WGC Advocacy Position on the Belém-Antalya Mechanism

Ahead of COP31

A feminist future requires a just transition away from all extractive, racist, and patriarchal economies towards a 1.5-aligned, fossil-fuel-free planet that centres care, justice, and rights.

Building on the COP30 agreement to develop a Just Transition Mechanism (JTM), the Women and Gender Constituency (WGC) supports creating the Belém-Antalya Mechanism (BAM) - a permanent home for a holistic approach to just transition that strengthens international cooperation, technical support, capacity-building, and knowledge exchange, enabling equitable and inclusive transitions.

The mechanism should be established as a constituted body under the authority and guidance of the CMA. Establishing the mechanism as a constituted body would provide it with the institutional authority, dedicated resources, and accountability structures necessary to fulfill its functions of building and sharing knowledge, delivering technical assistance, and strengthening cooperation to enable just transitions. Under the CMA, the mechanism will act as a guidebook, enabler and facilitator for countries implementing national just transition pathways, establishing standards and processes to support countries in implementing just transition, contributing to more coherence and less fragmentation across pathways.

Decision 2/CMA.7 explicitly requires that the mechanism builds on and complements the work of the Just Transition Work Programme (JTWP). In effect, the mechanism should operationalise the non-exhaustive principles, rights-based approaches, and best practices reflected in paragraph 12 of decision 2/CMA.7 on the basis of the Dialogues held by the JTWP. The agreed principles must guide how the mechanism delivers technical assistance, monitors implementation, and facilitates international cooperation. The principles should inform not only the substance of just transition pathways and projects being produced by countries, but also the architecture and governance of the mechanism itself, guaranteeing participatory approaches and meaningful engagement of affected communities in co-designing just transition projects and pathways. This includes but is not limited to the promotion of international labour standards, social dialogue, gender equality and the empowerment of women, intergenerational equity, the rights of Indigenous peoples, local communities, persons with disabilities, and people in vulnerable situations. Equity must sit at the heart of the just transition mechanism, rebalancing power,

removing barriers, addressing common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities (CBDR-RC), and creating an equitable playing field that supports and protects communities and ecosystems in the achievement of just transition projects and pathways.

Just transition work is occurring, and the mechanism must include a Coordination and Coherence function. The coordination and coherence function would systematize information coming from multiple bodies and identify opportunities for convergence as well as gaps and challenges. In doing so, it would present a comprehensive picture of just transition work that encompasses all dimensions relevant for national policymaking (mitigation, adaptation, finance, gender, technology transfer, response measures, among others) and guide the work of the different arms of the mechanism to **ensure that each activity addresses identified gaps, lessons learned, and emerging needs**. Specifically, through this function, we call for the institutional engagement of the rights-holder constituencies, namely TUNGO, WGC, ENGO, YOUNGO, IPO, with clarity on how their inputs influence outcomes and the role they play in the overall coordination of the mechanism. Following the precedent of the Article 6.4 Supervisory Body, the BAM should operationalise a coordination body with institutional arrangements for rights-holder participation as well as the engagement of relevant workstreams within the UNFCCC (i.e. the CTCN, KCI) and promoting interagency efforts through engaging relevant UN entities outside UNFCCC.

To continue proactive and effective implementation, the Just Transition Mechanism must include an Action and Support function. This function focuses on providing the necessary technical, financial, and capacity-building support to implement just transition projects, particularly in areas undergoing industrial restructuring and phase-out, enabling international cooperation through best-practice sharing, bilateral and multilateral partnerships, and means of implementation. This function will entail capacity-building support to ensure that countries most in need and those with fewer resources have access to the right tools to implement just transition projects in their own national capacities, creating more opportunities at the national and global levels. Under this function, there should also be matchmaking efforts to identify potential financial and technical avenues and connect them to countries and projects based on their needs, assisting Parties as they shape their national transition plans.

Just transition policies at scale require solid evidence and shared learning, therefore the mechanism must include a Knowledge Building function. Under this function, the mechanism would host its Global Hub of Practitioners to share learning and develop transition pathways, where broad participation from experts, academics, communities and practitioners, among others, will be channelled to enhance access and dissemination of knowledge and information on just transition. It would also build a library of principles, tools, best practices, and resources to support countries and communities in developing just transition projects and pathways. Under this function, the Mechanism would also carry out outreach and communications to amplify and disseminate the work so it can be effectively used by countries, communities, and projects at all levels.

For successful implementation, peoples' participation must be formally recognized and woven into all aspects of the Just Transition Mechanism. Just transitions drive societal transformations that affect workers, communities, and rights-holders. This is why stakeholder engagement must be central and fully integrated across all structures at the national and international level. The WGC calls for a formal position for rights-holders constituencies within the just transition mechanism. In effect, stakeholder engagement within the mechanism must move beyond consultation toward structured, institutionalized, meaningful, and iterative participation. Additionally, the mechanism can support countries in developing community engagement and participation processes for just transition pathways and plans, to ensure inclusive and equitable consultation and procurement of consent for transition-related projects and plans.

As climate disasters hit countries across the globe, the need to build a future beyond fossil fuels is urgent. We call for Parties to deliver a strong, actionable outcome for the Just Transition Mechanism at COP31 to ensure holistic just transitions away from fossil fuels that meet the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement and keep 1.5C alive.

Proposed Structure

