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Contribution to the COP 30 Presidency Roadmap on the Transition Away from Fossil Fuels in a Just, Orderly and Equitable Manner

About EIA

The Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA) is an independent non-governmental organisation that defends the natural world from environmental crime and abuse. EIA campaigns for changes to law and policy, both in domestic and international contexts, supported by effective implementation and enforcement as well as private-sector action. The EIA climate programme seeks to keep global warming below 1.5°C through rapid reductions of all the major greenhouse gases and the phase-out of fossil fuels.

Introduction

Countries have already signalled positive intent towards the energy transition, including many that called for a roadmap to phasing out fossil fuels to be adopted as a formal outcome at the 30th Conference of the Parties (COP30). Political momentum has continued to build on the first Global Stocktake (GST-1) adopted during COP28, where the global community formally recognised for the first time the need to phase out fossil fuels in energy systems to reach net zero by 2050.[1] Governments have joined coalitions of the willing, such as the Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance (BOGA), the Powering Past Coal Alliance (PPCA) or the Coalition on phasing out of Fossil Fuel Incentives Including Subsidies (COFFIS), while others joined the call for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty or took on leadership roles in international negotiations and other institutional processes.

However, this momentum has yet to translate into meaningful implementation. Commitments continue to coexist with ongoing fossil-fuel expansion. According to the 2025 *Production Gap Report*, governments still plan to produce 120% more fossil fuels by 2030 than is compatible with the 1.5°C target – and 360% more by 2050 – pushing the world toward climate catastrophe and irreversible tipping points.[2]

This disconnect reflects a structural gap in the current framework. While the Paris Agreement and GST-1 share a common direction, they do not equip countries with the tools required to implement them. They do not define how to phase out fossil fuels, coordinate supply-side action, or align finance and technical assistance. The challenge is therefore no longer ambition-setting, but delivery. The Brazilian-led Roadmap for transitioning away from fossil fuels in a just, orderly and equitable manner offers a great opportunity to identify both the barriers to implementation and the levers required to overcome them, while reflecting differentiated national circumstances.

EIA's contribution will therefore focus on outlining the elements of a coherent transition architecture: namely robust monitoring and reporting (MRV); Paris-aligned targets and national policies; and adequate financial and technical support. In order to drive and

accelerate progress, the Brazilian-led Roadmap should seek to articulate the steps that countries must take alongside the enabling tools required at each stage, allowing for replication and rollout where appropriate to facilitate a swift energy-sector transition at scale.

I. From ambition to implementation

The central challenge in the transition away from fossil fuels is not a lack of ambition, but the absence of a coherent transition architecture capable of translating global commitments into national delivery. To be successful, the Roadmap must offer concrete solutions to the challenges faced by countries willing to engage in the fossil-fuel transition in a variety of contexts. The gap between commitment and implementation often reflects systemic challenges in aligning global ambition with national capacities and priorities. For many developing countries, the absence of a coherent transition architecture to support them from commitment to delivery is a key institutional barrier.

The COP30 Presidency should draw from the lessons of other successful international environmental frameworks. The Montreal Protocol provides a clear example, having successfully phased out 99% of the production of controlled ozone-depleting substances, which has avoided 0.5-1°C of additional warming by mid-century.[3] Its success is due to the marriage between clear political commitments supported by a transition architecture designed to achieve them (in this case financed and delivered via the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol) and robust reporting, and can be summarised as follows:

- **Time-Bound Political Commitments**. Clear production and consumption phase-out schedules, upon which compliance is planned and achieved through multi-year country programmes.

- **Transition Architecture**. Financial and technical assistance to developing countries to comply with time-bound political commitments through multi-year country programmes, including: ***(i)*** financial support for enabling activities, including institutional strengthening, reporting and policy development, as well as for investment and non-investment projects; and ***(ii)*** technical support to develop and implement multi-year country programmes, including project preparation for investment and non-investment projects, pilot and demonstration projects and clearinghouse functions, such as regional networks for capacity-building, training, information-exchange and awareness-raising.

- **Reporting**. Requirements to annually report statistical data on the production, import and export of controlled substances to monitor progress and inform policymakers.

Drawing on this model, the Roadmap should focus on these key pillars, ensuring that each is fit for purpose for a transition away from fossil fuels, namely: (i) time-bound political

commitments, translating global ambitions into national targets with clear timeframes and milestones; (ii) transition architecture, replicating the key elements regularly cited by developing countries as critical to ensure implementation; and (iii) reporting, providing transparency that allows policymakers to monitor progress and make adjustments. Crucially, these pillars work together in self-reinforcing fashion.

The current energy transition architecture falls short on each pillar. On time-bound commitments: most countries lack multi-year country programmes with concrete targets, timeframes and milestones.[4] On financial and technical assistance, financial support for enabling activities and investment and non-investment projects is fragmented, inconsistent, uneven and difficult to access.[5] Finally, reporting to date has focused on smokestack and tailpipe emissions, not necessarily fossil-fuel production, consumption and use required to plan a transition. The Roadmap must set out a coherent vision for an architecture that specifically addresses these gaps.

II. The Roadmap as an implementation pathway

To drive and accelerate progress, the COP30 Presidency Roadmap should articulate the steps that countries must take alongside the supporting tools required at each stage. This requires a structured sequence from evidence to targets to delivery, supported by the appropriate enablers at every point in the process.

Reporting

Any transition pathway must be based on evidence. This means that countries should assess their starting point, identifying barriers and opportunities by developing national inventories of domestic fossil-fuel production, consumption and use, as well as reserves and fossil-fuel subsidies. Countries must also commit to regularly report on the evolution of key indicators to determine whether multi-year country programmes are efficiently implemented and delivering concrete progress, or whether they need to be strengthened.

To date, countries have primarily reported on fossil fuels emissions in UNFCCC-mandated greenhouse gas inventories. However, these have often failed to match independent scientific estimates.[6] The Roadmap in particular, should encourage countries to shift towards fossil-fuel production, consumption and use inventories, which are better suited indicators for the phase-out of fossil fuels. Civil-society initiatives like the Global Registry of Fossil Fuels offer possible models for this exercise. Information related to infrastructure cost and lifespan at all levels of maturity (planned, in development and in operation), contracts data and economic impacts of oil and gas exploitation such as trade and employment, should also be included so that national strategies can adequately plan to address challenges such as revenue loss, employment transitions and energy security.[7]

Targets and national policies

Countries should adopt national targets aligned with the GST-1. These should include national sub-targets with clear timeframes and milestones for halting new oil and gas

exploration and production (no expansion), as well as detailed, science-based target*s* for the managed phase-out of existing production, consumption and use (fair phase-out) and the phase-in of renewables and energy efficiency. Given the variation in production, consumption and use, each country will need to adapt its target and the pace of its transition to its specific circumstances.

In parallel, governments must work on national transition plans; multi-year country programmes that detail the specific policies and investments to implement the transition. The Roadmap does not need to be prescriptive in this regard, but rather offer a range of options for different contexts, such as importer and exporter countries, low/middle/high-income countries, debt-constrained or institutionally limited. Governments should be able to tailor policies to domestic circumstances and reflect considerations around energy security, affordability and social equity, including subsidy reform, sectoral decarbonisation policies and incentives for renewable-energy infrastructure and energy-efficiency measures under a whole-of-economy approach. Such measures should not only support demand for renewables via incentives and regulations but also ensure adequate integration on energy markets through grid modernisation, rationalisation of permitting procedures and stimulation of further innovation, policies for workers and communities, mechanisms to offset potential public revenue losses and strategies to manage fiscal stability in resource-dependent states. This integrated approach will provide the policy certainty and market signals necessary to unlock finance, attract investments and drive the clean-energy transition forward. It will also ensure that the global energy transition remains country-led and owned.

Reducing methane emissions from oil, gas and coal operations should also be a priority within these national policies. It provides an immediate and practical entry point for countries to begin reducing emissions from existing systems, while broader structural changes to energy systems are underway. Methane emissions from fossil fuel operations must be reduced by around 75% by 2030 to stay within 1.5°C.[8] For this reason, any credible roadmap on transitioning away from fossil fuels must include specific methane mitigation measures. These should include robust MRV frameworks, aligned with UN Environment Programme Oil and Gas Partnership (OGMP) requirements, regular leak detection and repair (LDAR) programmes, and bans on routine venting and flaring, alongside the deployment of best available technologies across operations via the adoption of technology standards.[9] These measures must apply across the full fossil fuel supply chain, from extraction and processing to transport and distribution.[10] Embedding these measures within the Roadmap would ensure that immediate emissions reductions are delivered in parallel with longer-term efforts to reduce fossil fuel demand and production, thereby reinforcing the overall transition pathway.

While initiatives are beginning to emerge in some jurisdictions, such as the EU Methane Regulation and Japan's Coalition for LNG Emission Abatement toward Net-zero (CLEAN initiative), these efforts are developing largely in isolation.[11] The absence of structured spaces for regulatory coordination, technical exchange and support risks creating divergent

methodologies and transparency requirements across jurisdictions, weakening the overall impact of these measures and failing to send a clear and consistent signal to operators across global fossil fuel supply chains. In this context, initiatives such as the United Kingdom's COP30 statement on drastically reducing methane emissions in the fossil fuel sector, and its proposal to establish a panel of governments to advance a near-zero methane intensity marketplace, offer a promising foundation.[12]

The Roadmap should support the evolution of this panel into a more structured implementation framework. By bringing together producing and consuming countries, it could support the coordination of methane regulations, facilitate peer learning on regulatory design and enforcement, and align technical and financial assistance. It could also advance common methodologies and market mechanisms that prioritise low-methane fuels in global supply chains.

Integrating methane abatement into the Roadmap in this way would anchor it in a set of concrete, near-term actions, while strengthening coherence across existing initiatives. By aligning regulatory efforts, reinforcing emerging coordination spaces and sending a clear demand signal to producers, such an approach can accelerate methane reductions while supporting a managed transition away from fossil fuels. Methane mitigation is therefore not an alternative to phase out, but a complementary and enabling step within a broader transition pathway.

III. Streamline financial and technical support

For many developing countries, access to robust and predictable technical and financial support, from readiness work to infrastructure financing and scaling up projects, will be a determining factor in the success of the transition.

First, grant-based finance must be made available to all official development assistance (ODA) countries for enabling activities, in particular:

- Institutional strengthening, which increases the ability of governments to perform essential functions and provides support to ensure consistent and dedicated staffing within governments, for example "focal points."
- Policy development and implementation, including inventories and national planning.
- Monitoring and reporting.
- Project proposal preparation.

Progress on these readiness activities sends a strong signal to the financial community that governments are committed to and prepared for the transition, helping to reduce perceived risks and unlock larger-scale capital flows for downstream investments in renewable energy and economic diversification.

Second, once countries have established regulatory frameworks and national action plans under multi-year country programmes to phase out fossil fuels and scale renewables, support is required for investment and non-investment projects to establish the necessary infrastructure.

Readiness funding and infrastructure financing must work in tandem to ensure coherence. Readiness work that does not translate into real-word projects risks becoming ineffective, while infrastructure developments that are not anchored to national strategies risk becoming stranded assets. Strong coordination between providers is therefore key to the successful implementation of the transition away from fossil fuels. Yet in practice, such coordination remains limited and continues to constrain effective implementation of the transition away from fossil fuels.

Many entities provide financial and technical support, sometimes duplicating efforts and often leaving gaps due to insufficient coordination. These include the Green Climate Fund (GCF), Global Environment Facility (GEF), Climate Investment Fund (CIF), UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), development banks and UN and bilateral agencies. For many developing countries, navigating the existing landscape is complex, resource-intensive and slow. Financial and technical assistance remains fragmented across institutions operating with different procedures, priorities and timelines. In addition, this system prioritises short-term projects, overlooking the investment required into longer-term policy reform, institutional capacity-building, infrastructure planning and investment pipelines.

Country platforms for energy transitions offer a promising concept to move beyond project-based delivery towards country-led, programmatic approaches. This model is designed to sequence policy reform and investment portfolio, while aligning multilateral public finance and unlocking private resources. As such, it can act as a delivery mechanism at national level of the global Roadmap, by providing country-led, cohesive frameworks ensuring that short-term actions contribute to longer-term goals. Country platforms also have the potential to reduce transaction costs and strengthen accountability, clarifying roles and responsibilities. Importantly, they can help align donor priorities with national transition plans, reducing the risk of overlapping or misaligned support, while establishing common metrics and reporting frameworks to track progress.

Several models are already available and can provide useful lessons across different national contexts. The Brazil Climate and Ecological Transformation Investment Platform (BIP) is often cited as one of the most successful examples of country platforms for the energy transition and can serve as a relevant model for countries with strong institutional capacities.[13] Just Energy Transition Partnerships (JETPs) are another avenue. For countries in need of greater support in establishing their platforms, the Green Climate Fund Readiness Program or the Clean Investment Fund offer additional technical assistance.

Yet country platforms could still be improved to more squarely and sequentially facilitate the transition away from fossil fuels in the energy sector, built around multi-year country programming to deliver action in line with the Paris Agreement. Cooperation among the relevant actors providing concessional finance will be crucial to avoid duplication of efforts and ensuring that country platforms become the favoured tool to support developing countries. Co-financing should also be enhanced with an eye toward replicability and rollout, including the financial tools to unlock private capital such as blended finance, guarantees and concessional capital. In a context of constrained international public

finance, mobilising private finance will be essential to ensure the scale of investments needed is met. This is particularly important where risk perceptions, nascent regulatory frameworks and currency volatility continue to constrain private sector participation.

The full potential of country platforms depends on a coordinating architecture above the country level that aligns donor priorities, avoids duplication and creates shared accountability. This is precisely the role the Brazilian-led Roadmap can play by providing a streamlined implementation pathway that articulates country actions and the wider support ecosystem.

Conclusion

The COP30 Presidency-led Roadmap is a welcome step towards establishing a robust implementation framework for the transition away from fossil fuels. However, if the roadmap is to carry genuine transformative weight, it must do more than chart a sequence of government milestones. It must also define the enabling conditions and tools that will make those milestones achievable.

For more information

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