

## Submission by EIG on the United Arab Emirates Just Transition Work Programme (UAE JTWP)

February 23, 2024

The EIG is pleased to share its views on the work programme on just transition pathways referred to in relevant paragraphs of decision -/CMA.5 and decision 1/CMA.4, in response to the call for submissions for SB60.

### Introduction

The EIG welcomes the launch of the implementation of the UAE JTWP with at least two hybrid dialogues to be held prior to the two annual sessions of the Subsidiary Bodies as agreed in Dubai. We believe that Just Transition is a critical element for successful climate action and achieving the 1.5° C global warming limit. The objective of the JTWP is defined in para 52 of decision 1/CMA4 of the Sharm-el-Sheikh decision, which is to discuss pathways to achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement outlined in Article 2, paragraph 1, in the context of Article 2, paragraph 2.

### 1. Views on work to be undertaken under the work programme

We believe that sustainability and human rights, gender equality and intergenerational equity are inextricably intertwined, and that a human rights-centered approach is indispensable for just transition.

We were therefore glad that human rights, gender equality, empowerment of women and intergenerational equity have been taken up in the preamble of the Dubai decision on the UAE JTWP. At the same time, it is regrettable that human rights have not been included in the operational part of the work programme. We stay convinced that one important outcome of the work programme should be to offer policy makers and private actors' concrete guidance on how to design transition processes fair, inclusive, with an environmental integrity and based on a human rights and gender-sensitive approach that also considers intergenerational equity.

Reflecting EIG priorities, we would like to start discussion on *Just transition pathways to achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement outlined in Article 2, paragraph 1, in the context of Article 2, paragraph 2* and on *Inclusive and participatory approaches to just transitions that leave no one behind* as two elements of the work program according to paragraph 2 of the Dubai decision on the UAE JTWP. We propose several possible topics for the dialogues under the work programme to launch this discussion. The results of the dialogues should serve as a basis for the work of the contact group.

Further referring to para 2 of the Dubai decision on the UAE JTWP, we consider *Just transition of the workforce and the creation of decent work and quality jobs (...) including through social dialogue, social protection and the recognition of labour rights* a captivating starting point for discussions. In our view, it is imperative to make sure that the transition to a sustainable, inclusive, nature based, low-carbon future does not come at the cost of the livelihoods, communities, and workers who have been the backbone of industries heavily reliant on fossil fuels and resource extraction. Safeguarding their rights and ensuring that their skills are transferable should be at the core of the UAE JTWP.

Regarding the direction of the implementation of the UAE JTWP, the work programme should further help to identify best practices for all participating parties. Possible short-term challenges of climate action need to be anticipated and the ways to turn these challenges into opportunities need to be identified and addressed so that they do not become roadblocks, arresting our progression towards a sustainable future. In that regard, we think that *opportunities and challenges, best practices and experiences on pathways to just transition*, especially at national and regional levels, should be an additional part of the work of the UAE JTWP.

The work programme should include knowledge sharing from the private sector. Companies play an important role in transition processes on the ground. The private sector already uses risk management, corporate social responsibility (CSR), responsible business conduct (RBC), gender equality, human rights and social standards. All elements can help design transition processes in a fair, inclusive and "just" manner. It is important to us that the work programme takes into consideration already existing and internationally agreed guidelines such as the [United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and](#)

[Human Rights \(UNGPs\), the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises](#) and the 2015 [ILO Guidelines on Just Transition](#).

The work Programme also should include Civil Society and UN agencies participation, considering, the variety of information resources that organizations like ILO have to guide the implementation of the Work Programme. It could be helpful also to consider the participation of organizations who can provide a broad perspective on just transition and its potential economic and social costs, such as the OECD and OXFAM.

Regarding inputs, we think that it would be important to not only consider the view of Parties and non-Party stakeholders, but also to include reports of other workstreams and by constituted bodies under the UNFCCC, especially the Katowice Committee of Experts on the Impacts of the Implementation of Response Measures, the Technology Executive Committee, the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform, and creates synergies with the mitigation work programme, the Gender Action Plan and the Action Plan under the Glasgow work programme on Action for Climate Empowerment.

In terms of outputs, we believe that the work programme should produce a toolbox of best practices that countries can use to advance in different sectors for a just transition, including energy transition at the domestic level. Additionally, we suggest producing summary reports of the dialogues held.

Finally, the work programme can help draw best practices and lessons learnt from the Just Energy Transition Partnerships that were already concluded or are planned between several countries.

## **2. Possible topics for the dialogues under the work programme**

- How to build a whole-of-society support for climate policies at the domestic level?
- How to ensure workers' technology/skills transfer in just transition – best practice
- Just Transition from a human right and intersectional, gender-based approach perspective – challenges, obstacles and best practices
- Safeguarding the rights of livelihoods, communities, and workers in a Just Transition
- Inclusive and participatory approaches to Just Transition from a non-party stakeholder's perspective, especially enterprises and workers
- Recognize and adopt measures to reduce, redistribute and value unpaid care and domestic work by promoting the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, women and girls undertake a disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work, which can be exacerbated by climate change, environmental degradation and disasters.
- Gender-responsive policies, including in agriculture and fisheries, and ensuring women's equal access to agricultural and fisheries technologies, technical assistance, productive resources, land tenure security and access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance and natural resources, as well as access to and participation in local, regional and international markets.