

Statement by Colombia on behalf of AILAC on “World Café” session:

“Understanding the holistic and multisectoral nature of just transitions: socioeconomic, workforce, social protection and other dimensions underpinning nationally defined just energy transition pathways”

World Café topic:

“Nationally defined just energy transition pathways as a tool to enhance energy access and affordability”

Colombia is taking the floor on behalf of AILAC.

Thank you, madam facilitator, Chair of the SBI, and our sincere appreciation to the Government of Ethiopia for hosting this important session.

Despite the last-minute change of format, that we are surprised about, we remain open to work constructively.

AILAC recognizes the importance of a holistic approach to just transition, of which energy is a fundamental but not the only dimension. In this context, we appreciate that just transition discussions are giving the opportunity to discuss just energy transition pathways, as energy is both at the heart of global emissions and a key opportunity for driving sustainable development. Advancing just energy transition pathways means not only diversifying our economies but also addressing the urgent need to transition away from fossil fuels, while ensuring that workers, communities, and ecosystems are safeguarded, and access to energy is guaranteed.

for millions of households in our regions, the energy transition also means ensuring access to clean cooking solutions. Reliance on traditional biomass continues to pose health risks and exacerbate gender inequalities. Addressing clean cooking is therefore not a side issue but a central element of the energy transition, one that directly improves livelihoods, protects ecosystems, and advances gender equality.

As expressed in the intervention of the G77 and China, means of implementation remain at the core of these efforts. Without adequate finance, technology, and capacity-building, developing countries — especially

those with limited resources — cannot realistically move away from fossil fuels in an orderly, equitable, and just manner. A reformed international financial architecture is essential to unlock scaled-up, predictable, and accessible climate finance that supports this transition, while avoiding new debt burdens.

Finally, AILAC emphasizes that just transition must be approached with a territorial and differential lens. This means recognizing diverse local contexts, addressing the particular vulnerabilities of women, youth, Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendant communities, and workers in informal economies, while empowering them as active participants in decision-making.

For AILAC, advancing just energy transitions is not only about transforming energy systems but about building more resilient, inclusive, and equitable societies that leave no one behind.

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World Café topic:

“Socioeconomic risks and opportunities associated with energy transition pathways”

Thank you, facilitator.

In regard of the first question, AILAC underscores that nationally defined just energy transition pathways must be tailored to the differentiated realities of sectors, workers, and territories. Strategies that combine labor reconversion in formal industries with progressive formalization and support for informal workers are key to ensuring that opportunities are maximized and equally distributed. A just transition is not only about changing energy systems but also about reshaping labor markets and productive structures in line with climate goals.

At the same time, the role of the private sector is indispensable. Large companies can contribute to financing reskilling programs and creating new jobs in renewable energy and reindustrialization, while micro, small, and medium enterprises are key drivers of territorial diversification and workforce formalization. Harnessing innovation, local knowledge, and bioeconomy value chains can open up new opportunities for sustainable businesses that generate jobs and strengthen resilience at the local level.

About the second question, we recognize social protection systems as cornerstone of these transformations. To address the socioeconomic risks of transition, protection frameworks must integrate health, labor, and income security while securing sustainable sources of financing. Workers and communities affected by mine closures or the reconversion of carbon-intensive industries must be guaranteed continuity of income, healthcare, and social resilience. Mental health and psychosocial well-being must also be addressed, ensuring that transitions strengthen—not weaken—the social fabric.

In respect of the third question, AILAC emphasizes the need to maximize health and environmental co-benefits. Designing just energy transition pathways in this

way requires integrating policies that reduce emissions and improve public health, while ensuring that benefits are equitably distributed. Several AILAC countries are part of the Climate and Clean Air Coalition, whose reports show that emission reduction policies can significantly decrease morbidity and mortality, providing immediate and tangible benefits.

Equity must be at the center of these pathways. Territorial and differential approaches are essential to include Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendant communities, rural populations, women, youth, and informal workers as active partners. Community-based solutions—such as circular economy services, clean cooking solutions, and community renewable energy—can turn transition processes into opportunities for local economic empowerment while respecting cultural and ecological contexts.

About the fourth question, we recognize that, despite the crucial resources that critical minerals provide to the energy transition, these activities may generate local impacts such as habitat fragmentation, deforestation, water pollution and land use changes, which have consequent effects in climate change and affect the right of indigenous people and local communities to a healthy environment. Therefore, a just transition approach could offer unique opportunities towards fairness and equity in the mining industry. This approach could foster sustainability, biodiversity conservation, gender equality, and the respect for human rights, labor rights, and the rights and ancestral knowledge of Indigenous Peoples along the entire minerals value chain, contributing to the development of local economies, good practices and air market within the framework of mineral-dependent sectors transitions.

Finally, we call for stronger international cooperation and financial support to enable these pathways. By linking social protection, labor reconversion, health, private sector engagement, and environmental co-benefits within just energy transition strategies, countries can deliver climate action that is orderly, equitable, and fully aligned with sustainable development.

Also, as Colombia, **in my national capacity**, I would like to add that Colombia has underscored in international forums the importance of addressing in multilateral scenarios the need to ensure the traceability and sustainability of global critical mineral supply chains, assuring that mining benefits are distributed fairly, protecting ecosystems through the designation of “no-go areas,” and ensuring communities play an active role in decision-making.

Colombia supports transparent and responsible value chains governed by strong ESG standards—from extraction to recycling—that guarantee fair benefits for producing communities, protect ecosystems, and avoid human rights violations.

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World Café topic:

“Energy security in the context of just energy transition pathways”

Thank you, Chair. We believe there is no real dichotomy between a just transition away from fossil fuels and the goals of energy security and reliability. In fact, there can be no justice, no security, and no reliability if we continue destroying the climate system on which our societies and economies depend. Any credible decarbonization pathway must recognize that fossil fuels are responsible for the vast majority of global CO₂ emissions, and that transitioning away from them is essential to safeguard the rights of present and future generations.

Nationally defined just transition pathways can strengthen energy security while creating opportunities for diversification and resilience. Regional cooperation—such as in Latin America—offers the potential to lead globally in the provision of clean, affordable, and sustainable energy. Diversifying renewable energy sources, advancing cross-border integration, and embedding resilience to climate impacts are central to ensuring that energy systems are stable, reliable, and equitable, without perpetuating fossil dependence.

The three principles agreed in the Global Stocktake outcome—just, orderly, and equitable—must guide this effort. Not all economies have the same levels of dependence on fossil fuels, and transition pathways must reflect these differences. Affordability, accessibility, and universal energy access must remain at the heart of these pathways, with social protection systems ensuring that workers and communities are supported throughout the process.

AILAC also highlights the importance of integrating human rights-based and gender-responsive approaches into transition planning. Equal opportunities for women, youth, Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendant communities, and informal workers must be guaranteed through training, employment, and participation. Inclusion measures such as childcare services, flexible schedules, and parental leave are necessary to close structural gaps and ensure that green

jobs are accessible to all. Embedding these measures ensures that the transition is not only low-carbon but also fair and inclusive.

Finally, cooperation is essential at all levels. National frameworks that link labor rights, ecosystem protection, and energy access must be reinforced by local participation and territorial action. At the regional and international levels, cooperation is needed to harmonize safeguards, ensure fair and transparent supply chains for critical minerals, and expand access to finance, technology, and capacity-building. By aligning human rights, gender equality, and environmental safeguards, and by reforming the international financial architecture to support these priorities, we can build energy systems that are not only reliable and affordable, but also just, equitable, and sustainable for all.