAFF Country Participants Ministers of Finance Central Banks IFIs IISD and CPRP	To be completed by workstream 2 leading to TAFF-2
4.2 Unlocking finance and investment flows required for the transition and closing gaps in financial and investment systems, including by accelerating and scaling-up deployment of IFI and DFI finance and addressing national and international financial architecture barriers	Countries Ministers of finance and energy IFIs Parlamentarians IISD and CPRP Workstream 2 participants	... to be completed by workstream 2 leading to TAFF-2
4.3. Reforming Subsidies and aligning financial incentives with the energy transition, including by: enhancing transparency and phasing out fossil fuel incentives, stimulating the transition.	COFFIS IISD IFIs (including IMF) OECD Ministries of Finance and of Energy Parlamentarians IISD and CPRP Workstream 2 participants	To be completed by workstream 2


Stientje van Veldhoven
Minister for Climate and Green Growth
of the Netherlands

Pathway 5: Aligning producers and consumers towards decarbonised trade balances and supporting green economic transformation

This section of the Report summarizes the results of discussions, submissions and recommendations related to the role of trade, investment and international economic cooperation in supporting the transition away from fossil fuels. Certain participants highlighted that fossil fuel dependence is often embedded not only in energy systems but also in trade structures, export profiles, import dependence, investment patterns, transport networks and global value chains. As a result, the transition requires more than changes in domestic energy policy. It also requires greater alignment between producers and consumers, stronger cooperation across countries with different roles in energy and commodity markets through multi beneficial partnerships, and reforms to the international economic frameworks that continue to shape incentives for fossil fuel production and consumption.

Pathway 5 includes two main actions to strengthen international cooperation in areas that are increasingly recognized as critical for the implementation of a transition away from fossil fuels: (1) advance the green economic transformation to stimulate clean demand through partnerships ; and (2) Cooperation and mutual learning to address governance gaps in international investment systems. Together, these actions seek to improve coherence between climate, trade, investment and development objectives, while creating enabling international conditions for countries pursuing a just, orderly and equitable transition away from fossil fuels.

Pathway 5 will be further developed by Workstream 3 on producer-consumer alignment for green markets in the preparation for the TAFF-2 Conference, with the support of OECD.

Action 5.1. Align producers and consumers, advance towards fossil fuel-free trade flows and supporting the green transformation

Conceptual Framework

Many countries remain dependent on fossil fuel imports, exports, shipping routes, industrial supply chains, transport systems and fossil-intensive patterns of production and consumption. Often, this is because alternative clean energy, green products and -markets are not competitive enough, or accessible for a large group of countries. As a result, progress towards transitioning away from fossil fuels requires not only domestic action, but also greater cooperation among countries occupying different positions within global energy and trade systems. In order to phase-down fossil fuels, alternative sources of renewable energy, feedstocks and green products must be competitive and available on the international markets.

Highlights of the debate

Submissions, virtual meetings' input and stakeholder meeting results in Santa Marta:

Strengthening internationally coordinated approaches regarding the implementation of sustainable, reliable and equitable energy systems was identified as a priority. Participants noted the importance of exploring how producers and consumers can cooperate to align supply-side and demand-side transformations, reduce transition risks, create mutually reinforcing incentives, and accelerate the emergence of cleaner patterns of production, consumption and trade. On the supply-side, participants stressed the importance of a managed and gradual decline of the use of fossil fuels. On the demand-side, participants emphasized that energy access and clean energy must be at the centre of the transition.Participants also emphasized that decarbonising supply and demand should be understood as part of a broader transformation of economic and energy systems. Trade frameworks, industrial strategies, alternative feedstocks, infrastructure investments, technology cooperation, green value chains and competitive green products all influence countries' ability to diversify economies, strengthen resilience and capture the benefits of the transition. Several participants highlighted opportunities to develop new forms of cooperation around clean industrial development, renewable energy value chains, critical minerals governance, low-carbon transport systems, and sustainable production networks.

The challenge of creating competitive green markets, and also stimulate trade in clean products,was perceived as an issue that intersects with climate, finance, and industrial policies. Among proposed solutions, academia and civil society contributions tend to emphasize the need to reform existing trade rules (like those of the World Trade Organization) to remove barriers to clean technologies the importance of global coordination in sectors like shipping, aviation, steel, cement, and petrochemicals through international standards and targeted technological solutions (like Sustainable Aviation Fuels) to successfully decarbonize them, and to introduce measures like carbon taxes on trade-embedded emissions under principles of common but differentiated responsibilities to internalize environmental costs. The Private Sector views the transformation of trade primarily through the lens of maintaining industrial competitiveness. They advocate for clear market signals, such as Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanisms (CBAMs) and Contracts for Difference (CfDs). Also, for hard-to-abate sectors, like shipping and aviation, the availability and affordability of sustainable fuels are important. Governments focus on creating new diplomatic and economic alignments, such as “buyers' and sellers' clubs” and revising bilateral or multilateral trade agreements to support low-carbon value chains. There are also opposing views on these issues, such as on how and which international legal, trade and investments agreements or systems to adjust.

There is broad agreement on the need to develop diversified productive bases that can generate resilient livelihoods, economic sovereignty and greater value creation. Frequently mentioned areas include bioeconomy, agroecology, clean manufacturing, circular economy, sustainable tourism, local renewable energy, care economies and other regionally grounded sectors. Commonly proposed measures include productive diversification strategies, regional industrial cooperation, technology transfer, local value addition requirements, support for sustainable value chains, locally led development strategies, and safeguards against new forms of extractive dependence. Across many contributions, diversification is understood not simply as a way of replacing fossil fuel revenues, but as a pathway towards more resilient, equitable and territorially rooted development models capable of improving wellbeing while reducing dependence on volatile commodity markets.

Several stakeholder chapters also emphasized that the transition away from fossil fuels requires transforming the international economic relationships that have historically tied many countries to extractive development models. Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendant communities, peasant organizations, NGOs, social movements and academic contributors repeatedly highlighted that many developing economies remain dependent on exporting raw materials while importing higher-value-added goods, limiting their ability to capture the benefits of economic transformation. From this perspective, aligning producers and consumers is not simply a matter of coordinating energy markets but of creating pathways for structural transformation, technology upgrading and local value creation. Many stakeholders stressed that trade, investment and industrial policies should support countries in moving beyond commodity dependence, avoiding new forms of extractive specialization linked to critical minerals, bioenergy or other transition-related resources, and strengthening domestic and regional productive capacities.

Another recurring theme was the importance of ensuring that emerging green trade systems are equitable and consistent with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. Several stakeholders argued that countries with higher historical emissions and greater technological and financial capacities should move first in reducing fossil fuel demand and supporting industrial transformation elsewhere. Concerns were raised that some emerging trade measures, standards or carbon-related border adjustments could become de facto barriers for developing countries if not accompanied by finance, technology transfer and capacity-building. Contributions from Indigenous Peoples, social movements, women-led organizations and NGOs also emphasized that new green value chains should be governed through strong human rights, labour, environmental and territorial safeguards, including free, prior and informed consent, protection against land grabbing, and mechanisms to prevent green colonialism. Across several submissions there was support for stronger South-South cooperation, regional industrial strategies and regional value chains as means of reducing dependence on external markets, strengthening resilience and retaining a greater share of transition-related value within producing countries and regions.

Areas where views diverge include the implementation of Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanisms (CBAMs) and “green” trade standards that might impose or transfer costs for developing economies. Some stakeholders mentioned equity, common but differentiated responsibilities and other relevant UNFCCC principles as key underpinnings of a balanced approach. In that regard, they emphasised the need to assess whether proposed trade measures risk creating arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination, disguised restrictions on international trade, or disproportionate compliance burdens for developing countries. Any proposed policy instrument must demonstrate how it contributes to emissions reduction while preserving development policy space, supporting economic diversification, and avoiding the transfer of decarbonisation costs onto developing-country producers. There are also differing views regarding how trade, investment and intellectual property frameworks should evolve to support the transition, ranging from targeted adjustments within existing systems to more far-reaching reforms of international economic governance aimed at expanding policy space for industrial development, technology diffusion and the transition away from fossil fuels.

High-Level Segment in Santa Marta

The second round of technical roundtables on Fiscal Dependence addressed the issue of trade imbalances and debt pressures. Participants highlighted that fossil fuel dependence is frequently embedded in trade balances. Participants discussed and highlighted that areas for cooperation include exporter-importer coordination, country platforms bringing together public and private actors, interministerial dialogue, stronger support for grid and infrastructure financing, and reform of multilateral development banks.

During the final plenary round, many countries also referred to trade-balance related issues. Sweden highlighted the work ofthe World Economic Forum (WEF) and other groups on trade systems. Singapore noting an upcoming trade and climate dialogue in the UNFCCC and the UK encouraging bringing the spirit of the conference into financial processes such as the Council of Finance Ministers.

Quotes from the final outcome by stakeholders groups

The following table presents specific quotes from the stakeholder outcome presentations, the full texts may be consulted in Annex I.

P. 5. Cooperation and mutual learning to decarbonise trade balances and move towards a fossil-free trade system and address governance gaps on investment systems

Action 5.1. Decarbonise trade balances and advance towards a fossil fuel-free trade system

Group Name	Selected Quotes
Private Sector	While generally supportive of clear and predictable market signals to accelerate decarbonization—including instruments such as Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanisms (CBAMs) and Contracts for Difference (CfDs)—stakeholders noted that high tariffs, fragmented standards and other trade barriers continue to slow the global diffusion of renewable technologies. They also emphasized that the design of emerging green regulations, including CBAMs, product standards and traceability requirements, should take into account the circumstances of developing countries to avoid creating unintended barriers for exporters.

	Support global supply chain cooperation. Promote more inclusive and balanced participation in renewable energy value chains across regions. The International Maritime Organisation provides a model for how new markets for green fuels such as green ammonia can be developed quickly.
Academics SMART	Efficient trade with incentives for investment in new, clean industrial installations can be achieved through international harmonization of carbon price incentives.Harmonise trade settings for energy-intensive commodities including petrochemicals to create an international level playing field.
Trade Unions	We demand a ban on energy exports that fuel genocide, wars and other crimes, and that energy companies be held accountable for their crimes throughout the entire supply chain, from extraction to final consumption. It is essential to apply binding ILO due diligence standards across the entire clean energy value chain to prevent precarious work.
Parliamentarians	Address systemic barriers in global economic governance, including international trade rules and ISDS mechanisms, to ensure they do not hinder climate action or fossil fuel phase-out. For many importing countries, dependence is expressed through trade deficits, price volatility and energy insecurity.
Academic workstreams	Blueprints for producer-consumer dialogues exist in multiple forms but need to be operationalised. Consumer bloc coordination can create a demand signal to producers. Existing fossil trade can be used to structure exporter-importer partnerships anchored in fiscal constraints, energy security and development priorities.

Co-hosts summary

The co-hosts Takeaway document mentions the transition itself is complex, requiring time and careful management. It needs to ensure that communities and economies which rely on fossil fuel production and consumption can move to new economic models, while global clean energy access continues to expand as well. Above all, however, it is clear that decarbonizing our economic and energy systems is the best path towards equitable, stable and resilient societies. International partnerships in which knowledge and goods can be exchanged and green demand is stimulated is very important.

It then sets out a specific workstream on producer–consumer alignment to advance the green economic transformation by the OECD. Also other experts will work onmapping opportunities and partnershipsto connect producers and consumers, in order to further decarbonize various economic sectors. Aside from economic diversification, this workstream will take into account how to make transitions people-centered and territorially grounded[41].

Action Elements

Key Actors and Stakeholders

- OECD
- South Centre
- Producer and consumer countries;
- Trade, energy and economic ministries;
- International investment systems and regional economic integration mechanisms;
- International trade and development institutions;
- Private sector actors and value-chain participants;
- Workers, communities and civil society organizations affected by trade transitions.
- Workstream 3 participants.

Enabling conditions, instruments and safeguards

Enabling conditions: Stronger policy coherence between climate, trade, industrial and development policies, making it aligned with the goals of the Paris Agreement. International cooperation, technology transfer, investment in sustainable infrastructure and support for productive diversification.

Instruments: Mapping trade relations and among members of the coalition, building green partnerships to share knowledge and technology, stimulate instruments for competitive green products and further enhance economic diversification.

Safeguards: Safeguards should ensure that new trade arrangements do not reproduce existing inequalities, create new forms of extractive dependence, or undermine countries' ability to pursue development pathways consistent with their national priorities and transition objectives.

Action 5.2. International investment systems

Conceptual framework

Structural barriers within international legal and investment frameworks are identified as key factors limiting the implementation of the transition away from fossil fuels. Some participants identified the need for greater cooperation and mutual learning to better understand

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and address governance gaps in international investment systems, including how these systems may, in certain circumstances, work at cross-purposes with States' ability to regulate and direct investment towards economic diversification and the transition beyond fossil fuels.. Several contributions pointed to the importance of reviewing and improving international investment agreements, strengthening legal and institutional capacities, and identifying approaches that can reduce exposure to transition-related disputes while preserving governments' ability to pursue legitimate public policy objectives.

Several participants also mentioned that the risk of litigation and compensation claims may create regulatory uncertainty and discourage ambitious action, while current frameworks, such as Investor State Dispute Settlement are for some stakeholders not always aligned with climate objectives or with the legitimacy of measures aimed at managing the decline of fossil fuel production and consumption, while the extent to which these barriers are perceived varies Some participants noted that these challenges reflect broader misalignments between financial, legal, and climate systems that hinder progress at the required scale and speed[42].

Highlights of the debate

Submissions, virtual meetings' input and stakeholder meeting results in Santa Marta:

Stakeholders identified significant governance gaps in international investment, trade and corporate accountability frameworks. Existing investment treaties and Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) were repeatedly cited as potential barriers to ambitious climate action, creating legal and financial risks for governments seeking to phase out fossil fuels. Participants called for reforms that preserve policy space for climate action, alongside stronger international standards on corporate accountability, mandatory human rights and environmental due diligence, transparent contracts, and safeguards against green colonialism, land grabbing and the externalization of transition costs to vulnerable territories. Several stakeholders also advocated for stronger coordination of carbon pricing, trade measures and tax policies to ensure that climate objectives are not undermined by competing economic incentives.

Some participants discussed the importance of creating spaces for countries, experts, affected communities and relevant stakeholders to exchange experiences and develop practical approaches to addressing investment-related barriers to the transition. Several contributions highlighted the need to

[42] Adapted from: Thematic session document: Contributing to closing gaps in financial and investment systems

better understand the implications of international investment mechanisms, such as ISDS, and its alignment with transition policies, and to explore possible pathways for improvement.

A group of academic participants proposed the establishment of a working group with participation from affected communities, public-interest organizations, vulnerable groups, academics and Indigenous Peoples to collectively address ISDS as a barrier to a transitioning away from fossil fuels and report back on progress at future conferences.

Quotes from the final outcome by stakeholders groups

The following table presents specific quotes from the stakeholder outcome presentations, the full texts may be consulted in Annex I.

P. 5. Aligning producers and consumers towards decarbonised trade balances and supporting green economic transformation

Action 5.2. International investment systems

Group Name	Selected Quotes
Private Sector	Although empirical evidence suggests limited litigation impact to date, investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) mechanisms are perceived as potential constraints on sovereign climate action, creating uncertainty and risk aversion. Investment protection frameworks (including both national law and investment treaty provisions) should be designed to give investors confidence, while also being compatible with governments' rights to regulate in the public interest.
Academics SMART	Currently, ISDS allows fossil fuel corporations to sue governments for millions or billions, resulting in a chilling effect on climate policy through the threat of costly arbitration. To overcome this, nations must move beyond fragmented efforts and pursue coordinated action to nullify the threat from ISDS, in international investment agreements and contracts. Action recommendations: Countries agree to launch and lead a working group with participation of affected communities, public interest organizations, vulnerable groups, academics, and Indigenous Peoples to collectively address ISDS as a barrier to the just transition away from fossil fuels and report back on progress in implementing these recommendations at subsequent conferences on the Transition Away from Fossil Fuels.

Trade Unions	We demand the abolition of the investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) regime, which empowers transnational corporations to challenge measures taken democratically and in accordance with national sovereignty in the public interest.
Parliamentarians	Address systemic barriers in global economic governance, including international trade rules and ISDS mechanisms, to ensure they do not hinder climate action or fossil fuel phase-out. Reform the ISDS system to exclude fossil fuel investments, preventing its use as a barrier to transition policies.
Academic workstreams	The elimination of ISDS provisions in investment treaties would be most efficiently and effectively achieved through plurilateral coordination, alongside collective withdrawal from the ICSID Convention. Finally, States should launch and lead a working group, with meaningful non-State participation, to collectively address ISDS as a barrier to the just transition away from fossil fuels and to report back on progress in implementing these recommendations at subsequent Conferences on the Transition Away from Fossil Fuels.

High-Level Segment in Santa Marta

The technical roundtable on International cooperation – financial & legal gaps focused on how financial and investment systems can better support the transition away from fossil fuels. Participants discussed and highlighted that:

- Financial institutions need to be faster, better coordinated, and more responsive to country needs;
- Support should follow nationally defined pathways and priorities, not be imposed externally;
- Strong domestic enabling conditions were seen as essential: clear plans, roadmaps, regulation, and investment strategies; and a more functional international financial architecture is needed, with timely and concessional support.

Key financing needs mentioned included grids, storage, transport, public infrastructure, and broader economic transition, while debt pressures, limited fiscal space, and ISDS-related legal barriers were highlighted as major obstacles by some, while the extent to which these barriers are perceived varies, including the specificity of certain elements. Suggested next steps included stronger country platforms, and mechanisms to match plans with finance, as well as work on debt, tax, and investment-system reform.

Co-hosts summary

Participants discussed that financial, legal, and investment systems continue to constrain implementation of the transition away from fossil fuels. It was clear that many countries cannot transition without expanding fiscal space, lowering the cost of capital, and ensuring that financial stability considerations are aligned with transition needs. They noted that finance is widely seen both as a critical enabler and a systemic constraint, and progress can jointly be made in relation to high costs of capital, availability and quality of concessional finance, innovative solutions to address debt burdens and expanding fiscal space, delay in fund flow, and the implementation of the full potential of the instruments of Multilateral Development Banks, development finance and International Financial Institutions. They discussed the use of tools such as Special Drawing Rights (SDRs), including through access and reallocation mechanisms that can better support low- and middle-income countries. They also discussed the link between transition policies and international legal and investment frameworks. This includes examples such as Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS), which by some were perceived as creating barriers, while the extent to which these barriers are perceived varies.

Action Elements

Key Actors and Stakeholders

- Governments and public authorities;
- Legal and investment policy experts;
- International financial institutions;
- Academic institutions and research organizations;
- International organizations working on trade, investment and development;
- Workstream 3 participants;
- OECD.

Enabling conditions, instruments and safeguards

Enabling conditions: Enabling conditions include greater international cooperation on investment governance, stronger legal and technical capacities, improved transparency regarding investment-related risks, and better integration of climate and transition objectives into investment frameworks.

Instruments: Further work on TAFF-related international investment systems and investment governance, including ISDS, in support of ongoing efforts in other fora; mapping and assessment of investment agreements and dispute settlement mechanisms that may affect transition policies; Exchanges of legal, technical and institutional experiences among countries pursuing investment governance reforms.

Safeguards:

1. Countries retain sufficient policy space to pursue legitimate climate, development and just transition

objectives, while protecting affected communities, workers and future generations from the risks associated with delayed transition action.

Pathway 5 Summary Table

The following table summarizes this pathway's key elements:

P5. Aligning producers and consumers towards decarbonised trade balances and supporting green economic transformation		
Actions	**Key actors and stakeholders**	**Enabling conditions, instruments and safeguards**
1. Decarbonise trade balances and advance towards a fossil fuel-free trade system	OECD South Centre Producer and consumer countries; Trade and economic ministries; Regional economic integration mechanisms; International trade and development institutions; Private sector actors and value-chain participants; Workers, communities and civil society organizations affected by trade transitions. Workstream 3 participants.	To be completed by Workstream 3
2.International investment systems	CEPR Governments and public authorities; Legal and investment policy experts; International financial institutions; Academic institutions and research organizations; International organizations working on trade, investment and development; Workstream 3 participants; OECD.	To be completed once indicators are selected by Workstream 3.


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A final message: From Santa Marta to the World—An open invitation to build collective power for change

At a time marked by geopolitical tensions, external shocks, economic uncertainty, climate disruption, and growing pressures on multilateral cooperation, the process that has begun in Santa Marta brings something unique : the ability to break through long-standing barriers to bring together a remarkably diverse set of actors around a shared purpose—to advance a just, orderly, and equitable transition away from fossil fuels— and to unlock the transformative potential of broad-based collective action, translating that sense of purpose into practical pathways for implementation.

What emerged from Santa Marta is not a single blueprint or a new target. Instead, it offers an evolving agenda for cooperation grounded in the recognition that the transition is about far more than energy substitution. It requires transforming the economic, financial, productive, governance, and social structures that continue to lock countries into fossil-fuel dependence, while ensuring that new pathways to prosperity are inclusive, rights-based, and territorially grounded.

As highlighted in the five chapters of this report, the conference identified five mutually reinforcing pathways that can help turn ambition into implementation.

First, participants advanced in the construction of a broad, inclusive, and action-oriented multi-stakeholder coalition for transitioning away from fossil fuels. Such a force for change can help bridge divides between countries and stakeholders, foster trust, and mobilize collective capacities at a moment when multilateralism is under strain.

Second, the conference highlighted the need to position the transition away from fossil fuels as a cross-cutting priority across international institutions and policy arenas. Achieving coherence across climate, finance, trade, debt, tax, development, and industrial policies will be essential to ensure that the transition is not pursued in isolation but embedded across the wider international system.

Third, participants in Santa Marta emphasized the importance of developing science-based national roadmaps for the transition away from fossil fuels that recognize different national and territorial realities while providing practical pathways for implementation. These roadmaps can help countries translate global commitments into credible domestic strategies, strengthen policy certainty, and align development objectives with climate goals.

Fourth, discussions underscored the urgency of overcoming fossil fuel-related macroeconomic dependencies and addressing the structural barriers that prevent many countries from accelerating the transition. Reforming aspects of the international and national financial architecture, expanding fiscal space, addressing debt constraints,and improving access to fit-for-purpose finance emerged as central conditions for success.

Fifth, participants highlighted the need to align producers and consumers to decarbonize trade balances and support green economic transformation. This pathway recognizes that international cooperation must extend beyond climate negotiations to encompass trade, investment, industrial policy, value chains, and economic transformation.

Taken together, these pathways demonstrate that the transition away from fossil fuels is not only an environmental necessity but also an opportunity to renew international cooperation around a positive agenda of just prosperity, resilience, energy security, and sustainable development. They suggest that even in a fragmented world, countries can work together to address common challenges when cooperation is rooted in fairness, reciprocity, and practical solutions.

The Santa Marta process remains open, flexible, evolving, and intentionally collaborative. Its most important contribution may be that it has helped transform a conversation in need of renewed purpose and direction into an emerging agenda for implementation on one of the most critical challenges of our time to keep a 1.5°C future within reach: transitioning away from fossil fuels. It is an agenda that connects science, policy, finance, and social participation around a shared objective.

The success of the next phase of the process will depend on growing the coalition as a force for change. We therefore invite the countries, subnational governments, international organizations, financial institutions, Indigenous Peoples, peoples of African descent, academia, civil society organizations, trade unions, youth movements, women and gender-diverse groups, faith-based communities, parliamentarians, private-sector, and other actors that have contributed to the first Conference on Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels to continue strengthening this collective effort.

We also extend an open invitation to new countries, institutions, communities, and partners from all regions and sectors to join the journey ahead. By building on the work already initiated and by advancing the five pathways identified in Santa Marta, the process resulting from the first conference can continue serving as a platform for collective action—one that helps turn shared ambition into practical implementation and demonstrates that cooperation, solidarity, and collective problem-solving remain both achievable and indispensable. At a time when many multilateral processes struggle to convert climate commitments into delivery, Santa Marta shows that the world is still capable of progress.

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Thematic Session Document: Frontrunner Cooperation. (2026). [Background document used extensively for Actions 2.1, 5.1 and 5.2 and related analysis on plurilateral cooperation, coalitions of action, and implementation pathways.]

Thematic Session Document: Energy Access. (2026). [Background document used extensively for Action 3.3 and related analysis on universal energy access, affordability, and sustainable energy systems.]

Thematic Session Document: Financial Incentives & Subsidy Reform. (2026). [Background document used extensively for Action 4.3 and related analysis on fossil fuel subsidies, financial incentives, transparency, and reform.]

Thematic Session Document: Fuel Switching, Energy Security & Sovereignty. (2026). [Background document used extensively for Action 3.2 and related analysis on energy security, sovereignty, fuel switching, and system transformation.]

Thematic Session Document: Planned Phase-Down and Closure of Fossil Fuel Extraction. (2026). [Background document used extensively for Action 3.4 and related analysis on the managed decline of fossil fuel production and extraction.]

Thematic Session Document: Economic & Labour Transition. (2026). [Background document used extensively for Action 3.5 and related analysis on economic transformation, employment, skills development, and just transition pathways.]


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Glossary

Benefit-Sharing
The fair distribution of economic, social, environmental, and cultural benefits arising from development activities, energy projects, or natural resource use among affected communities and stakeholders.

Carbon Pricing
A policy approach that assigns a cost to greenhouse gas emissions, typically through carbon taxes, emissions trading systems, or related instruments, with the objective of incentivizing emissions reductions.

Climate-Aligned Development
Development pathways that simultaneously advance economic prosperity, social inclusion, climate mitigation, climate adaptation, and environmental sustainability.

Climate Finance
Financial resources mobilized to support mitigation, adaptation, loss and damage responses, and other climate-related actions in developing and developed countries.

Climate-Resilient Development
Development that integrates climate adaptation, mitigation, disaster risk reduction, environmental sustainability, and social inclusion into long-term economic and social planning.

Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC)
A foundational principle of international environmental and climate cooperation recognizing that all countries share responsibility for addressing global environmental challenges, but that responsibilities and obligations should reflect countries' different historical contributions to environmental degradation, levels of development, and capacities to act. In the context of transitioning away from fossil fuels, the prin-

ciple implies that countries with greater historical emissions, higher levels of income, and stronger technological and financial capabilities should take the lead in reducing emissions and fossil fuel dependence, while supporting developing countries through finance, technology transfer, capacity-building, and other forms of international cooperation. The principle is reflected in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement.

Community Energy
Energy projects that are owned, managed, or governed wholly or partially by local communities, with the objective of generating social, economic, and environmental benefits at the local level.

Decarbonisation
The process of reducing and ultimately eliminating greenhouse gas emissions associated with economic activities, energy systems, industrial production, trade and consumption patterns.

Demand-Side Measures
Policies and actions designed to reduce or shift energy consumption patterns, including energy efficiency improvements, electrification, behavioural change, circular economy measures, and conservation.

Economic Diversification
The process through which economies broaden their productive base by developing new sectors, industries, technologies, and sources of income, reducing dependence on a limited number of commodities or activities.

Energy Access
Reliable, affordable, sustainable, and modern energy services available to all people, consistent with Sustainable Development Goal 7.

Energy Democracy
An approach to energy governance that seeks to expand public participation, community ownership, democratic decision-making, and equitable distribution of the benefits of energy systems.

Energy Security
The uninterrupted availability of energy sources at affordable prices, while ensuring resilience to supply disruptions and long-term sustainability.

Energy Sovereignty
The ability of countries and communities to determine their own energy futures, including decisions regarding energy production, access, ownership, governance, and use, consistent with social, environmental, and development priorities.

Extractive Dependencies
Patterns of economic, fiscal, social, territorial, or political reliance on the extraction, processing, and export of natural resources—particularly fossil fuels—that can create vulnerabilities to commodity price fluctuations, constrain diversification, and shape development pathways.

Financial Architecture
The system of international and domestic institutions, rules, norms, markets, and governance arrangements that shape the flow, allocation, and cost of finance. This includes multilateral development banks, international financial institutions, sovereign debt frameworks, capital markets, credit rating agencies, development finance institutions, and financial regulations.

Fossil Fuel Incentives
Policies, subsidies, tax expenditures, guarantees, public finance arrangements, or other forms of support that reduce the cost or increase the profitability of fossil fuel production, extraction, transport, or consumption.

Fossil Fuel Lock-In
A situation in which existing infrastructure, institutions, investment patterns, regulations, or political interests create barriers to transitioning away from fossil fuels.

Fossil Fuel Subsidies
Direct or indirect financial support that lowers the cost of fossil fuel production, extraction, transport, or consumption relative to market conditions.

Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)
The right of Indigenous Peoples to give or withhold consent to projects, policies, or activities that may affect their lands, territories, resources, or rights, based on adequate information and without coercion.

Green Economic Transformation
A process of structural economic change that seeks to align development, prosperity, and wellbeing with climate and environmental objectives. It involves reducing dependence on fossil fuels and other unsustainable activities while expanding low-carbon industries, sustainable infrastructure, innovation, productive diversification, decent work, and resilient value chains. Green economic transformation goes beyond technological substitution to encompass broader changes in economic structures, institutions, incentives, and patterns of production and consumption.

Green Industrial Policy
Public policies designed to accelerate the development of low-carbon industries, technologies, infrastructure, and value chains while supporting economic transformation and job creation.

Just, Orderly and Equitable Transition
A transition away from fossil fuels that advances climate objectives while ensuring social justice, economic inclusion, respect for human rights, energy security, and differentiated national circumstances, leaving no workers, communities, or countries behind.

Loss and Damage
The adverse impacts of climate change that cannot be avoided through mitigation or adaptation measures, including both economic and non-economic losses.

Market-Shaping Policies
Public interventions designed to influence investment decisions, production patterns, technology deployment, and consumer behaviour in order to accelerate desired economic, social, or environmental outcomes.

Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)
National climate action plans submitted under the Paris Agreement outlining countries' commitments to reduce emissions and adapt to climate change.

Polluter Pays Principle
The principle that those responsible for causing environmental harm should bear the costs associated with preventing, mitigating, or remedying that harm.

Productive Transformation
Structural changes in an economy that increase value addition, technological sophistication, productivity, resilience, and decent work while supporting sustainable development.

Public Interest Regulation
Government measures adopted to protect public welfare objectives—including health, environmental protection, human rights, labour rights, consumer protection, and climate action—even when such measures affect commercial interests.

Reform of the International Financial Architecture
Efforts to transform global financial governance to better support sustainable development, climate action, and economic resilience, including reforms related to debt sustainability, concessional finance, development banking, capital costs, risk assessment methodologies, and financial regulation.

Revenue Exchange Challenge
The fiscal challenge faced by fossil-fuel-dependent economies as they seek to replace declining revenues from fossil fuel extraction and exports with alternative, sustainable, and stable sources of public income.

Social Protection
Policies and programmes designed to prevent, reduce, and address economic and social vulnerabilities, including income support, unemployment benefits, pensions, healthcare, and access to essential services.

Stranded Assets
Assets that experience an unanticipated or premature loss in value due to market shifts, regulatory changes, technological developments, climate policies, or changing social expectations.

Supply-Side Measures
Policies, regulations, and actions that directly affect the exploration, extraction, production, processing, transport, financing, or sale of fossil fuels and other energy resources. Examples include moratoria on new fossil fuel exploration, production caps, managed phase-down strategies, fossil fuel sub-

sidy reform, closure plans for existing assets, extraction taxes, licensing restrictions, and measures to redirect investment towards clean energy alternatives. In the context of transitioning away from fossil fuels, supply-side measures complement demand-side actions aimed at reducing fossil fuel consumption.

Tax Incentives and Tax Abatements
Fiscal measures that reduce, defer, exempt, or otherwise lower tax obligations for specific sectors, activities, or investments. These may include tax holidays, exemptions, reduced tax rates, accelerated depreciation schemes, investment credits, and royalty reductions.

Territorial Anchoring
An approach to economic development that seeks to ensure that investments, industries, and value chains generate lasting benefits for local economies, communities, workers, and ecosystems rather than operating as isolated enclaves.

Territorial Rights
The collective rights of Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendant communities, and other local communities over their lands, territories, resources, governance systems, and cultural heritage.

Transition Away from Fossil Fuels (TAFF)
The process of reducing dependence on coal, oil, and gas through changes in production, consumption, investment, trade, governance, and development models in a manner that is just, orderly, equitable, and aligned with climate goals and sustainable development.

Transition Finance
Financial resources and instruments designed to support economic, social, technological, and institutional changes required to move toward low-emission and climate-resilient development pathways.

Transition Minerals
Minerals and metals used in renewable energy technologies, energy storage systems, electricity networks, and other components of the low-carbon transition, including lithium, copper, nickel, cobalt, and rare earth elements.

Value Addition
The process of increasing the economic value of goods, resources, or services through processing, manufacturing, technological upgrading, innovation, or knowledge-intensive activities.

Vulnerable Households
Households facing heightened risks from economic shocks, poverty, energy insecurity, climate impacts, or social exclusion, and that may require targeted support during transition processes.

Annex I: Chapter Outcome Documents

Stakeholder Group Submissions to the High-level Segment.	Social Movements (EN) Peoples From African Descent (EN / ES) Indigenous Peoples (ES / EN) Private Sector (EN) Academia (EN) Academic Workstreams (EN) Trade Unions (ES) Parliamentarians (EN) Women & Diversities (EN / ES) Cities & Subnational Governments (EN) Multilateral Development Banks & Development Financial Institutions (EN) Faith-Based Organizations (EN / ES) National Governments (EN)

Annex II: Co-hosts takeaway Document

Co-host takeaways Outcome Document	Co-Host Takeaways (EN)

Annex III: Individual and Stakeholder Reports and Submissions

Layer 1	Individual submissions	Solutions Menu (ES / EN)
Layer 2	Virtual Dialogue Reports	Peoples From African Descent Virtual Dialogue Synthesis (EN / ES) Peasant Communities Virtual Dialogue Synthesis (EN / ES) Social Movements Virtual Dialogue Synthesis (EN / ES) Private Sector Virtual Dialogue Synthesis (EN / ES) Parliamentarian Virtual Dialogue Synthesis (EN / ES) NGO's Virtual Dialogue Synthesis (EN / ES)

		Children and Youth Virtual Dialogue Synthesis (EN / ES) Cities Virtual DIalogue Synthesis (EN / ES) State & Regional Governments Vir tual Dialogue Synthesis (EN / ES) Trade Union Virtual Dialogue Synthesis (EN / ES) Women and Diversities Virtual Dialogue Synthesis (EN / ES) Academia Virtual Dialogue Synthesis (EN)
Layer 3	Summaries of debates and submissions for thematic roundtables	Fiscal Dependence Session (EN) Governance Gaps in International Cooperation & Climate Diplomacy Session (EN) Frontrunner Cooperation Session (EN) Energy Access Session (EN) Financial Incentives & Subsidy Reform Session (EN) AFuel Switching, Energy Security & Sovereignty Session (EN) Planned Phased-Down Session (EN) Economic & Labour Transition Session (EN)

Layer 4	Stakeholder Group Submissions to the High-level Segment.	Social Movements (EN) Peoples From African Descent (EN / ES) Indigenous Peoples (ES / EN) Private Sector (EN) Academia (EN) Academic Workstreams (EN) Trade Unions (ES) Parliamentarians (EN) Women & Diversities (EN / ES) Cities & Subnational Governments (EN) Multilateral Development Banks & Development Financial Institutions (EN) Faith-Based Organizations (EN / ES) National Governments (EN)
Layer 5	Co-host takeaways	Co-Host Takeaways (EN)

Annex IV: TAFF Conference Methodology

Methodological Handbook	Methodological Handbook (EN / ES)

Annex V: Chronological reports

Co-host takeaways Outcome Document	Co-Host Takeaways (EN
Summary of the High-Level Segment of the First Conference on Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels: 28–29 April 2026 - International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)	Summary of High-Level Segment by IISD (EN)

Annex VI: Supplementary materials

In Person Agenda (EN / ES)	**In person agendas by sector**
Guiding Document (EN)	**Documento maestro**
Solutions Menu Solutions Infography Parliamentarians Infography	**Parliamentary survey and graphs**


IRENE VÉLEZ TORRES


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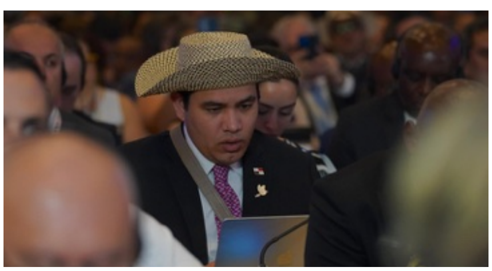


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Welcome
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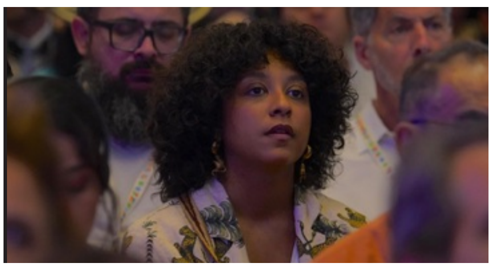

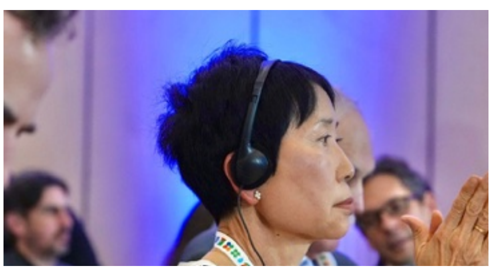

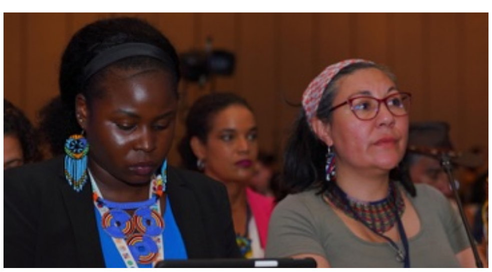


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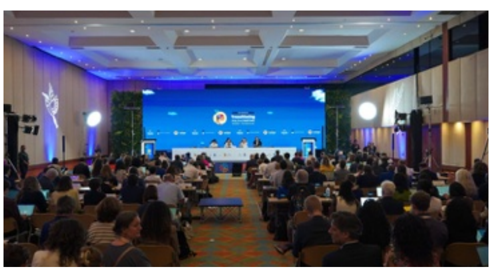


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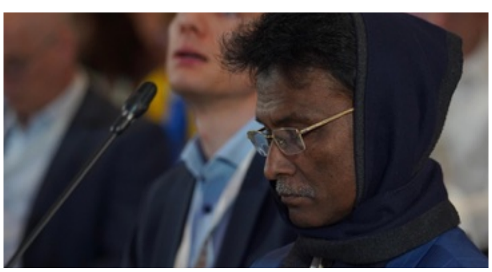








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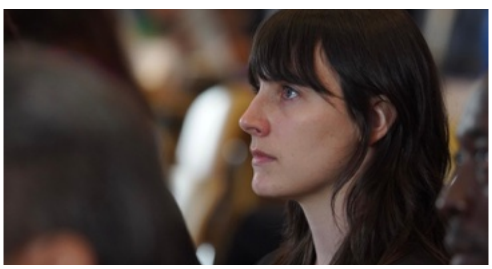




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