



Submission by the Local Governments and Municipal Authorities Constituency (LGMA)

United Arab Emirates Just Transition Work Programme

Views on the process for the operationalization of the just transition mechanism – March 2026

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1. Introduction

The Local Governments and Municipal Authorities Constituency (LGMA) welcomes the COP30 decision to develop a just transition mechanism to better align and support policies and initiatives for a fair, inclusive climate transition. This decision is a landmark outcome that has a potential to positively and concretely contribute to ensuring alignment between climate and equity goals. Critically, the just transition mechanism offers an enormous opportunity to **transform and accelerate the on-the-ground implementation of just transitions, delivering tangible outcomes for local communities and workers, preventing the exacerbation of inequalities, and increasing public support for climate action.**

As highlighted by the LGMA in previous engagements with the Just Transition Work Programme, and echoed by many Parties across negotiating blocks, including the G77 and China, AILAC, EIG, the Umbrella and African Groups and by other constituencies, subnational governments play a crucial role in climate action. They are at the forefront of experiencing and addressing climate-related risks as well as advancing the green transition with distinct powers over key climate sectors. As the closest level of government to populations, subnational governments engage with local contexts and community-specific needs. From Bogotá (Colombia) tackling gender disparities in transport, to Quezon City (the Philippines) supporting informal waste workers, to Pernambuco (Brazil) training smallholder farmers in reforestation, to London (UK) equipping disadvantaged youth with green economy skills, and to the state of Lagos (Nigeria) cushioning the impacts of fossil fuel subsidy removal¹. The wealth of subnational governments' experience on inclusive local transitions as well as their insights into community realities and needs offer both a model for national governments to integrate in overall just transition planning and examples that can be scaled up at a national level for effective transitions.

The existing multilevel partnerships are already demonstrating positive results in advancing a just transition. For instance, Brazil, Colombia, the Philippines, and Switzerland are collaborating with their subnational governments to develop and implement inclusive and equitable climate solutions through their NDCs processes or the creation of national just transition strategies. The governments of Spain, Australia, the UK, and South Africa are utilising the expertise and powers of their subnational counterparts, making them key

¹ Please consult previous LGMA submissions for more examples of subnational just transitions, e.g., on [just energy transition, resilience building](#), and the [first submission of 2026](#).



stakeholders in national just transition commissions or advisory bodies to implement solutions effectively. Regionally, the EU provides technical assistance and financial support to carbon-intensive regions affected by the transition. These examples should be strengthened nationally, made more visible, and replicated globally.

It will therefore be paramount to include subnational government representation in the just transition mechanism from the outset and design the mechanism in a way that allows for the integration of subnational priorities, best practices and to create avenues to leverage subnational powers for an accelerated action and stronger whole-of-government approaches to a just transition.

In light of this, the following submission aims to inform the deliberations ahead of the sixty-fourth sessions of subsidiary bodies and the draft just transition mechanism decision. The content draws on the cross-constituency [proposal](#) for the Belém Action Mechanism, on the analysis of similar other UNFCCC instruments or mechanisms, conversations with experts, and subnational just transition perspectives. This submission is structured as follows: **1) governance 2) functions and 3) proposed thematic priorities.**

2. Views on the process for the operationalization of the just transition mechanism

2.1. Governance

The mechanism's success will hinge on a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach in shaping its direction and decisions. More specifically, all constituencies - including representatives of subnational governments (through LGMA) - and relevant UN organisations should have an equal seat in the mechanism's governance body. Crucially, the mechanism should also establish pathways to extend participation to those directly affected by the transition, in line with the principles of an inclusive process and social dialogue central to a just transition. This will be essential for meaningful participation in work planning and decision-making, as well as, localised implementation solutions oriented towards lived experiences of workers and communities. An equal seat in the governance body and across all working groups/task forces for all constituencies will ensure the mechanism has the potential to move from the negotiation to practice that is centered on people- and place-based approaches. Additionally, to facilitate and reduce fragmentation currently experienced across national and global processes, the mechanism should establish a single window interface/a focal point for subnational participation.

2.2. Functions

Building on the COP30 mandate to "enhance international cooperation, technical assistance, capacity-building and knowledge-sharing, and enable equitable, inclusive just transitions," the LGMA proposes the following key functions for the mechanism. These functions are suggested with the aim to accelerate global progress on just transition pathways and facilitate meaningful subnational contributions to advance just transition implementation.

1. Strengthen dialogue, coordination and coherence

The mechanism should act as a connective tissue to facilitate cross-pollination and



proactively coordinate, map, connect and harmonise just transition workstreams and programmes both within and outside of the formal UNFCCC process and across different levels of government. The LGMA stands ready to work with the mechanism and other constituencies to foster synergies and promote vertical collaboration by bringing concrete local level examples and experiences and, vice versa, facilitating connections from global and national policy to the local level. This coordinated approach can enhance policy coherence across all levels of government, including when developing national just transition plans, ensuring that solutions are localised addressing the specific needs of communities, workers and SMEs at the forefront of just transitions.

2. Enhance capacity, knowledge and understanding

Building on the existing Just Transition Work Programme, the mechanism should facilitate development, provision and dissemination of, and access to knowledge and information, connect and facilitate expert and practitioner exchanges and provide policy, technical advice and training to enrich the understanding of just transition approaches and challenges whilst identifying practical and effective solutions that can be scaled up or replicated. To do this, the role and voice of subnational actors is critical. The mechanism should be designed to enable ongoing active participation and contributions from subnational decision-makers, practitioners, and representatives of subnational networks/organisations within a community of practice and through peer-to-peer exchanges. This will elevate regional and local perspectives and insights, and provide space to explore what works on the ground to advise and inform national approaches.

3. Advance implementation support

The mechanism should catalyse technical assistance for the implementation of tailored just transition solutions at the local, regional, national and global level. Assistance should consider facilitating access to just transition finance, both within and outside the framework of the UNFCCC. Specifically, the assistance should be available to subnational entities who are often best placed to deliver rapid implementation and engage directly with local communities, but are not always equipped to develop bankable projects that are able to attract private capital, nor are they familiar with the expectations of capital. Ensuring their access to technical assistance and finance is therefore essential to translate national commitments into tangible local outcomes. Assistance should also be available to workers' organisations, civil society and SMEs who are directly affected by the transition and play a key role in developing practical solutions. The mechanism should also consider matching local and regional innovative, small scale pilots with relevant multilateral financial mechanisms - prioritising grant-based funding over loans - and with philanthropies. In addition, the mechanism can assist local actors on how to demonstrate how grants can be used catalytically to crowd in other sources of finance and scale interventions.

2.3. Proposed thematic priorities

The Just Transition Mechanism's work plan should build upon and expand the themes discussed in the Just Transition Work Programme to date, proactively addressing any identified thematic gaps. The mechanism's strategic priorities could include, but are not limited to:



1. **Multilevel and multistakeholder governance models:** explore solutions to improve horizontal and vertical policy integration, enhanced collaboration between different levels of government (e.g., when developing national just transition plans) and an inclusive and multistakeholder process both at the design and implementation stages.
2. **Accelerating implementation:** address translating high-level commitments and principles into concrete enabling conditions and concrete actions. This could include identifying key opportunity levers, mitigating risks, aligning incentives, and delivering tangible and measurable outcomes, as well as identifying ways to scale initiatives beyond pilot projects, with consideration for diverse national circumstances and local contexts.
3. **Equitable climate action:** Focus on inclusive, whole-of-society approaches that ensure disadvantaged and low-income communities are not only protected from the adverse impacts of climate change but are also empowered as active participants in the transition. This requires integrating equity and social justice into climate policies and actions at all levels (local, national, and global) by removing systemic barriers to participation, access, and benefits. Prioritise capacity-building, resource allocation, and tailored support mechanisms that enable these communities to contribute to, and benefit from, climate solutions.
4. **The world of work:** centre on approaches that integrate the expertise and the needs of workers, both formal and informal, embed labour and human rights, integrate occupational health and safety considerations, create good green jobs and offer targeted workforce development, in partnership with workers, unions and employers.
5. **Just transition finance:** explore ways of integrating just transition principles into financial frameworks and instruments, developing enabling policies and incentives that mobilise public and private investments that accelerate the localisation of climate and development finance, and prioritise grant-based funding over loans - particularly in climate-vulnerable countries. At the same time, grant-based funding will not be adequate to finance the scale of change required, therefore it is essential to demonstrate how grant financing can be used to effectively leverage other forms of finance such as debt, equity, and blended finance. Importantly where debt financed is attracted, the terms need to be concessional, especially for climate-vulnerable countries.

The LGMA stands ready to support this vital work and contribute to the operationalisation of the just transition mechanism to support coordination, best practice sharing and enable accelerated just transition implementation.