

# HUMAN RIGHTS & CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING GROUP

## Respecting, Promoting, and Fulfilling Human Rights in the Just Transition Work Programme

Submission on views on the work to be undertaken and the possible topics for the dialogues under the Just Transition Work Programme

February 2024



## 1. Introduction

The organisations supporting this submission welcome the invitation to submit our views on the work to be undertaken, and the possible topics for the dialogues, under the United Arab Emirates Just Transition Work Programme (JTWP) as referred to in FCCC/PA/CMA/2023/L.14. This decision acknowledges that Parties have to respect, promote and consider their respective human rights obligations in the context of climate action and notably, for the first time in a decision by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), refers to labour rights in the context of the elements of the work programme.

Just Transition pathways imply addressing unprecedented challenges for humanity. At its core the JTWP must ensure a full, just and equitable phase out of fossil fuels without reliance on measures that may undermine fundamental rights or perpetuate economic dependency on fossil fuels. To this end, it will be necessary to reform how economies are organised, ensure access to sustainable goods and services for all, reconsider what is valued and how value is measured, determine which economic sectors should be supported and which closed down, and take urgent steps to nurture and remain within the ecosystem's capacities. Moreover, far-reaching decisions will have to be made about how resources are produced, consumed, and distributed, locally, nationally, and globally; as societies, we will need to fundamentally reconsider social and economic structures and power dynamics.

In this context, the recently adopted JTWP presents an opportunity to address these challenges and comprehensively evaluate, design and implement pathways to achieve the Paris Agreement objectives in a way that ensures equitable outcomes and encompasses all socio-economic dimensions of climate policy and action.

To achieve these overarching objectives, international human rights law and standards should be used to frame Just Transition pathways. Understood as a body of obligations, standards and institutions, human rights reflect globally agreed-upon values, framed in agreed-upon language, which, in principle, permit referral to a body of internationally and regionally norms that raise human dignity concerns to the level of entitlements for all.<sup>1</sup>

These entitlements require progressive realisation in order to become fulfilled social, economic, cultural, and environmental demands. Nevertheless, the human rights framework does impose duties on States vis-à-vis all individuals within their respective jurisdictions. Each State that has ratified international human rights treaties has a duty to “respect, promote and fulfil” the rights set out in those instruments, including the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.<sup>2</sup> Furthermore, all parties to the Paris Agreement and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change have ratified one or more international human rights treaties. Accordingly, States must refrain from taking any action that may violate rights. For instance, curtailing civic space through a loose enforcement of national security, including Anti-Terrorism Laws, criminalisation of certain rights, arbitrary arrest, detention and summary execution of human rights defenders (HRDs). The obligation to protect requires States to ensure that third parties, including private actors, do not breach or abuse recognised rights. In this regard, the 2011 UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights establishes the obligation of States to prevent business-related human rights abuses and the

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<sup>1</sup> Humphreys, S. (2009). Introduction: Human rights and climate change. In Robinson, M. (author), and Humphreys, S. (Ed.), *Human Rights and Climate Change*, pp. 1-34. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

<sup>2</sup> UN General Assembly. (2022). [The human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment](#). A/RES/76/300.

responsibility of companies to respect human rights in the course of their activities. The obligation to fulfil requires States to take positive steps to realise rights set out in international agreements. This implies taking measures to ensure rights are a reality on the ground through the mobilisation of resources and the design and implementation of relevant policies and laws. From these obligations, the international human rights framework is derived, i.e., the measures that States (and others) must take, the social and environmental justice outcomes that should ensue, and the benchmarks that indicate whether transition policies follow such principles and legal obligations.

Against this backdrop, the human rights framework provides Member States and other stakeholders with tools to set clear priorities for the JTWP including a redress of grievance mechanism to prevent human rights violations before they occur. It establishes negative parameters of action (i.e., policies or actions should not infringe rights) and guidance on positive objectives (i.e., protect and promote rights, ensure full and effective participation, advance sustainability, guarantee transparency and equality). Aligning the JTWP with human rights would thereby help to ensure Just Transition strategies would reduce poverty, deprivation, and power imbalances while advancing measures to realise rights and effectively combating the climate crisis. It would also increase the effectiveness of climate action, as confirmed by the IPCC.<sup>3</sup> The JTWP should, therefore, contain provisions to ensure human rights are enshrined in Just Transition standards at the local and international levels, as well as to define the thematic priorities and the working methods of the activities undertaken under this programme.

In that regard, the organisations supporting this submission propose a list of thematic priorities within the scope of the decision FCCC/PA/CMA/2023/L.14 adopted at COP28 in Dubai to provide an agenda and inform its working methods; in other words, to establish a set of thresholds and priorities for the implementation of the JTWP in alignment with international human rights norms and principles.

## 2. Proposed Thematic Priorities

The following topics are proposed as rights-aligned thematic priorities that could be addressed by Parties, observers, and non-party stakeholders in the dialogues to be held in 2024 and beyond under the JTWP:

### a. Equality and non-discrimination: implementation of an intersectional and intergenerational approach

The principles of equality and non-discrimination are affirmed in all major international human rights instruments.<sup>4</sup> As such, they must be a cornerstone of a rights-compliant JTWP. In order to ensure that inequalities are not replicated and power relations are rebalanced, the needs of individuals, communities and Peoples who have been made vulnerable through historic marginalisation and the continuing impacts of colonisation must be prioritised. According to the CESCR “[e]liminating

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<sup>3</sup> The [Summary for Policymakers](#) of the IPCC’s synthesis report of its sixth assessment cycle states that “Adaptation and mitigation actions that prioritise equity, social justice, climate justice, rights-based approaches, and inclusivity, lead to more sustainable outcomes, reduce trade-offs, support transformative change and advance climate resilient development.” (C.5.2)

<sup>4</sup> Several UN treaties guarantee the right to equality and non-discrimination. They include the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR, articles 2, 3 and 26); the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR, articles 2(2) and 3); and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC, articles 2 and 28). In addition, specialised treaties prohibit discrimination on the grounds of race, sex, and disability: The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), and the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

discrimination in practice requires paying sufficient attention to groups of individuals who suffer from historical or persistent prejudice, rather than simply comparing the formal treatment of similarly situated individuals”.<sup>5</sup> Furthermore, these principles enshrine the objective to deliver substantive (de facto) as well as formal (de jure) equality, to remove discriminatory practices and achieve effective equality in all legal and institutional contexts.<sup>6</sup> In the upcoming dialogues, Just Transition policies should therefore give attention to the situations of groups of individuals who suffer the effects of historic and persistent colonialism, prejudice and marginalisation.

For these reasons, this conversation should help States and other stakeholders adopt an intersectional and intergenerational approach that considers the connected nature of gender, race, ethnicity, religion, language, class, nationality, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, age, culture and other factors that shape systemic discrimination and inequality to ensure that transition policies leave no-one behind.

This dialogue will serve to provide technical guidance, share promising practices, and learn from experiences of frontline communities and peoples to ensure Just Transition policies avoid and help redress systemic discrimination in climate policy that not only mitigates the impacts of climate change but also promotes social justice and equality on a global scale.

#### **b. Gender equality and women’s and girls’ rights**

A Just Transition framework or policy should have substantive gender equality at the heart of its route to sustainability and climate-resilience. Complementing the principle of equality and non-discrimination, it should promote substantive gender equality, by applying an intersectional and intergenerational gender lens. This would ensure that the transition removes structural causes of gender inequality. For instance, women and girls in all their diversity face gender exploitation or disadvantage in many areas: they are over-represented in many forms of precarious, informal, and unpaid care and domestic work; they are underrepresented in key sectors of the transition (energy, transport, construction, waste-management, etc.); they are generally paid less than men (for the same work); in some areas they experience occupational segregation. Indigenous women and women in peasant and small-scale fishing communities, as well as in impoverished rural and urban communities are particularly exposed to the effects of environmental degradation because their access to land, infrastructure, public services and resources is more restricted; they also rely more than men on the natural environment to sustain their livelihoods and those of their families and communities. Underlying gender inequalities also mean that women and girls are more likely to die in extreme weather events, which are becoming more frequent and intense.<sup>7</sup>

In that sense, we suggest the JTWP takes a leading role in defining Just Transition pathways consistent with gender equality principles, creating opportunities for women to lead and meaningfully participate in key sectors, including renewable energies, sustainable food production, management, ownership and conservation of land and natural resources, including at the ocean-climate nexus. This

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<sup>5</sup> UN Committee on Economic Social and Cultural Rights. (2009). [General Comment 20 on non-discrimination and economic, social and cultural rights](#). E/C.12/GC/20. ¶18.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> UN Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment. (2023). [Report of the Special Rapporteur - Women, girls and the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment](#). A/HRC/52/33. See also UN Women. (2021). [Lessons from COVID 19: Major systemic crises are gendered and the environment is next](#).

includes recognizing and valuing the traditional knowledge and expertise that women, and especially Indigenous women, bring to environmental conservation and sustainable development.

This conversation would provide the opportunity for the JTWP to leverage the principles outlined in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and ensure that climate policies do not perpetuate or exacerbate existing gender inequalities. By adopting this intersectional perspective and deciding to hold a dialogue on this topic, the JTWP would align with CEDAW's mandate to eliminate discrimination against women in all forms and foster measures to achieve substantive equality within Just Transition pathways, which goes beyond formal legal rights and requires addressing underlying social and economic factors contributing to gender inequality in the shift towards sustainability.

### **c. Human Rights of Indigenous Peoples**

Indigenous Peoples' human rights, perspectives, knowledge systems and lived experiences must be considered and taken into account in the definitions, criteria and implementation of the JTWP. As reaffirmed by the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, "*Indigenous-led climate change policies incorporate the vital knowledge of Indigenous Peoples for land management and stewardship of natural resources while protecting health, equity, justice and sustainability.*"<sup>8</sup> A human-rights-based approach to climate change conservation and mitigation must include full recognition and respect for the rights of Indigenous Peoples, as recognised by the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and other regional instruments.

In this light, the rights affirmed in the UNDRIP, including *inter alia* Articles 3, 12, 26, and 32, as well as the commitment in Preambular Paragraph 11 of the Paris Agreement, must provide a framework for defining what is "just" in just transition policies and strategies. For instance, it must acknowledge that Indigenous Peoples are affected by the renewable energy value chain in numerous ways, ranging from the extraction of transition minerals to the development of renewable energy projects impacting their lands, waters, cultural practices and sacred sites and food systems without their Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC). It is estimated that more than 50% of transition mineral reserves are on Indigenous Peoples' lands and territories, and a large percentage of renewable energy potential is located in marginalised rural communities' land. These projects have so far led to numerous violations of Indigenous Peoples' rights that should be addressed in Just Transition frameworks.

The mining of transition minerals such as lithium, copper, nickel, chromium and helium, constructing of mega-dams, establishing palm oil and other mono-crop plantations, and building industrial wind farms are several examples of transition policies and projects being carried out on Indigenous Peoples' lands and territories without their Free, Prior and Informed Consent, flanked by environmental and socio-cultural impact assessments and fair and equitable benefit-sharing,<sup>9</sup> as required by international human rights law.<sup>10</sup> This cannot be defined as a transition from "business as usual" and these activities certainly cannot be called "just." Under the JTWP, these considerations must inform the definition and criterion of what is understood as Just Transition ensuring rights and environmental safeguards firmly established. Otherwise, projects carried out in the name of a Just Transition will lead

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<sup>8</sup> UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. (2023). [Report of the 22nd Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues \(with oral amendments\): E/2023/43-E/C.19/2023/7](#). ¶ 44.

<sup>9</sup> International case law and guidance is summarised in Morgera, E. (2019). [Under the radar: the role of fair and equitable benefit-sharing in protecting and realising human rights connected to natural resources](#). *The International Journal of Human Rights*, 23(7), 1098–1139. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13642987.2019.1592161>

<sup>10</sup> See for example Amnesty International. (2022). [Community resistance in the Isthmus of Tehuantepec](#).

to greenwashing of destructive practices that further violate the rights of Indigenous Peoples, similar to the way ill-defined “Nature-based” and “net-zero” solutions are being promoted and implemented with negative impacts for Indigenous Peoples in the areas where the projects are established.

Despite these challenges, many Indigenous Peoples and Nations are forging ahead in leading significant clean energy projects that should also inform the way forward in Just Transition pathways. Indigenous Peoples are increasingly seeking more ownership and control of renewable energy projects. Evidence points to this growing trend in many parts of the world, including Canada and the USA, but also in Kenya, New Zealand and elsewhere.<sup>11</sup> Through their own self-determined decisions, some Indigenous communities support and lead mining projects for the extraction of transition minerals – for example in Peru and Papua New Guinea, among other places. Indigenous Peoples’ leadership and self-determination is one key to a fast, just and equitable energy transition and successful, sustainable approaches to climate change adaptation and mitigation. The JTWP should thus prioritise Indigenous Peoples’ expertise and knowledge and protect their ecosystems, traditional livelihood, cultural practices and lifeways.

In this line, we suggest the JTWP adopt this as a thematic priority to foster the opportunity to explore the potential of co-development, co-ownership and co-management approaches with Indigenous Peoples and centre their perspectives and support their developmental aspirations in Just Transition pathways. Indigenous Peoples’ knowledge, science, and time-tested practices can make substantial contributions to ongoing and current policy discussions and decisions regarding Just Transition, including integration of ancestral as well as the co-development of new sustainable technologies implemented with the Free, Prior and Informed Consent, supported by environmental and socio-cultural impact assessments and fair and equitable benefit-sharing, of the impacted Indigenous Peoples. Indigenous Peoples must therefore be full participants in all dialogues held and their rights upheld as a thematic priority to ensure the JTWP provides the platform to empower them in decision-making processes, ensuring their traditional knowledge, rights and aspirations are respected.

#### **d. Protection of children’s human rights**

Children are the population group that are the least responsible for climate change and environmental degradation, but most at risk from environmental harm.<sup>12</sup> Together, the triple environmental crises posed by climate change, biodiversity loss, and toxic pollution are the single greatest threat to the realisation of children’s human rights, and risk the regression of progress made on global development, health and human rights in the past 50 years.<sup>13</sup>

Children’s human rights should play a crucial part in the Just Transitions agenda. To ensure children’s “full, equitable, inclusive, effective and gender-responsive representation and participation in decision making” related to Just Transition, it is necessary to protect the children’s human right to be heard, as part of their right to participate in decisions affecting their lives and “express their views, feelings

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<sup>11</sup> Business and Human Rights Resource Centre. [Shared prosperity models & Indigenous leadership for a just transition](#).

<sup>12</sup> UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. (2021). [Decision adopted by the Committee No. 104/2019, CRC/C/88/D/104/2019](#). ¶19 (as cited in Morgera, E., Sweeney, M. and Shields. (2022). [SDG14 and Children’s Human Rights](#). One Ocean Hub).

<sup>13</sup> UN Human Rights Council. (2019). [Report of the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, Climate change and poverty](#). A/HRC/41/39. ¶13 (as cited in Morgera, E., Sweeney, M. and Shields. (2022). [SDG14 and Children’s Human Rights](#). One Ocean Hub).

and wishes in all matters affecting them, and to have their views considered and taken seriously”.<sup>14</sup> This right includes the “freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art, or through any other media of the child’s choice”.<sup>15</sup>

We, therefore, recommend that the JTWP to have a dedicated dialogue on the topic to discuss the measures necessary to respect, protect and fulfil children’s rights,<sup>16</sup> which include those necessary to protect the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment of children when taking decision on just transition, including at the ocean-climate nexus;<sup>17</sup> ensuring children’s representation and participation in decision-making; combat negative societal attitudes to children’s right to be heard; collect and make publicly accessible information about how climate change and biodiversity loss may harm children; equip children to understand the effects of climate change-related decisions on their rights; closely consider the discriminatory impact of climate change and biodiversity loss, as well as of proposed climate change response measures and conservation measures, on children, with particular attention to Indigenous children, children in peasant and small-scale fishing communities, children in extreme poverty, children with disabilities, and girls;<sup>18</sup> and recognise, protect and realise the demands of child environmental human rights defenders, including child ocean defenders.<sup>19</sup>

This topic will provide the opportunity for the JTWP to lead on the discussion on children’s rights providing guidance to all relevant stakeholders to centre the rights of children and future generations in Just Transition pathways.

#### **e. Mobilisation of maximum available resources**

To achieve a Just Transition, States need to mobilise an unprecedented amount of resources to achieve structural transformation, which can also contribute to realization multiple SDGs.<sup>20</sup> These include resources that States can raise within society, and resources provided through international

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<sup>14</sup> Convention on the Rights of the Child. Art. 12 (as cited in Morgera, E. and Shields, S. (2024). [Integrating the General Comment 26 on Children’s Rights and a Healthy Environment in the implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework](#). One Ocean Hub).

<sup>15</sup> Convention on the Rights of the Child. Art. 13 (as cited in Morgera, E. and Shields, S. (2024). [Integrating the General Comment 26 on Children’s Rights and a Healthy Environment in the implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework](#). One Ocean Hub; Shields, S., Longo, A., Strand, M., & Morgera, E. (2023). [Children’s human right to be heard at the ocean-climate nexus](#). *The International Journal of Marine and Coastal Law*, 38(3), 545–580. <https://doi.org/10.1163/15718085-bja10140>).

<sup>16</sup> See also Morgera, E. and Shields, S. (2024). [Integrating the General Comment 26 on Children’s Rights and a Healthy Environment in the implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework](#). One Ocean Hub.; Morgera, E. and Shields, S. (2023). [What child environmental human rights defenders need to know to defend and protect a healthy ocean](#). One Ocean Hub.

<sup>17</sup> Shields, S., Longo, A., Strand, M., & Morgera, E. (2023). [Children’s human right to be heard at the ocean-climate nexus](#). *The International Journal of Marine and Coastal Law*, 38(3), 545–580. <https://doi.org/10.1163/15718085-bja10140>

<sup>18</sup> Strand, M., Shields, S., Morgera, E., McGarry, D., SN, A. M., Brown, L. M., & Snow, B. (2023). [Protecting Children’s Rights to development and Culture by Re-Imagining “Ocean Literacies.”](#) *The International Journal of Children’s Rights*, 31(4), 941–975. <https://doi.org/10.1163/15718182-3104000>

<sup>19</sup> See also Morgera, E. and Shields, S. (2023). [What child environmental human rights defenders need to know to defend and protect a healthy ocean](#). One Ocean Hub.

<sup>20</sup> UN Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment. (2022). [Report of the Special Rapporteur - The human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment: a catalyst for accelerated action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals](#). A/77/284.

financial institutions, as well as through international cooperation and assistance, the provision of which is an obligation on all States in a position to provide it. The obligation under human rights laws and standards to raise the “maximum resources available” implies that States should make immediate and concerted efforts to ensure enough resources are allocated to realise fundamental rights.<sup>21</sup> This is true, as well, to deliver on Just Transition pathways.

In relation to finance and budgeting, States are required not only to explore all potential sources of resources to invest in Just Transition policies, but to address resource diversion (such as illicit financial flows, tax evasion, and corruption), and to create more fiscal space for States and communities through ensuring measures relating to debt cancellation, access to loans at concessionary rates, and tax justice. Notably, the principle that States should make a “maximum of resources available” to achieve these goals also considers that developed countries should make significant financial contributions to support developing countries to undertake Just Transition strategies.<sup>22</sup>

We, therefore, propose the JTWP to pioneer a conversation on finance and the mobilisation of maximum available resources that can be invested in Just Transition policies with all relevant stakeholders as a key thematic priority. This would allow to provide technical guidance to States and other interested parties on finance mechanisms and policies, explore innovative means to mobilise resources from different sources, and ensure that finance reaches those at the frontlines of the climate emergency.

#### **f. Phase out of fossil fuels and a Just Transition to renewable energy**

To address the climate crisis and uphold the goals of the Paris Agreement, as well as meeting States’ human rights obligations, the JTWP must deliver a fast, comprehensive, just, equitable, and full shift away from fossil fuel production and use without reliance on unproven technologies that can negatively impact the environment, leading to further human rights violations,<sup>23</sup> and act as dangerous distractions (e.g. carbon capture and storage (CCS), geoengineering, ocean carbon dioxide removal, reliance on carbon credits of dubious climate value and often associated with human rights violations, and unproven technologies) that would perpetuate/prolong the fossil economy.<sup>24</sup>

The transition from fossil fuels to clean, renewable energy cannot be addressed only with much-needed investments in renewable and sustainable energy models and technology that avoid negative impacts on biodiversity and toxic pollution, but also a transition away from current economic models at the root of unsustainable, extractive practices too often linked with human rights violations. For example, the most frequent human rights concerns associated with the wind and solar energy sectors are failures to respect Indigenous Peoples’ human rights, including lack of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), forced evictions and illegal land seizures, loss of livelihoods related to the loss of land and biodiversity, threats to sacred sites, and insufficient respect of labour rights. Similar human rights violations have also been documented for peasants and small-scale fishers. In addition, the mining of minerals used to produce wind turbines and solar panels is often associated with “decreased access to water for local communities, increased instances of mining-related illnesses, and environmental

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<sup>21</sup> ICESCR. Article 2 (1); see also UN Committee on Economic Social and Cultural Rights. (1990). [General Comment No. 3: The nature of State parties’ obligations \(article 2, para. 1\)](#). E/1991/23. ¶10-13.

<sup>22</sup> See, for example, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Article 4(2); the Paris Agreement. Article 9(3).

<sup>23</sup> One Ocean Hub. (2023). [Legal Note to the International Court of Justice](#).

<sup>24</sup> Amnesty International. (2023). [Fatal fuels: Why human rights protection urgently requires a full and equitable fossil fuel phase out](#).



pollution”.<sup>25</sup> The industrial mining of minerals such as cobalt and copper for rechargeable batteries in the Democratic Republic of Congo is an exemplary case of this dynamic that is resulting in adverse human rights implications at the local level.<sup>26</sup>

A just and equitable transition demands a framework that ensures the protection of workers, fenceline communities, Indigenous Peoples, peasants and small-scale fishers, and ecosystems affected by the phase-out. Policies must be implemented to diversify economies and ensure that the transition addresses energy poverty and is inclusive of and respects the human rights of all groups in vulnerable conditions, including women, people with disabilities, children, ethnic minorities, migrants and others. Labour rights must also be protected across all the previously mentioned groups. A just and equitable transition must also prevent the continued extraction and use of fossil fuels and take steps to mitigate against the disproportionate burden that may fall on marginalised communities that are still fossil fuel-dependent.

In this context, the key role of transition minerals in the development of clean technologies must be acknowledged and addressed as part of the JTWP. According to projections by the World Bank, the demand for critical minerals will increase by 500% by 2050.<sup>27</sup> This high demand will increase environmental damage and social impacts, with the high risk of the creation of racial sacrifice zones, as defined by the Special Rapporteur on racism.<sup>28</sup> With more than half of transition minerals located in or near their lands and territories, Indigenous Peoples are likely to be affected more than any other group. Policy options<sup>29</sup> that can reduce demand for new raw materials, such as promoting public transportation, decreasing size of individual cars, among others, are within reach and should be prioritised in the JTWP. In this light, the JTWP must contribute to prevent these risks, including by promoting public policy choices to significantly reduce demand for new extraction of minerals, responsible sourcing, recycling, cooperation and redistribution of transition minerals and materials; ensuring the protection of the rights of workers, and surrounding and fenceline communities in the clean energy industries. The JTWP must also address the current use of systemic forced labour, such as the state-imposed<sup>30</sup> forced labour of Uyghurs in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, and other human rights abuses in the mining, processing or production of materials for the clean energy industries,<sup>31</sup> as developed in the findings of the July 2022 report of the UN Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Slavery to the UN General Assembly.<sup>32</sup>

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<sup>25</sup> Business and Human Rights Resource Centre. (2019). [Fast and Fair: Renewable Energy Investments: A Practical Guide For Investors](#).

<sup>26</sup> Amnesty International and IBGDH. (2023). [Powering Change or Business As Usual](#).

<sup>27</sup> World Bank. (2019). [Climate-Smart Mining: Minerals for Climate Action](#).

<sup>28</sup> UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, E. Tendayi Achiume. (2022). [Report of the Special Rapporteur- Ecological crisis, climate justice and racial justice](#). A/77/549.

<sup>29</sup> Transport and Environment. (2023). [Smaller cars can reduce demand for critical metals by almost a quarter – report](#).

<sup>30</sup> ILO. (1930). [Forced Labour Convention, 1930](#) (No. 29); ILO. (1957). [Abolition of Forced Labour Convention 1957](#) (No. 105) (which specifically concerns forced labour imposed by state authorities); ILO. (2012). [General Survey on the fundamental Conventions concerning rights at work in light of the ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization, Report of the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations](#). ILC.101/III/1B. ¶1272.

<sup>31</sup> Anti-Slavery International. (2024). [Uyghur Forced Labour in Green Technology](#).

<sup>32</sup> Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences. (2022). [Report of the Special Rapporteur - Contemporary forms of slavery affecting persons belonging to ethnic, religious and linguistic minority communities](#). A/HRC/51/26.

Through this thematic focus, Parties, observers and non-party stakeholders should provide guidance and share a common understanding on policies that will help States, on the one hand, phase out all fossil fuels, avoid reliance on dangerous technologies and approaches, including CCS, speculative technologies for carbon removal, geoengineering, and offsets generated through carbon markets. And on the other hand, transition to clean, renewable energy respecting, protecting and fulfilling fundamental rights, including by ensuring protection of biodiversity and prevention of toxic pollution, including in the use and extraction of transition minerals on which the development of low-carbon technologies depend.

This conversation under the JTWP would allow all stakeholders to have a platform to discuss all socioeconomic and environmental dimensions of the energy transition from a human rights and a social and environmental justice perspective. A conversation that is indispensable to ensure enough social support is provided to the shift towards clean, renewable energies and the decarbonisation of the economy.

### **g. Individual and collective labour rights**

Labour rights engage three different rights: the right to work, the right to just and favourable working conditions, and the right to join and participate in trade unions.<sup>33</sup> As institutions and governments increasingly recognise that they must take urgent steps to decarbonise society, they have underscored the need to protect the labour rights of people and communities who are highly dependent on the fossil fuel industry. As the notion of Just Transition took form when energy workers acted to counter the potential adverse social consequences of adopting green technologies, it has naturally gained traction in the labour rights and trade union movements.<sup>34</sup> Reflecting this history, Just Transition policies and programmes have mainly focused on compensating, retraining, and reskilling workers, providing working benefits, and compliance with labour standards as industries phase out fossil fuels and adopt sustainable sources of energy.<sup>35</sup> However, it is not just the energy sector that needs to be transformed to a low carbon future, but it should be a whole of economy approach including transitioning away from climate change contributing practices across sectors.

As reflected in the COP28 decision on the JTWP, labour rights must be an integral part of the JTWP, including workers in the informal economy, with the aim of further formalising the workforce. As fossil fuel-based industries lose relevance, new and old green industries (renewable energy, trash collection and recycling, and also transport or healthcare) will play a more critical role in reducing emissions and building sustainable economies. The JTWP must, therefore, foster a comprehensive discussion on how a wide range of jobs will be restructured, and employees from carbon-intensive industries will be retrained and transferred to new sectors that offer working conditions that respect human rights and protect the natural environment.

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<sup>33</sup> This right can be found in the following international treaties: ICESCR. Article 6; ICCPR. Article 8.3(a); CERD. Article 5(e)(i); CEDAW. Article 11.1(a); CRC. Article 32; CMW. Articles 11, 25, 26, 40, 52 and 54. In regional treaties, it is affirmed by: the European Social Charter of 1996. Article 1; ACHPR. Article 15; Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights in the Area of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (San Salvador Protocol). Article. 6. See also the United Nations General Assembly Declaration on Social Progress and Development, resolution 2542 (XXIV) of 11 December 1969. Article 6.

<sup>34</sup> Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) and Climate Investment Funds (CIF). (2020). [Just Transition Concepts and Relevance for Climate Action: A Preliminary Framework](#). p. 3.

<sup>35</sup> See, for example, [Just Transitions and Equitable Climate Action Resource Centre](#) from the World Resources Institute. The Centre highlights promising practices that assist workers to transition to low carbon societies; the [Just Transition Declaration agreed at UNFCCC CoP26](#), signed by 18 countries; the [Climate 4 Jobs Initiative](#) from ILO; the [A Just Transition to a Greener, Fairer Economy](#) from the Trade Union Congress.

## **h. Public services and universal social security**

The public provision of essential services is necessary to ensure that everyone, but especially those living in poverty are able to access such goods and services, in particular in times of crises. Public services, such as education, health, water, and sanitation thus play a pivotal role in ensuring that the transition to zero-carbon societies is conducted without placing an unfair burden on people facing structural conditions of marginalisation or affected by the shift towards sustainability.<sup>36</sup>

Similarly, social security frameworks include a wide range of policies and programmes that address different forms of economic, social, and environmental vulnerability. Through its redistributive character, social security plays an important role in poverty reduction and alleviation, preventing social exclusion and promoting social inclusion.<sup>37</sup> Therefore, strong good quality public services and universal social security frameworks are essential in managing the impacts of climate breakdown and to deliver on Just Transition pathways that can progressively realise socio-economic and environmental rights.

For instance, a rights-aligned universal social protection scheme could reduce from 68 to 20 million the number of people who are expected to fall into poverty as a result of climate-related risks.<sup>38</sup> In 2020 only 46.9% of the world's population was covered by at least one social security benefit.<sup>39</sup> This demonstrates that it is critical to expand public services and social security coverage, increase social protection benefits and strengthen the quality of public services and social protection systems to ensure communities' resilience and capacity to adapt to the climate emergency, and to protect them from transition measures that may harm their livelihoods.<sup>40</sup>

In this light, we propose that public services and social protection be adopted as a central thematic priority of the dialogues under the JTWP. This discussion could identify common policies and bring together relevant actors working across different sectors on education, health, water, energy, and social security to envision paths that can ensure that the shift towards sustainable societies also generates better living conditions for all. These measures are key to promote robust social and community support to undertake the structural transformations necessary to achieve zero-carbon economies.

## **i. Land, ocean, agriculture, and food systems**

It is currently estimated that large-scale, industrial food systems cause one third of the world's greenhouse gas emissions, through land-use changes, deforestation, soil degradation and large scale agricultural production as well as packaging, transport and waste management.<sup>41</sup> Some efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change have also put food production systems under strain, in some cases severely affecting small-scale farmers and Indigenous food producers.<sup>42</sup> For instance, the

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<sup>36</sup> European Public Service Union. (2017). [Public Services and Adaptation to Climate Change](#).

<sup>37</sup> Sepúlveda, M., Nyst, C. (2012). [The Human Rights Approach to Social Protection](#). Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland.

<sup>38</sup> The World Bank has calculated that the climate crisis will drive between 68 million and 132 million people into poverty by 2030: World Bank. (2020). [Poverty and Shared Prosperity 2020: Reversals of Fortune](#). p. 12. See also Hallegatte, S. et al. (2016). [Shockwaves – Managing the Impact of Climate Change on Poverty](#). World Bank.

<sup>39</sup> ILO. (2021). [World Social Protection Report 2020-2022](#). p. 19

<sup>40</sup> Amnesty International. (2023). [Rising Prices, Growing Protests: The Case for Universal Social Protection](#).

<sup>41</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization. (2021). [Food systems account for more than one third of global greenhouse gas emissions](#).

<sup>42</sup> UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food. (2015). [Interim report of the Special Rapporteur - Right to food](#). A/70/297.

production of biofuels (biomass-derived fuels designed to replace fossil fuels) has disrupted food prices and staple foods.<sup>43</sup> Their monoculture production on a large scale has changed land use patterns and displaced smallholder farmers and Indigenous Peoples, particularly in locations where land rights and tenure are weak.<sup>44</sup> Similarly, the diversion of water courses to produce renewable hydropower and extract “transition” minerals has sometimes displaced or harmed the food security of local populations.<sup>45</sup> Dam construction also often affects the supply of water for local agriculture and interferes with the natural life cycles of salmon and steelhead, staple foods with important cultural and spiritual importance for many Indigenous Peoples. Other programmes (such as Reduce Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation [REDD+] and carbon markets) that incentivise businesses and private corporations to grow or manage forests as carbon sinks have disrupted the livelihoods of local communities that live in and depend on the forests, often without respecting their right to FPIC.<sup>46</sup>

On the oceanfront, offshore wind farming could also bring devastating impacts to small-scale fishers. The European Commission, for instance, noted that as a consequence of offshore wind farming some “small-scale fishers may not be able to compensate for the rising cost of operation and some fishing grounds may no longer be accessible for small boats at all”.<sup>47</sup> Carbon markets and the buying and selling of offsets in the form of pollution [carbon] credits have also incentivized many of these destructive practices, including dispossession of land, without respect for human rights or the rights of Indigenous Peoples, while also delaying the transition away from fossil fuels. Large-scale fisheries also leads to significant negative impacts in terms of climate change, as well as biodiversity loss.<sup>48</sup>

In that sense, the JTWP could play a leading role in steering a conversation on Just Transition policies in the land, ocean, agriculture, livestock, fisheries and other food sectors. This conversation could tackle how the JTWP may support the reduction of large-scale agro-industrial practices in favour of agro-ecological production. As agro-ecology promotes and in some cases restores forms of food production and water systems management that are more climate-resilient, productive and in balance with nature’s cycles, it allows for the reduction of poverty and the realisation of the rights to food and to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment. Additionally, agro-ecology integrates local, Indigenous and traditional knowledge and the phase out of toxic chemical use in agriculture with appropriate modern technology that is key to achieve the objectives of the JTWP. Similar considerations should be made for Indigenous and other small-scale fishers.<sup>49</sup> A dialogue focused on this thematic priority could also address promising practices to restore key sources of greenhouse gas absorption, such as reducing and eliminating the use of pesticides and other agrochemicals, combined with soil revitalization methods including those based on the time-tested knowledge and practices of Indigenous Peoples, small-scale fishers and other peasants. Finally, we suggest the JTWP to lead the

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<sup>43</sup> Ibid.

<sup>44</sup> Ibid.

<sup>45</sup> Ibid.

<sup>46</sup> Amnesty International. (2022). [Protected Areas And Indigenous Peoples' Rights: Amnesty International Submission To The Special Rapporteur On The Rights Of Indigenous Peoples.](#)

<sup>47</sup> European Commission. (2024). [Offshore wind and fisheries.](#)

<sup>48</sup> Nakamura, J., Diz, D., & Morgera, E. (2022). [International legal requirements for environmental and socio-cultural assessments for large-scale industrial fisheries.](#) *Review of European, Comparative and International Environmental Law*, 31(3), 336–348. <https://doi.org/10.1111/reel.12462>

<sup>49</sup> Morgera, E., & Nakamura, J. (2021). [Shedding a Light on the Human Rights of Small-scale Fisherfolk: Complementarities and Contrasts between the UN Declaration on Peasants’ Rights and the Small-Scale Fisheries Guidelines.](#) *Social Science Research Network.* <https://doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3850133>

discussion on inclusive and integrated marine spatial planning to address conflicts between offshore wind farming and sustainable fisheries.

As it was recognised in the decision adopted at COP28, the JTWP should include but go beyond the transformation of the energy sector. Adopting as thematic priority the issues on just transition approaches to land, ocean, agriculture and food systems would provide the space to discuss policies to equitably shift to sustainable practices in some of the key sectors for the transition.

#### **j. Private actors and corporate accountability**

Just Transition pathways will require ensuring that climate actions by the private sector respect human rights. However, there has been mounting evidence of corporate abuse in the context of the transition to a low-carbon economy. For instance, between 2010 and 2022, the Business and Human Rights Resource Centre has registered 510 allegations of violations of rights of local communities, civil society organisations and their leaders, violations of land rights, and Indigenous Peoples' right to FPIC in relation with mining for minerals that are essential to manufacture renewable energy technologies and to support electrification (cobalt, lithium, nickel, zinc, manganese, copper).<sup>50</sup>

Evidence shows that the policies and practices required of companies by the UN Guiding Principles for Business and Human Rights and the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises to prevent, mitigate and remedy these abuses are not yet in place in renewable energy value chains. The Renewable Energy & Human Rights Benchmark, which assessed the human rights policies and practices of 28 of the biggest companies in the sector, highlights the gaps between policy and practice, and several shortcomings regarding Indigenous Peoples' rights, land rights, human rights defenders, and forced labour risk in particular.<sup>51</sup> Strengthening human rights practices is critical to enable a fast and fair transition that builds public support, delivers shared benefit and works towards a more equal global access to energy.

The JTWP is well-placed to play a key role in shaping the role of the private sector within the context of the just transition. In order to do so, we recommend the JTWP to adopt this as a key thematic priority and address the following elements of the role of the private sector in a just transition including:

- **Shared prosperity**, where business models drive rapid transitions while fostering trust and stability through models that prioritise worker and community rights in operations and supply chains.
- **Human rights and social protection**, ensuring governments and companies to minimise risks through human rights due diligence, providing universal social protection, retraining, and creating decent work opportunities, and respecting the human right to a clean, healthy environment, including children's human right to a healthy environment.<sup>52</sup>
- **Fair negotiations**, ensuring inclusive community consultation, robust implementation of FPIC principles for Indigenous Peoples, and protection against intimidation or violence for workers, Indigenous, and community leaders.
- **A commitment to accurate information**, ensuring that companies do not lobby for policies and decisions that perpetuate the carbon-based economy and refrain from supporting public

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<sup>50</sup> See Business and Human Rights Resource Centre. [Transition Minerals Tracker](#).

<sup>51</sup> Business and Human Rights Resource Centre. (2023). [Renewable Energy & Human Rights Benchmark 2023](#).

<sup>52</sup> UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. (2023). [General Comment No. 26 \(2023\) on children's rights and the environment with a special focus on climate change](#). CRC/C/GC/26.

information campaigns based on inaccurate, misleading and unfounded assertions that make it more difficult for the public to access accurate information and make informed decisions.

Throughout these areas, the JTWP should adopt an approach anchored in the incorporation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, to steer private sector approaches of the complex social, environmental, and human rights challenges inherent in transitioning to a low-carbon economy. In that sense, we recommend having one of the dialogues under the JTWP to be focused on private actors and corporate accountability to foster a conversation on the role of business in Just Transition frameworks. Attention to the protection afforded to foreign companies under international investment law and tensions with the protection of human rights and the environment should also be considered in this context.<sup>53</sup>

#### **k. Access to information, participation, and justice**

The powers of States, communities, citizens, Indigenous Peoples, and corporations are often glaringly asymmetrical. In many situations, individuals, Peoples and communities are not able to exercise their rights because critical information is not made available to them, they are barred from participating in decisions that affect them, or are prevented from voicing their concerns and proposals, or do not have access to effective procedures for preventing and correcting harms or redressing abuse. In this context, access to information, participation, and justice ensure that all people can exercise their right to participate in public deliberations and decision-making and enable individuals and communities to shape policies that affect their livelihoods and claim redress when their rights are abused. They establish essential conditions of procedural justice that enable everyone to access their fundamental rights without discrimination in Just Transition frameworks.

- The **right to access to information** entitles people to access and receive public information. Rights-holders are entitled to request and receive information, to be informed promptly and effectively of policies and measures that may affect them, and to challenge and appeal when information is not made available. The right enables rights-holders, including marginalised rights-holders, to participate in decision-making processes. In the context of a Just Transition, this right obliges States to disseminate information, including the results of social and environmental impact assessments, that will help the public to prevent or mitigate harms associated with environmental degradation. States have a duty to ensure that information is disseminated in a form accessible and adequate for all types of audience.
- **The right to participation** entitles people to be heard and to take part in decision-making processes that affect them. Fulfilment of this right is essential to ensure human dignity and combat structural factors that cause marginalisation. It is a cornerstone of any Just Transition, because groups that experience systemic discrimination are often left out of decision-making processes relevant to the shift to sustainability. Participation that is meaningful and effective can enrich social dialogue, enlarge the knowledge base, and take account of the lived experiences of communities in a manner that rebalances power, improves policy responses, and responds to the needs of those who are most disadvantaged.

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<sup>53</sup> UN Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment. (2023). [Report of the Special Rapporteur - Paying polluters: the catastrophic consequences of investor-State dispute settlement for climate and environment action and human rights](#). A/78/168.

- **The right to access to justice** is broadly understood to entitle any person whose human rights have been violated to seek redress in a court of law and make use of impartial and fair mechanisms to challenge or appeal decisions, acts or omissions that affect exercise of the right. A person may, for example, seek justice before independent and impartial administrative or judicial mechanisms, benefit from procedural guarantees, or be entitled to redress and remedy. The right to access to justice is fundamental to the concept of human rights. It enables individuals to exercise internationally recognised rights to allege, prosecute and obtain redress for human rights violations.

In this light, the adoption of this thematic focus on access to information, participation and justice would allow an in-depth conversation to guarantee democratic deliberation, public engagement, and accountability in the context of Just Transition processes. The exchange between relevant actors is strategic considering that if transition procedures are not just, their outcomes cannot be just. This thematic priority would thus provide the opportunity to foster a deeper conversation between different stakeholders aimed at providing the means for those with less power to shape the course of Just Transition policies.

## I. Protection of human rights defenders

Promoting and defending human rights in the context of the Just Transition leads to more equitable outcomes and also helps to build a sustainable and inclusive society for all. Those who speak out against powerful vested interests, civic space restrictions and harmful business conduct face great risks. Between January 2015 – March 2023, the Business & Human Rights Resource Centre tracked more than 4,700 attacks against human rights defenders, raising concerns about harmful business practices.<sup>54</sup> Three-quarters of attacks (75%) were against Indigenous, land and environmental defenders. Over a fifth of attacks (23%) were against Indigenous defenders, who are protecting over 80% of the world's remaining biodiversity, although they comprise approximately 6% of the global population.<sup>55</sup> Growing attacks are also targeting ocean defenders.<sup>56</sup>

Human Rights Defenders, are individuals and groups who, in their personal and professional capacity and in a peaceful manner, strive to protect human rights. In this case this may relate to the environment (see UN definition of environmental human rights defenders) but also to labor standards, corruption, or restrictions to speak up or advocate. Often these are ordinary people, who speak up because their rights or the rights of their communities and loved ones are being eroded.

In the context of Just Transition pathways, Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) have been, and will continue to be at the forefront of protecting the rights and well-being of their communities, or the communities they represent, whether they are Indigenous Peoples, local and rural communities or workers. Their contribution to just transition should thus be recognized, encouraged and promoted as they play a vital role of monitoring and reporting human rights violations, holding governments and corporations accountable. Their safety and well being and that of their families and communities needs to be protected and their access to justice guaranteed. Through national, regional and international advocacy, HRDs will raise awareness about the need for a Just Transition and push for

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<sup>54</sup> Business and Human Rights Resource Centre. (2023). [Human rights defenders & business in 2022: People challenging corporate power to protect our planet.](#)

<sup>55</sup> Business and Human Rights Resource Centre. (2022). [Protector not prisoner: Exploring the rights violations & criminalization of Indigenous Peoples in climate actions.](#)

<sup>56</sup> Bennett, N., De La Lama, R. L., Billon, P. L., Ertör, I., & Morgera, E. (2023). [Ocean defenders and human rights. \*Frontiers in Marine Science\*, 9. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fmars.2022.1089049>](#)

policy changes that prioritise human rights, environmental sustainability, and social justice. They can lobby governments, engage in public campaigns and international conferences, write shadow reports and collaborate with civil society organisations and Indigenous Peoples to promote a fair and equitable transition; through Communities Empowerment, HRDs work closely with affected communities, including workers in fossil fuel industries, and marginalised populations living in regions heavily impacted by these and other industries connected to the transition to renewable energy. They provide communities with information, training, and tools to advocate for their rights during the transition. This could include promoting worker retraining programs, ensuring social protection measures, and facilitating community-led renewable energy projects and effective distribution of royalties; However, governments, corporations, and other powerful actors who benefit from the status quo may perceive these as obstacles to their interests. Some use national security, including Anti- Terrorism Laws or otherwise criminalise free expression and peaceful assembly to shrink civic space for HRDs. It is therefore crucial to recognize, support and protect HRDs engaged in Just Transition work against threats, harassment, intimidation, stigmatisation, and even violence for their activism.<sup>57</sup> Ensuring their safety and providing necessary legal and logistical support is imperative. We, therefore, recommend having a dialogue on the protection of HRDs to foster a conversation on the means that should be deployed to ensure they can conduct their activities and their voices help shape transition policies.

### **3. Recommendations on working methods**

The organisations supporting this submission also provide a set of recommendations on the working methods adopted under the JTWP. These aim to provide guidance to ensure the JTWP complies with its mandate and contributes to the design, assessment and scale-up of measures to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement.

#### **a. Institutional participatory arrangements**

Observers and non-party stakeholders should be involved in decision-making processes in the course of implementation of the JTWP, including in the design of the dialogues, the adoption of the thematic priorities and the assessments of its results. In this line, this submission endorses the recommendations by the Climate Action Network International regarding the establishment of a Joint Party-Observers Advisory Body, designed to provide support in the implementation of the JTWP. This body would ensure a balanced representation of constituency observers and other stakeholders. It would furthermore aim to inform the JTWP with a wide diversity of perspectives and expertise (including from natural and social sciences, as well as Indigenous and local knowledge, as well as children's views) to ensure the JTWP is responsive to the needs of all key stakeholders.

#### **b. Synthesis of knowledge and development of guidance**

The JTWP should steer and lead the conversations on Just Transition pathways synthesising the relevant knowledge, including the knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and local knowledge, and children's views, and the promising practices on the matter. This information should be shared in an accessible manner and provide clear guidance and policy recommendations that can inform Just Transition pathways at the domestic and international levels.

#### **c. Articulation of different UNFCCC work streams**

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<sup>57</sup> UN Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment. (2018). [Framework Principles on Human Rights and the Environment](#). HRC/37/59. Principle 4.



The work undertaken under the JTWP, in particular the two annual dialogues to be held on thematic priorities, must enable the articulation of Just Transition policies across all UNFCCC work streams that are relevant to this track of negotiation. Currently there are many constituted bodies that are addressing and adopting decisions related to Just Transitions in silos, including on mitigation, Indigenous Peoples, and local knowledge systems, children’s views, adaptation, and climate finance. The JTWP should become the space where these conversations converge and provide clear guidance to relevant bodies within the UNFCCC. In this line, we recommend that the JTWP be habilitated to recommend decisions to other UNFCCC constituted bodies on policies related to Just Transitions.

#### **d. Identification of challenges to the implementation of Just Transition strategies**

As part of the work undertaken under the JTWP, efforts should be harnessed to identify the challenges that different stakeholders face in the implementation of Just Transition policies and frameworks. This would create opportunities to facilitate international cooperation to remove or reduce the barriers to the advancement of Just Transitions at the local and international levels.

## **4. Conclusions**

The Organisations supporting this submission provide the following links to existing guidance on human rights and just transitions:

- [Human Rights and Just Transitions](#) (OHCHR and ILO. 2023)
- [General Comment on Children’s Rights and the Environment with a special focus on climate change](#) (CRC.2023)
- [Guidelines for a just transition towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies for all](#) (ILO.2015)
- [The Just Transition in the Economic Recovery: Eradicating Poverty Within Planetary Boundaries](#) ( UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights. 2020)
- [A Gender-Responsive Just Transition for People and the Planet](#) (UN Women. 2023)
- [Gender equality and inclusion for a just transition in climate action: A practical guide](#) (ILO. 2023)
- [Mapping Just Transition\(s\) to a Low Carbon World](#) (UNRISD. 2018)
- [What is Just Transitions?](#) (IHRB. 2023)
- [Powering change: Principles for businesses and governments in the battery value chain](#) (Amnesty International. 2022)
- [Renewable Energy and Human Rights Benchmark](#) (BHRC. 2020)
- [Transition Minerals Tracker: Global Analysis of Human Rights in the Energy Transition](#) (BHRC.2021)
- [Indigenous Principles of Just Transition](#) ( Indigenous Environmental Network. 2022)

This brief was submitted in February 2024 to the UNFCCC in response to the call for ‘Views of Parties, observers, and other non-Party stakeholders on work to be undertaken under, as well as possible topics for the dialogues under the Just Transition work programme’ by the following member organisations of the Human Rights and Climate Change Working Group:

1. *ACE Observatory: Climate Governance Compass*
2. *Amnesty International*
3. *Anti-Slavery International;*
4. *ATD Fourth World*
5. *Bio Vision Africa (BiVA).*

6. *Business and Human Rights Resource Centre*
7. *CambiaMO*
8. *Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;*
9. *International Indian Treaty Council*
10. *Minority Rights Group*