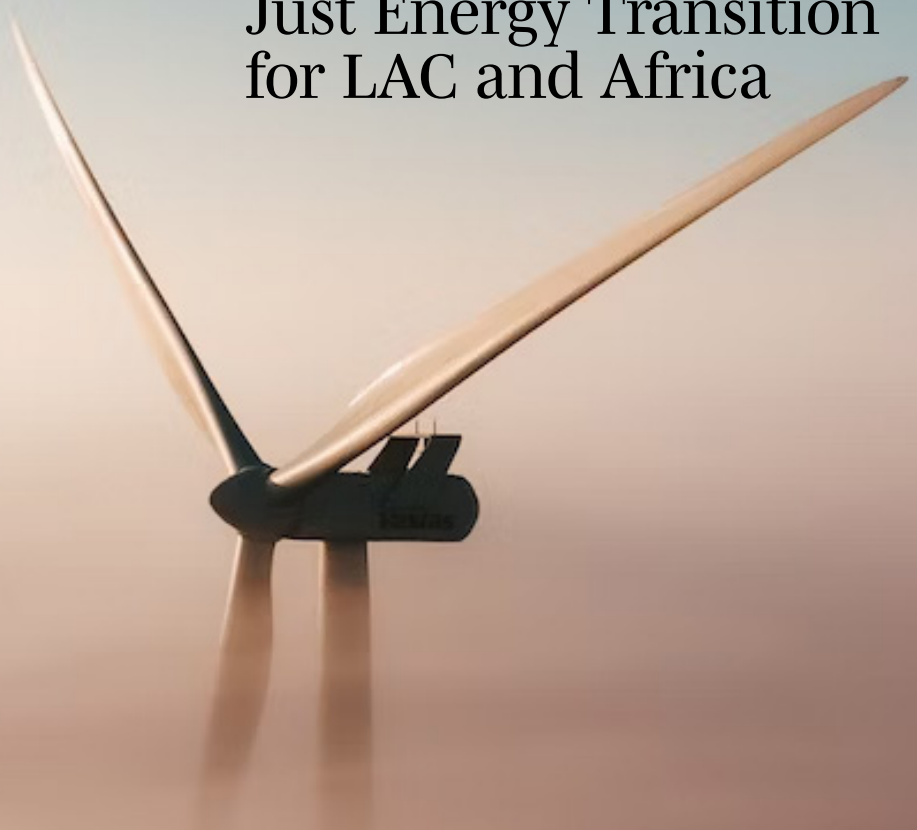
Policy *Brief*
2023

GLOBAL SOUTH VOICES TO COP28

Key Messages Towards a Just Energy Transition for LAC and Africa



This technical document was created jointly by Transforma and Power Shift Africa within the framework of the South-South Collaborative on Climate Change and Just Energy Transition. *It consolidates the positions of civil society organizations from the Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) and African regions,* addressing the challenges and opportunities to achieve a Just Energy Transition in the Global South.

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Authors: Giovanni Pabón Restrepo, Ana María Mogollón, Carolina Martínez Sánchez, María Camila Cruz Castro, Verónica Valencia Hernández, Andrés Morales, Amos Wemanya y Samira Ally.

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Introduction

1

1.1 PURPOSE OF THE POLICY BRIEF

This technical document was built jointly between Transforma and Power Shift Africa, *along with valuable input and feedback from civil society organizations (CSOs) from the Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) and African regions,* within the framework of the South-South Collaborative Network (SSC)[1].

The SSC focuses on the Just Energy Transition (JET) in the Global South and has organized various activities to facilitate discussions on this process in the region. Regional and interregional workshops have been conducted with active participation from significant CSOs in Latin America, the Caribbean, and Africa for discussing the concept and principles of JET and how to ensure social participation, address fossil fuel subsidies, and securing funding for JET initiatives. Furthermore, we have identified key messages regarding the phase-in of renewable energy, transition minerals, economic diversification, energy access, and energy poverty. These messages are essential for amplifying the voices of the Global South in international forums like COP28.

To facilitate discussions at the local, national, and regional levels, we have compiled all relevant conclusions and key messages into this policy brief. We hope that it will serve as a guide for addressing the challenges and opportunities that the Global South faces in achieving a Just Energy Transition, in particular for the LAC and Africa regions.

1 The SSC is a proposed space to strengthen the leadership and strategy of the Global South to demand, catalyze and scale Climate Action and Just Energy Transition towards the fulfillment of the objectives of the Paris Agreement. It aims to create a better connected, coordinated, and empowered South-led climate change and energy transition movement. Through this network we want to showcase innovation, empower local and regional stakeholders to design and implement policies and actions and, promote voices through inclusive representation of the South in international scenarios.

1.2 GLOBAL SOUTH CONTEXT OF JET

The Paris Agreement set international commitments to address the climate crisis and the urgent need to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C. However, more than 170 years of fossil fuel combustion has led to global warming of 1.1°C above pre-industrial levels. This has resulted in more frequent and intense extreme weather events that have disproportionately impacted the Global South.

Recognizing the urgency, the Global South has acknowledged the need to transition to a more sustainable and equitable energy system. However, achieving a Just Energy Transition in this context poses multifaceted challenges. Many countries in the region face unique obstacles as they heavily rely on fossil fuels, face serious socioeconomic inequalities and have fragile energy systems. Nevertheless, the Global South also presents immense opportunities for renewable energy deployment due to an important presence of natural resources like wind, solar and biomass among many others, that represent job creation, and enhanced energy security. To effectively navigate the path towards a Just Energy Transition, collaboration among countries in the Global South and a unified message are crucial in achieving the goals outlined in the Paris Agreement. As a first step towards building a common message, the SSC conducted separate workshops in the African and LAC regions to identify the specific contexts, needs, challenges, and opportunities for Just Energy Transition in the region.

2

JET context in the LAC region

2.1 DIAGNOSIS

Most countries in the LAC region are increasingly suffering from the impacts of climate change, including the loss of human life and infrastructure, as well as other economic, social, and environmental consequences. *Poverty and extreme poverty continue to affect a significant portion of the population*, with 32% living below the poverty line and 13% living in extreme poverty in 2022 (ECLAC, 2022). These figures are higher than those in previous years and represent the highest extreme poverty rate of this century.

An urgent need to address these challenges through a Just Energy Transition in the region exists. However, transitioning to net-zero is one of the greatest challenges that the LAC region faces.

The region maintains a strong dependence on fossil fuels, and most of its political, economic, and social structures have supported them for a long time. Fossil sources account for 38.7% of electricity generation in the region (OLADE, 2022). Additionally, the LAC region produces coal, oil, and gas for both domestic consumption and export, and some of its economies, such as those of Mexico, Venezuela, Ecuador, Colombia, Peru, Bolivia, and Argentina, rely heavily on resource extraction. Fiscal dependence on the extractive sector revenues[2] was 32.2% in Venezuela, 26.3% in Bolivia, 20.7% in Mexico, and 18.9% in Ecuador as of 2015 (ECLAC, 2018).

In 2019, the energy sector in the region was responsible for 1.79 Gt of GHG emissions (Climate Watch, 2021). Despite the region's commitment to reducing emissions, the necessary investments for decarbonization are not being made. There is a discrepancy

2 Ratio of extractive sector transfers to total national revenue. The fiscal dependence of a government on extractive sector revenues refers to the situation in which a government obtains a significant part of its fiscal revenues from taxes, royalties or other levies associated with the production, sale or consumption of fossil fuels. A percentage close to zero indicates minimal dependency and an indicator close to 100% indicates greater dependency (Ebel y Yilmaz, 2002).

between energy policy, the investments and the necessary international commitments to address the climate emergency, with most of the countries promoting gas for electricity generation, coal mining as an economic engine, or expanding the extractive frontier, rather than investing in renewable energy (SEI, 2023).

Although the region has abundant renewable resources such as hydroelectric, solar, and wind power, investment in these sectors has been limited compared to fossil fuels. The percentage of renewable sources in the LAC electricity matrix has remained stagnant, hovering around 58% during the first decade of this century, with a minimum of 53% in 2015 and a modest increase to 59% in 2021 (OLADE, 2023). This stagnation can be attributed to political, institutional, regulatory, and cultural barriers, as well as historical socio-environmental conflicts associated with the extractive industry that must be recognized and addressed to ensure that the energy transition is just for the region. Therefore, energy transition in Latin America requires a profound transformation in development models and energy policies.

2.2 THE CONCEPT OF JUST ENERGY TRANSITION FOR THE LAC REGION

Regarding the participants' inputs and discussions, the focus of Just Energy Transition concept for the LAC region most representative of CSOs views is that **JET means a transformation as a whole in the social, economic and environmental spheres. First of all, it must include a transition towards sustainable, renewable energies for its generation, production and consumption, that prioritize equity, inclusion, economic diversification and energy access and security, while guaranteeing a focus on human rights, social and environmental justice through active participation in all decision making spaces and the recognition of the corresponding reparations for affected communities, to achieve climate and environmental justice.**

2.3 PRINCIPLES THAT GUIDE A JET IN THE LAC REGION

A Just Energy Transition will only be developed through the absolute respect of human rights, with a differential approach: **it must include a gender focus so that the context of workers, women, children, environmental defenders, afro and indigenous communities, are taken into account in the whole decision making processes, to attend all their needs and no voice is left behind** (**Rabí et al., 2021**). Among the JET concept definition, a series of principles were discussed in order to guide its implementation, taking into account the needs of our region. The most representative agreed principles are:

1. PARTICIPATION AND SOCIAL INCLUSION
2. DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION
3. SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

1 PARTICIPATION AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

Aims that JET should include **active and inclusive participation of communities and relevant stakeholders** in all decision-making spaces, for the implementation of new projects towards sustainable, renewable energy systems for its generation, production, and consumption. For this principle, it is especially important to ensure the participation of those groups that have been systematically affected by energy generation and consumption systems, such as workers, women, afro and indigenous communities, and environmental defenders of the LAC region.

JET processes should go beyond mere consultation and include clear methodologies and concrete actions to ensure the effective involvement and participation of communities. This implies establishing clear lines of communication, feedback mechanisms, spaces for inclusive dialogue, as well as promoting the training and empowerment of communities, so that they can understand and contribute meaningfully to JET processes. This participation should be based on: ❶ Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (1992), by which the best way to deal with environmental issues is with the participation of all interested citizens, at the appropriate level; ❷ the article 7 of the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in LAC (Escazú Agreement) and ❸ the effective implementation of the prior consultation processes of the Indigenous and Tribal people Convention (C169) of the ILO.

The implementation of collective renewable energy projects, such as energy districts or energy communities, are highlighted as positive strategies to generate communities' participation in the energy systems in their territories, that will help strengthen development, gender approach, social cohesion, and environmental protection.

2 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION

Seeks to promote **decent work and labor formality in the energy sector,** as well as mechanisms for updating and adjusting the skills and abilities of workers, so that they can be competitive in the market for the execution of renewable energy projects and replace the trend towards jobs in the fossil fuels sector. This is especially important as a decarbonization pathway has the potential to generate almost

> 15 million net jobs in the region by 2030: 22.5 million jobs created and 7.5 million jobs lost (Saget et al., 2020).

Workers should receive constant support and training to understand the new market and be benefited from it.

In addition, it is also imperative for a JET to consider a comprehensive economic

transformation, that includes diversifying the based economy away from the exploitation of fossil fuels and towards more varied structures of internal production and trade, to increase productivity.

3 SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Focuses on the commitment of all relevant stakeholders in the energy sector to be **sustainable and carbon neutral by 2050,** with the aim of avoiding environmental injustices. On one hand, sustainability in a JET seeks to guarantee just energy access for every person because, despite the fact that the LAC region has a large amount of energy resources, in 2021 almost 18 million people still did not have access to electricity (IDB, 2021). For instance, in 2020, 44% of the region's population did not have modern energy services for cooking, in rural areas (World Bank, 2021). On the other hand, environmental justice in a JET refers to the need to recognize the damages that vulnerable communities have experienced in the extraction of fossil fuels projects, to hold these entities accountable for their actions and guarantee the access to justice to prevent these situations from happening again during this new process of transition towards renewable energies.

JET context in Africa

3

3.1 DIAGNOSIS

Africa's prolonged droughts, floods, and other extreme weather events affecting lives and livelihoods of *millions of people across the continent presents it as the region that is most vulnerable* to the impacts of climate change.

However, it is ironic that being the continent with the smallest carbon footprint, Africa is now bearing a disproportionate part of the burden of the enormous carbon footprint of other regions. Today, African countries are at the crossroads of defining their energy prospects. In Africa, 600 million people do not have access to electricity, most of them in sub-Saharan Africa (IEA, 2022). However, the solutions to enabling universal energy access for the continent are highly contested in many regions and countries. While renewable energy technologies have become more accessible and affordable, the recent surge in fossil fuel prices has rekindled interest in them: new agreements have been signed to facilitate the delivery of Algerian gas to Europe, and there are intentions to develop and expand LNG gas terminals in Congo, Mauritania, and Senegal (IEA, 2022).

African leaders have repeatedly voiced deep frustration with lack of support for the energy transition. International support should help African countries in achieving this transition, instead of increasing their fossil dependence. There is a huge opportunity for renewable energy generation in Africa (especially solar power generation), which will support a higher standard of living for a large part of current and future populations across the continent (IEA, 2022). The modular nature of most renewable energy technologies as well as the low investment levels make these technologies particularly suitable for capital-constrained African countries. Most renewable energy technologies use locally available resources (e.g. solar radiation) and can operate based on local expertise, and can therefore provide employment opportunities for local populations.

However, Africa's energy prospects have been dominated majorly by geopolitical relations with the suppliers of technology and finance. For instance, recently, on account of the war in Ukraine, Europe's urgent need to diversify away from reliance on Russian oil and gas has seen renewed interest in African gas. Previously, Europe has long discouraged Africa from expanding its oil and gas exports and encouraged a move toward

more renewable energy resources. However, with the growing need to help Europe build energy security, African countries such as Egypt, Algeria and West African countries have been featured by the European Commission as areas of consideration for increased new export of gas to the EU.

3.2 THE CONCEPT OF JUST ENERGY TRANSITION

In Africa, discussions about energy transition should be about the wellbeing of its people. The well-being of communities, ecosystems and stability of livelihoods. It should be about lives. Africa today is in a much deeper crisis than any part of the world. The climate crisis is rolling back all the progress that the continent has made in recent years and exacerbating challenges among people and within communities. Therefore, Just Energy Transition should be about facilitating systemic shifts that will enable Africa to be a global leader in addressing energy transition using the right mechanisms.

For Africa, Just Energy Transition encompasses many other transition aspects. It means ensuring that increasingly the energy system needs to be localized, public and community-led. Just Energy Transition should empower the marginalized, including vulnerable communities, provide formal rights for nature, for climate migrants and refugees and for future generations. Just Energy Transition must ensure that it establishes a new energy system that replaces the current coal, oil and gas based, wasteful, polluting, discriminative, elitist energy system that is harming communities across Africa.

Just Energy Transition pathways should facilitate economic diversification, and ideally result in developing a more robust range of sectors that can provide a more diverse range of goods and services; provide jobs in sectors that are less vulnerable to climate change impacts; enhance the performance of non-agriculture sectors such as manufacturing, services, construction, infrastructure, information and communication technology, finance, and significantly contribute to sustaining long-term economic growth and development.

In addition, effective Just Energy Transitions pathways would also require the equitable and fair resolution of other issues within the multilateral climate change, trade, and other regimes, such as: i) the transfer and development of environmentally sound technologies, ii) the provision of intellectual property rights flexibilities with respect to the needed technologies, iii) the reflection of the principles of common but differentiated responsibilities and of special and differential treatment (SDT) for developing countries, and iv) the provision of new, additional and adequate finance mechanisms for mitigation, adaptation, promotion of economic diversification, and loss and damages.

3.3 PRINCIPLES THAT GUIDE A JET IN THE AFRICA REGION

1. **PROCEDURAL JUSTICE:** Just Energy Transition must facilitate **meaningful participation** of multiple stakeholders, including civil society and frontline communities. Civil society is key in identifying impactful initiatives that are important in facilitating justice in the transition. There is a need for the establishment of formal mechanisms and platforms of engagement that allows for transparency and information sharing among actors (British Academy, 2022).

2. **ESTABLISHING PROPER GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES:** Just Energy Transition in Africa must address **power inequalities in energy systems,** and give marginalized communities a seat at the table. Just Energy Transition strategies and plans should be developed in collaboration with stakeholders.

3. **ESTABLISHING COMPREHENSIVE GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORKS AND WORKING TOWARDS COMPLIANCE WITH THESE FRAMEWORKS:** Promoting good governance should be a prerequisite. For instance establishing frameworks that promote human rights, anti-corruption practices, social and environmental protection should be a precondition for the development of new projects (Adow et al., 2021).

4. **FINANCING MECHANISMS:** Africa, as a continent, has made the smallest contribution to the current climate crisis compared to other regions. It would be unjust to impose the full weight of responsibility on Africa for a problem it has played a minimal role in terms of emissions. Therefore, partnerships for a just energy transition should be mindful not to exacerbate Africa's debt burden. Historical polluters must be held accountable and Just Energy Transition partnerships need to ensure that they pay for their harmful impacts and contribute their fair share of the costs for a just transition (Wemanya and Opfer, 2022). The financing instruments used to support the Just Energy Transition must largely consist of grants and not loans.

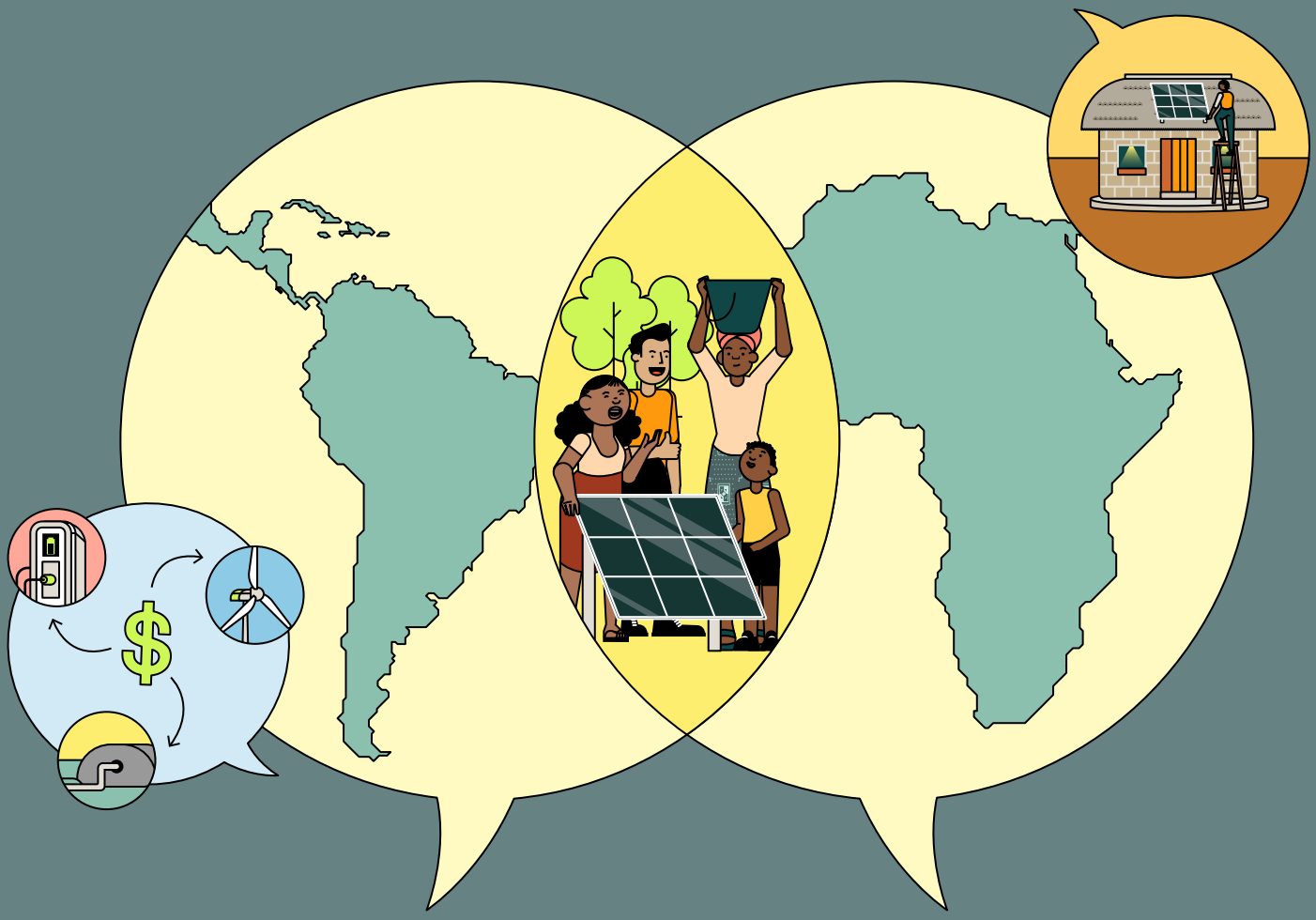
5. **ENDING INEQUALITIES AND PROVIDING SAFEGUARDS:** Just Energy Transition needs to ensure that economies within Africa that are dependent on fossil fuels and other high carbon sectors are protected in the transition to a renewable energy future. The transition should safeguard workers from suffering due to job losses or declining economic activity. In addition, further inequalities and adverse impacts especially to frontline communities must be addressed. The energy transition should empower the oppressed including vulnerable communities, provide formal rights for nature, for climate migrants and refugees and for future generations.

Just Energy Transition in Africa needs to be viewed in the lens of just development. It should help Africa address the challenges of energy access, under development and climate crisis. The current energy system, dominated largely by

centralized, fossil fuel-dependent (coal, oil and gas), export-oriented, has failed to deliver energy access to hundreds of millions of ordinary Africans. The current fossil fuel based energy system has failed to serve the interests of Africans.

Just Energy Transition must be a part of a larger just transition that is fundamentally about making a more equal society. It should not be just about phasing out coal and labor/worker retraining, but about a broad transition that addresses the fundamentals of the economic model (Wemanya and Opfer, 2022). It must be about envisioning radically different development models for Africa.

6. **ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION:** the core dynamic behind climate change and other planetary destruction and environmental injustices, is the profit-driven economy in its neoliberal/austerity form. "The economy", which is merely a set of institutions, has subordinated both society and nature to its narrow and elitist needs. A new economic system is necessary and the Just Energy Transition provides a space in which to deal with this. Just Energy Transition should create a wellbeing economy. It should foster an African development model whose decisions are based on the idea of what the needs of the people are, and how to fulfill them, rather than the current model that serves profit.



4 Commonalities and divergences LAC and Africa

Africa and Latin America are prominent regions within the Global South, distinguished by their distinct attributes and challenges. While they share a common objective of achieving a JET, *it is crucial to not only identify similarities but also analyze the differences in their energy transition processes.*

In collaboration with the SSC and drawing upon the insights from regional workshops, a comprehensive comparative analysis was undertaken to comprehend the specific characteristics of each region. This analysis aims to develop a unified message to address the unique needs of Africa and Latin America, while harnessing the potential of the Global South for building sustainable and equitable energy systems.

One significant similarity is the recognition of the **importance of social participation.** The Africa CSO meeting and the Latin America workshop both highlight the role of civil society in addressing the climate crisis and emphasize the need to ensure security and mechanisms for social participation. They also stress the importance of resolving socio-environmental conflicts and promoting territorial dialogues to advance the transition.

Another shared aspect is the recognition of **economic diversification** as a means to reduce dependence on income from fossil fuels. The Africa CSO meeting emphasizes the development of a more robust range of sectors that can provide a diverse array of goods and services. Similarly, the Latin America workshop identifies agriculture, transport, and critical minerals as key sectors for focus in JET.

Both regions also agree on the need to **phase out fossil fuel subsidies.** The Africa CSO meeting notes the importance of safeguarding against a "race to the bottom" in the extraction of "Green Minerals" in Africa, while the Latin America workshop highlights the issue of some LAC governments investing in greater gas infrastructure, which maintains dependence on fossil fuels.

However, there are notable differences between the regions. The Africa CSO meeting specifically discusses the implications of JET for Africa, whereas the Latin America meeting focuses on the JET approach in

LAC and how to finance it. This difference in focus may reflect the varying stages of development, challenges, and priorities of each region.

In terms of emphasis, the Africa CSO meeting notes place a stronger focus on social justice and participatory processes. This may be attributed to the higher percentage of the African population without access to electricity, necessitating a greater need to address social justice and inequality in the energy transition. Conversely, the Latin America meeting notes prioritize discussions on financing mechanisms and economic diversification, potentially due to Latin American countries being relatively advanced in renewable energy production and energy access.

Additionally, the Africa CSO meeting notes stress the importance of addressing root causes such as extractivism and colonialism, and promoting regenerative economies. This emphasis on addressing historical legacies is not explicitly mentioned in the Latin America meeting notes, possibly indicating a more pronounced presence of extractivism and colonialism impacts in people and territories in Africa compared to Latin America.

5 Opportunities and challenges for the Global South

During the discussions with CSOs, several opportunities and challenges for a Just Energy Transition (JET) in the Global South were identified:

TRANSITION MINERALS

The Global South has the potential to become a significant player in the supply of transition minerals, thanks to its abundant and diverse mineral resources. These minerals, including copper, lithium, zinc, nickel, iron, manganese, rare earths, gold, and silver, are crucial for decarbonization efforts. Safeguards must be implemented to ensure their sustainable use, such as conducting socio-environmental impact assessments, involving communities in the planning and regulation processes, establishing transparency standards, redistributing resources and benefits to local communities and countries, protecting human and environmental rights, and promoting local/national research and development.

FOSSIL FUEL SUBSIDIES

It was observed that dismantling fossil fuel subsidies is not a priority for many countries in the Global South, despite it being necessary to align with the Paris Agreement and Decision 1/cp.26. Economic diversification should be pursued to reduce dependence on income from fossil fuels, which has been used as a reason to delay the transition.

GAS AS A TRANSITION ENERGY SOURCE

Some governments in the Global South are investing in expanding gas infrastructure, which perpetuates dependence on fossil fuels. This strategy poses long-term risks of deepening economic reliance on extractive activities and promoting carbon lock-in.

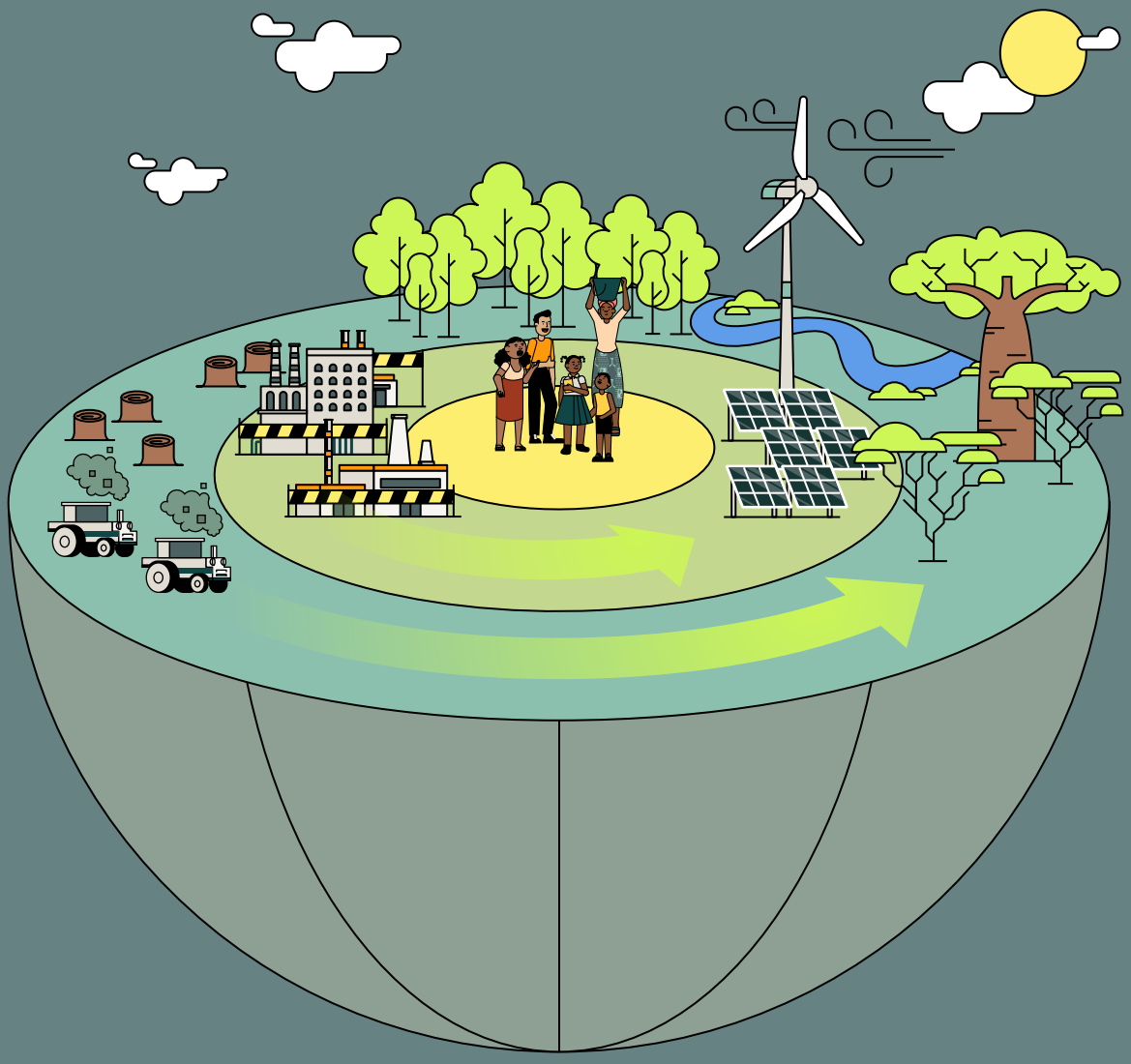
ENERGY POVERTY

The urgency of the energy transition must consider the conditions of energy poverty, which can pose economic and sociocultural barriers to technological change. It is essential to ensure that the implementation of energy transition measures does not exacerbate existing inequalities. For instance, energy poverty disproportionately affects women, as they bear a greater burden of household chores and are more exposed to temperature extremes, increased care demands, and indoor pollution resulting from the use of biomass. A clear definition of energy poverty for the Global South and common indicators are necessary to measure and address gender inequality. The impact of JET on improving these indicators and its positive effects on vulnerable sectors of society should also be measured accordingly.

JET FINANCE

One of the main concerns for the Global South is financing the Just Energy Transition. It requires a strong commitment from governments to allocate sufficient budgets. Finance for JET should be democratized, including options for funding renewable energy projects with participation from households or individuals, such as distributed generation initiatives.

6 Key messages and narrative agenda of JET to COP28



→ Just Energy Transition for the Global South means a comprehensive and human rights-centered transformation that encompasses social, economic, and environmental spheres. *It entails a phase-out and not a phase-down of all fossil fuels before 2040, including a full stop in new expansion of fossil infrastructure.*

It entails also a shift towards sustainable, renewable energies for generation, production, and consumption, prioritizing equity, inclusion, decent works, economic diversification, and ensuring energy access and energy security. JET also emphasizes the social and environmental justice pursuit through people's active participation in decision-making processes as the recognition and no-repetition of historical damages to territories and communities caused by past energy systems or energy policies.

For this to happen, there are some key messages regarding the matter to be mobilized in international scenarios (such as COP28), as follows:

RENEWABLES PHASE-IN

- Governments, financial institutions, and the international community are called upon to push and promote financial mechanisms to make investments in renewable energy more attractive and reduce the risks involved. At the same time, policymakers should encourage fiscal policies that prioritize renewable energy, redirect subsidies and financial support towards renewable energy, and discourage investment in fossil fuels.

- Electricity systems must be planned and operated in alignment with the Paris climate goals, with a focus on delivering fair and climate-compatible electricity systems that do not favor fossil fuels.

- Decision-makers should reform planning, siting, and permitting processes, including infrastructure planning, such as grids and flexibility, while respecting environmental and social aspects. Particular attention should be paid to government coordination and capacity-building. A long-term approach will reduce development costs and help accelerate the deployment of renewable energy. Decision-makers should accelerate renewable energy deployment by creating fair and effective policy, market and regulatory conditions.

- Governments should engage in industrial policy-making and infrastructure planning to expand and diversify the renewable

supply chains (including those for critical minerals), remove bottlenecks related thereto, and increase circularity of key materials. Industrial policies should not endanger deployment of renewables, while building fair supply chains. Renewable energy technology is a public good that should be transferred to developing nations accompanied by measures to strengthen their manufacturing base so that they can benefit from local value creation.

- Scaling up renewable energies, but with accountability. Governments must accelerate and expand the speed of transitioning to renewable energy sources while simultaneously increasing investments in renewable technologies and facilitating their widespread deployment. However, it is crucial to maintain accountability by avoiding any so-called 'false solutions' or dangerous distractions that rely on non-existent technologies or would inadvertently bind us to high emissions for decades to come. A just energy transition requires a commitment to analyzing real, equitable, and socially centered pathways for transitioning. It is crucial to ensure that these pathways are included in the 2025 NDC enhancements, encompassing all greenhouse gasses. Furthermore, it is essential to establish clear and science-aligned time frames for the complete phase-out of coal, oil, and gas.

- Decision-makers should ensure participation and transparency; inclusive, early, meaningful public participation processes; and options for community-level ownership. Greater collaboration across communities, industries, governments, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders is critical. This is a prerequisite for, among other things, i) facilitating understanding about the role of and opportunities from renewable energy in value creation and energy access, and ii) building collective frameworks and practical tools to safeguard human rights, sustainability, and social equity.

TRANSITION MINERALS

- The shift to renewable energy systems is set to drive a huge increase in the use of transition minerals. Therefore, it is vital to reduce and mitigate negative impacts of mining by recovery actions, soil and water management, rock acid drainage prevention and control of gas emissions.

- The Global South region is fundamental for the use of transition minerals, as significant reserves are located in Latin America, Sub-Saharan Africa, Southeast Asia and Australia. Communities among the region should be considered as main participants in international, national and local scenarios to build and develop sustainable renewable energy projects.

- For transition minerals, it is imperative to: i) carry out socio-environmental impact evaluations, ii) guarantee the participation of communities in the planning process and regulation, iii) set standards such as Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) and Initiative for Responsible Mining Assurance (IRMA), to guarantee transparency, iv) ensure that the benefits are redistributed to the development of the countries of

the Global South region, v) guarantee that geopolitical interests are not chosen over sustainable development and protection of human and environmental rights, vi) promote the know-how and local/national R&D to contribute to the process of generation of value and the strengthening of local economies, vii) implement a circular economy of transition minerals, as they can be recycled in significant quantities.

SUPPORT FOR ENERGY ACCESS AND FOR OVERCOMING ENERGY POVERTY

- Climate finance should be grant based to prevent the increased debt burden being faced by many Global South countries.
- No further investments in fossil fuels for export in the global south. Instead, there is a need for enhanced support for the renewable energy development that will not only help with the issue of energy access but will also bring about development as well as help abate the climate change crisis.
- The funds being received through JETPs should be new and additional money that is directed towards supporting a Just Energy Transition.
- Governments should agree to enhance their NDCs again before 2025 while acknowledging the responsibility of developed countries to provide support to developing countries for the implementation of their NDCs.

ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION

- Just Energy Transition pathways, including through economic diversification, should ideally result in developing a more robust range of sectors that can provide a more diverse range of goods and services; provide jobs in sectors that are less vulnerable to climate change impacts; enhance the performance of non-agriculture sectors such as manufacturing, services, construction, infrastructure, information and communication technology, finance, etc; and significantly contribute to sustaining long-term economic growth and development.
- COP28 should call for new, additional, adequate and appropriate financing and technology support to be committed by developed countries to developing countries to support economic diversification and energy transition, in the context of a carefully thought-out sustainable development and energy transition plan, adjusted to national circumstances, including the use of decentralized and democratized renewable energy, economic, and climate resilience initiatives as the basis for Just Energy Transition pathways.
- The Just Energy Transition should also ensure that workers are supported when loss of jobs occurs due to the shifting from the fossil fuel industry to the renewable energy industry. The transition should ensure that the new jobs being created should be clean, long term and sustainable.

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GLOBAL SOUTH VOICES TO COP28

Key Messages Towards a Just Energy Transition for LAC and Africa