

COP30: BUILDING THE JUST TRANSITION FROM THE GROUND UP

Feminist Voices from Colombia



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1. Key Elements for a Just Transition

A *just transition* requires a holistic, intersectional, and democratic process that ensures no community is left behind in the shift from fossil fuels. It must center care for life, gender equality, and socioecological balance over private interest and extractivism.

Core Principles

- **Intersectionality:** Policies must recognize and address how race, gender, social class, and geography influence women's realities in relation to the fossil fuel economy and climate impacts.
- **Democratization of Energy:** Ensure community participation—especially of women, Indigenous, Afro-descendant, and rural groups—in decision-making and energy governance.
- **Equity and Reparations:** Integrate financial and historical reparations for communities and countries that have been specifically affected by extractivism.
- **Ecological Integrity:** Establish “no extraction zones” in biodiversity-rich or climate-sensitive territories to protect ecosystems and biocultural heritage, guaranteeing a dignified life for those who inhabit them.
- **Knowledge Justice:** Value women's traditional, ancestral, and popular knowledge in innovation, policy-making, and research related to just energy transitions.
- **Peace and Demilitarization:** Resist militarization and prioritize security rooted in care for people, nature and ecosystems rather than protection of extractive interests.
- **Transformative Economies:** Promote diversified local economies that move beyond fossil fuels - dependence, focusing on social reproduction, care work, and community well-being.

Recommendations for the Belém Action Mechanism for a Just Transition at COP30

1. **Develop policies with gender and ethnic approach** that make visible the differentiated impacts of fossil fuel extraction.
2. **End subsidies and investments** in coal, oil, and gas; redirect funds toward community-led renewable energy.
3. **Challenge “green extractivism and green militarism”** by ensuring that renewable projects do not reproduce colonial and patriarchal exploitation.
4. **Foster international cooperation and knowledge-sharing** between communities and policymakers.
5. **Support conflict prevention mechanisms** addressing violence linked to resource extraction and militarized energy projects.

Recommendations for the Just Transition Pillar of the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty (FFNPT)

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While progress at the COP is stalling, a vast, just, and democratic global transition to a fossil-free world is gaining momentum. A courageous bloc of Global South governments, backed by civil society, businesses, and frontline communities, is leading the charge. The next critical step is the First International Conference for the Phase Out of Fossil Fuels, to be hosted by Colombia in 2026.

The proposed Fossil Fuel Treaty — once the missing piece in global climate governance — is now beginning to become a reality.

To align the FFNPT with principles of justice and equity, its Just Transition pillar should ensure that energy transformation is socially inclusive, gender-equitable, and reparative.

Recommendations

- **Institutionalize Intersectional Frameworks**

Embed gender, ethnicity, and class analysis throughout treaty implementation to assess and mitigate differentiated harms.

- **Create a Global Just Transition Fund**

Establish a fund financed by high-emitting nations to compensate countries and communities that keep fossil fuels underground—explicitly avoiding market-based mechanisms like carbon credits.

- **Ensure Territorial and Ecological Protection**

Identify and protect “no extraction zones,” prioritizing biodiversity, cultural heritage, and climate stability.

- **Amplify Women’s Leadership and Knowledge**

Formally include feminist, Indigenous, and local women’s organizations in treaty dialogues and governance.

- **Demilitarize Energy Transitions**

Explicitly prohibit the militarization of territories under the guise of energy security and reject “green militarism.”

Implementation Measures

1. Mandate government consultations with women environmental defenders and territorial leaders to shape transition strategies.

2. Promote cross-regional cooperation to exchange feminist and community-based models of transition.

3. Institutionalize reparation mechanisms for communities historically impacted by fossil-fuel-based violence and dispossession.

4. Support participatory research and data collection amplifying women’s experiences in fossil-fuel-affected areas.

5. Integrate peace and disarmament goals into the Just Transition pillar—linking fossil fuel phase-out with the reduction of military spending and arms production.