Santa Marta Action Repertoire (SMART) Summary

Insights from the Synthesis Report workstream of the Academic Dialogue to the Santa Marta conference on Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels

27 April 2026

The scientific community has established that the transition away from fossil fuels is necessary and possible. Shifting away from fossil fuels means moving to a clean, secure, healthy and socially just energy system that underpins ongoing prosperity. The current global energy crisis is an opportunity to accelerate the transition. A menu of actions that governments can take forward is identified.

This document provides research-based insights by participants at the Academic Dialogue of the Santa Marta conference. It is aimed to inform governments taking part in the Santa Marta process, including to support government deliberations at the conference. The Action Insights presented are compiled on the basis of expert inputs made in advance of the conference as well as at the Synthesis Report Workstream of the Santa Marta Academic Dialogue, with contributions from the topic specific workstreams and participating experts.

The Insights reflect judgments based on scientific research about priority areas for the transition away from fossil fuels (TAFF). In line with the conference's purpose of practical action, the Insights focus on opportunities for action, rather than compilation of evidence. The emphasis is on timely and emerging policy opportunities. The list of Insights is not aimed to be exhaustive, and not all Insights will be relevant to all countries.

Throughout this document, the term "fossil fuels" is used to refer to the fossil fuels themselves (coal, oil, fossil gas) as well as their derivatives and products made primarily from fossil fuels, such as plastics and other petrochemicals, conventionally produced ammonia and hydrogen, and so on.

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12 Action Insights for the Santa Marta Process

Overcoming economic dependence

1. **Develop holistic government plans to transition away from fossil fuels and dismantle legal, financial, and political barriers resulting from fossil fuel lock-in and entrenchment.** Roadmaps including milestones for the Transition Away from Fossil Fuels (TAFF) are best anchored in science and justice, with national planning and international coordination.
2. **Proactively protect livelihoods and workers through early retraining, skills development, and community and regional redevelopment** based on dialogue, ensuring the economic benefits and costs of the transition are distributed fairly.
3. **Communicate fair, transparent, and evidence-based policies.** The public generally supports climate action. The transition away from fossil fuels can be accelerated by protecting against misinformation and disinformation, including false narratives such as fossil CCS, and banning fossil fuel advertising and lobbying.
4. **Appeal to human values and wellbeing to convey the need to transition.** Frame transition away from fossil fuels as a moral, economic, and human health necessity that delivers energy security, greatly improved health, economic and fiscal stability, and prosperity for all.

Transforming supply and demand

5. **Take immediate measures to prevent future emissions.** Ban new fossil infrastructure, mandate deep legally binding cuts to methane emissions in the energy sector, accelerate electrification of energy end uses. Inscribe fossil fuel phase down targets in NDCs while supporting renewable energy pathways in low- and middle-income countries.
6. **Implement carbon pricing with international harmonisation and phase out fossil fuel subsidies.** Use revenues to support the transition and reduce negative social impacts. Form international coalitions for implementation.
7. **Establish enabling standards and monitoring requirements for fossil fuel transition targets and timetables.** Mandate public reporting on transition trajectories and closure liabilities.
8. **Implement harmonised fossil fuel supply levies to incentivise demand shifts and fund just transitions.** Track economic risks, pursue development benefits and ensure a fair, inclusive transition.
9. **Leverage central banks' financial and price stability mandates to reduce the financing costs of clean energy, electrification and enabling infrastructure.** Alongside other financing instruments, foster systemic clean energy integration to control inflation, underpin energy security and long-term economic resilience.

Advancing international cooperation and climate diplomacy

10. **Strengthen international cooperation on transitioning away from fossil fuels within and outside the UNFCCC,** including through the possible adoption of a dedicated international legal instrument on fossil fuel supply.
11. **Integrate all forms of knowledge and development imperatives in planning for just transitions.** Define success through tangible social progress and improved human welfare.
12. **Realign international legal frameworks to support just transitions away from fossil fuels.** Collectively act to neutralise the barrier from Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) to the transition.

Action Insight 1: **Develop holistic government plans to transition away from fossil fuels and dismantle legal, financial, and political barriers resulting from fossil fuel lock-in and entrenchment. Roadmaps including milestones for the Transition Away from Fossil Fuels (TAFF) are best anchored in science and justice, with national planning and international coordination.**

Current market-driven transitions are often fragmented and, as are plans for new fossil fuel production and use, misaligned with science. They should be replaced with coherent, whole-economy TAFF roadmaps that are just, orderly, credible and science-based. This creates the conditions to insulate energy policy from incumbent interests and harmonise supply and demand restrictions.

This can be done by prioritizing sectors most amenable to decarbonisation, securing equitable trade in green technology, among other measures targeted at shifting power relations away from fossil-centric paradigms. This managed approach can also prevent energy price spikes and social backlash by integrating elements like climate justice, labour dignity and public trust into the core strategy. Unlocking existing fossil-fuel related lock-ins can transform energy systems from rigid, extractive models into more democratic, resilient and decentralized systems that drive long-term prosperity and fulfil the global mandate for climate justice.

Transition away from fossil fuels requires more than scaling renewables: i) It demands bringing down the reinforcing incumbent forces (including sunk investments, and political capture) that maintain fossil fuel dominance and explicitly addressing lock-ins. ii) It requires a concomitant buildup of an alternative economy in sectors that are heavily dependent on fossil fuels, such as agriculture (synthetic fertilizer, pesticides), packaging and construction (plastics), etc. which require explicit financial and policy support to scale up.

Actors and ministries: *Ministries in charge of NDC development, trade, economy, finance and foreign affairs*

Action recommendations:

a) Co-create roadmaps and milestones for the Transition Away from Fossil Fuels (TAFF), with national planning and international coordination elements and clearly communicate these to society. Roadmaps can address strategies for managing debt and international financing to reduce fossil fuel lock-ins. Roadmaps can also draw on inspiration from the International Court of Justice opinion on accounting for the lifecycle of fossil fuel use.

b) TAFF roadmaps should i) be anchored in science, justice and fairness for credibility ii) reduce investors' interest in fossil fuels, iii) connect and operationalize existing plans with short, medium and long-term milestones.

c) TAFF roadmaps should integrate multiple elements, including energy access; transforming fossil fuel production and consumption pathways; fossil fuel subsidy reform; just transition and economic diversification; decommissioning and cleanup; alternative revenues to replace fossil fuels, debt lock-in and strategies for finding affordable capital for just transition; strong participatory governance; clear timelines and monitoring, reporting, and verification systems; and cross-ministerial coordination.

d) Build a common roadmap framework which connects existing plans and strategies across countries in a flexible manner adapted to national circumstances and aligned with other multilateral agreements. Incorporate TAFF roadmap and strategies into international reporting including inter alia NDCs.

e) Reform existing policies that support or mandate fossil fuel product use (e.g., synthetic fertilisers, plastic packaging) and develop comprehensive industrial plans to build up localized alternatives (agroecology, reuse systems, etc.).

f) To minimise future negative impacts from mineral inputs to new energy systems, prioritise identification and use of above-ground resource; strengthen recycling and mine waste valorisation as part of environmental decontamination, and improve industrial efficiency.

Action Insight 2: **Proactively protect livelihoods and workers through early retraining, skills development, and community and regional redevelopment based on dialogue, ensuring the economic benefits and costs of the transition are distributed fairly.**

Managing negative social consequences for those impacted by TAFF, including the proactive protection of livelihoods and workers in the formal and informal sectors, is critical for societal support. Moving away from reactive closures, we must embed labour guarantees and vocational training into early transition planning. Authentic culturally sensitive dialogue between governments, unions, formal and informal workers, employers and local institutions representatives ensures that workers transition into secure, well-paid livelihoods that account for cultural and regional strengths, acknowledge ties to specific livelihoods and identities and create non-fossil-dependent income opportunities rather than facing displacement and that basic needs are universally secured by public provisioning. When the benefits and costs of the transition are distributed fairly, we build the collective trust and political will, necessary to sustain a rapid, successful journey toward a fossil-free future.

Successfully reducing dependence on fossil fuels requires placing distributive and procedural justice, fairness and human dignity at the centre of the transition. Fostering a more resilient and inclusive global economy starts with redistributing economic flows from the Global North to the Global South, in particular the most vulnerable regions, to repair the damage of historical emissions and guarantee prosperity for all without fossil fuels. This includes advancing debt cancellation and expanding international climate finance. It also involves technology and capacity transfer to ensure all nations have the industrial sovereignty build on renewable energy and energy efficiency to meet their basic needs leaving behind their dependency on raw material exports, particularly fossil fuels.

Actors and ministries: *Ministries in charge of workers and education*

Action recommendations:

a) Develop a multilateral legal framework under the UN, in harmony with a possible future Tax Convention, that would comprehensively address unsustainable and illegitimate debt, including through extensive debt cancellation, international trade reform, and equitable international climate funding, technology, and capacity transfers that offer a just transition for all to meet basic needs beyond fossil fuels.

b) Develop and implement a transition strategy with representatives from the North and South. Countries with structural dependence on raw material exports require targeted support to build local value chains in renewable energy and energy efficiency and the processing of critical minerals and materials, while respecting and protecting human rights and the environment.

c) Improve, expand and scale skills and training systems to serve as core elements of transition planning for workers. Develop these systems in close collaboration with workers, informal sector representatives and local institutions, and introduced at an early stage, recognising existing qualifications and providing clear pathways to certified credentials.

d) Incubate and invest in alternative revenue and livelihood opportunities that are not fossil-dependent, particularly in regions facing structural dependence on fossil extraction or processing.

e) Develop and implement just transition plans consistent with national circumstances and development priorities including economic diversification, benefits sharing, and align it with plans to transition away from fossil fuels.

Action Insight 3: **Communicate fair, transparent, and evidence-based policies. The public generally supports climate action. The transition away from fossil fuels can be accelerated by protecting against misinformation and disinformation, including false narratives such as fossil CCS, and banning fossil fuel advertising and lobbying.**

The public largely supports climate protection and renewable energy, yet a major barrier to action is that both the public and policymakers underestimate this support. Achieving transitions away from fossil fuels requires consistent, reliable, evidence-based information to mobilize society, foster public participation, enable accountability, shift consumption patterns, and build trust in decision-making.

Pollution of the information environment obstructs action through: i) active disinformation campaigns by the fossil fuel industry that sow doubt on climate science, propose false solutions such as fossil CCS or gas as a bridge fuel, and distort the public debate to delay the energy transition; ii) greenwashing and disparagement of renewables mislead the public and lock in fossil fuels; iii) extensive lobbying to governments including in international fora; iv) fossil fuel industry influence in educational, cultural and community settings; v) unequal access to information for affected communities and silencing of journalists and defenders; and vi) unregulated digital platforms that amplify disinformation.

Governments and other actors can protect information ecosystems by curtailing and regulating disinformation, debunking greenwashing, constraining industry political influence, and communicating benefits of a rapid transition. A tobacco style fossil fuel ad ban, which is already enacted in over 60 jurisdictions, could recognise fossil fuels as harmful to health, drive down demand, "denormalize" high-carbon and luxury consumption and limit industry political interference.

Clear compelling communication and consideration of shared responsibilities, fair burden-sharing and transparent policymaking can correct misperceptions, strengthen public support, and accelerate ambitious, evidence-based climate policy.

Actors and ministries: Ministries in charge of justice, health, culture and heritage, and environment

Action recommendations:

a) Collect and share best practices for open, transparent and fair policy processes with all relevant stakeholders, and to communicate to stakeholders that the full range of relevant factors is being considered.

b) Regulate greenwashing and reject false solutions proposed by vested interests that entrench the fossil economy, for example natural gas as a bridging fuel and CCS and carbon offsets as scalable compensation for ongoing fossil fuel use. Prohibit fossil fuel advertising, marketing, and sponsorships across media, cultural, educational, and sporting platforms, recognising fossil fuels as health-harming products. At least implement fossil fuel advertising restrictions based on the tobacco model.

c) Develop measures to regulate, penalise, and counter climate-related disinformation and misinformation, drawing on emerging international guidance on information integrity and climate change.

d) Strengthen environmental education programmes.

e) Support and protect journalists, environmental human rights defenders, artists and cultural workers.

Action Insight 4: **Appeal to human values and wellbeing to convey the need to transition. Frame transition away from fossil fuels as a moral, economic, and human health necessity that delivers energy security, greatly improved health, economic and fiscal stability, and prosperity for all.**

As a leading cause of avoidable death and illness worldwide, fossil fuel pollution imposes a staggering burden on global wellbeing. By foregrounding immediate health benefits, such as reduced respiratory illness and improved cognitive development, we transform abstract climate goals into tangible improvements in people's daily lives. Fossil-free renewable resources are available, technologically feasible, and affordable; they offer a direct pathway to shared prosperity.

This value-driven approach reveals a "quintuple-win": healthier communities, enhanced energy security, cleaner environments, more resilient healthcare systems, and climate mitigation. Evidence shows that accounting for health-economic "externalities" reveals a compelling benefit-to-cost ratio where transition costs can be recouped in as little as one year. Decarbonisation is a moral mandate to protect the health of everyone. Ongoing fossil fuel extraction is fundamentally incompatible with the Sustainable Development Goals, as its externalities deepen conflict and social inequity. Centering the transition on shared human values builds the political salience necessary to secure a prosperous, life-affirming future for all.

Actors and ministries: *Ministries in charge of workers and education*

Action recommendations:

a) Explicitly recognise that health and health care costs must be taken into account in decision-making regarding the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources and electrification.

b) Partner with a wide range of trusted health professionals and health organizations to inform the public, influencers, government program managers, and politicians about the health and health-economic benefits of phasing out fossil fuels in cooperation with existing global and national health platforms where appropriate.

c) Conduct campaigns that inform and call for action using simple, clear messages repeated often by a variety of trusted, caring messengers, using social media and other communication tools to do so.

d) Develop an assessment framework for the next NDCs that includes health harms from the entire fossil fuel lifecycle (exploration, extraction, processing, transportation, combustion, and disposal) alongside a public dialogue to identify national fossil free development pathways that maximize human health, well-being, and prosperity.

Action Insight 5: **Take immediate measures to prevent future emissions. Ban new fossil infrastructure, mandate deep legally binding cuts to methane emissions in the energy sector, accelerate electrification of energy end uses. Inscribe fossil fuel phase down targets in NDCs while supporting renewable energy pathways in low- and middle-income countries.**

To meet climate goals, nations should prioritise immediate prevention. This starts by halting all new and expanding fossil fuel extraction and infrastructure projects, including petrochemicals facilities, before a Final Investment Decision (FID) is reached. Without stopping new developments, fossil fuel phase-out is unattainable, because each new (stranded) investment locks in decades of fossil fuel extraction, use, and resulting emissions. Phasing out existing fossil fuel projects is also critical due to the resulting emissions, while on the other hand creating stranded assets and financial risks for countries.

Targeting methane (a short-lived but potent pollutant) offers a fast path to near-term cooling. Implementing deep, legally binding methane cuts in the energy sector can avoid 0.1°C of warming by 2050 at a cost of only 2-4% of industry income. Phasing out existing fossil fuel projects is also critical due to the resulting emissions, while on the other hand creating stranded assets and financial risks for countries.

These mandates can be formalized as national goals and inscribed in future NDCs, together with other goals. Such other goals can include rapid fossil fuel demand reduction through electrification, which can halve energy waste while providing superior services with less primary energy, and ramp-up of clean energy-based export commodities. Well-designed incentives can help accelerate these shifts as fossil fuel subsidies are phased out in the energy, petrochemicals, and waste sectors.

Actors and ministries: *Ministries in charge of methane, NDC development, and fossil fuel permits regulation.*

Action recommendations:

a) Halting all new fossil fuel extraction and infrastructure projects, including petrochemical facilities, before a Final Investment Decision.

b) Implement deep, legally binding methane cuts in the energy sector.

c) Protect and expand the EU Methane Regulation to other major gas-importing countries. By forming a "Gas Buyers Club", these jurisdictions can leverage market power to mandate a near-zero methane intensity standard.

d) Inscribe targets and enabling incentives for fossil fuel phase down, electrification and green exports in NDCs.

Action Insight 6: **Implement carbon pricing with international harmonisation and phase out fossil fuel subsidies. Use revenues to support the transition and reduce negative social impacts. Form international coalitions for implementation.**

Carbon pricing helps to efficiently decarbonize energy and industrial systems, alongside other policy instruments. Revenue from carbon taxes or emissions trading schemes can be used to support the transition and reduce negative social impacts on vulnerable groups by targeted recycling of revenues. Carbon offset schemes should not unduly dilute emissions trading schemes, and new fossil fuel projects should not be justified by offsets. Harmonisation of carbon pricing between countries is economically desirable and can be achieved gradually, taking into account differences in development and economic structure.

Efficient trade with incentives for investment in new, clean industrial installations can be achieved through international harmonization of carbon price incentives. One option is Border Carbon Adjustments for traded energy intensive commodities. They can efficiently allay concerns about "carbon leakage" and help ensure that investments in clean industrial capacity thrive on an international level playing field. Market premiums for low-emissions products can help support investments in green metals, chemicals and fuels, including in developing countries, alongside other green industry support measures.

Fossil fuel subsidies remain widespread despite their known adverse environmental, economic, fiscal, and often regressive distributional effects. Stopping fossil fuel subsidies helps address wasteful over-consumption of fossil fuels, makes investment in energy efficiency and alternative supply worthwhile, and improves fiscal balances.

Like-minded nations have the opportunity to create international cooperations on carbon pricing, border carbon adjustment and fossil fuel subsidy removal. Such coalitions can amplify positive effects through reciprocity and help effective implementation through information sharing and common standards and procedures.

Actors and ministries: *Ministries in charge of climate change/environment, energy, finance, and trade*

Action recommendations:

a) Implement or strengthen carbon taxes or emissions trading schemes with broad coverage and policy settings geared for ambition.

b) Use targeted recycling of carbon revenues to address social impacts on vulnerable groups to increase fairness and acceptance.

c) Harmonise trade settings for energy-intensive commodities including petrochemicals to create an international level playing field, for example through border carbon adjustments.

d) Phase out subsidies on fossil fuel production and consumption.

e) Form international coalitions to cooperate on these issues.

Action Insight 7: **Establish enabling standards and monitoring requirements for fossil fuel transition targets and timetables. Mandate public reporting on transition trajectories and closure liabilities.**

Establish enabling standards and data requirements that shift the focus from production potential to managed decline. Current classification systems, like the century-old PRMS (Petroleum Resources Management System), which is an international system designed to classify how much oil and gas companies can claim as exploitable reserves, were designed to maximize shareholder value by highlighting extractable reserves. Reinventing these into transparency tools affords regulators to mandate the disclosure of field-level decline, abandonment liabilities, and decommissioning funding status.

This new analytical infrastructure allows policymakers to move beyond basic territorial emissions and account for the full life cycle of extracted resources. Reporting on exported emissions is consistent with the growing judicial consensus around the legal obligation to include Scope 3 emissions in EIAs for any fossil fuel activity or other industrial project/policy.

Prototyping these requirements within proactive coalitions, such as the Belém Declaration, and inspired by tools such as the Atmospheric Viability Test, nations can normalize these practices globally within several months. Providing clear data on asset-level economic limits—especially under carbon pricing—reduces market uncertainty and ensures closure costs are fully secured. Ultimately, standardized reporting turns "blind" extraction into a calculated, safe, and transparent decline that supports global prosperity.

Actors and ministries: *Ministries in charge of NDC development.*

Action recommendations:

a) Revise the PRMS classification system so it requires disclosure of decline curves, abandonment liabilities, decommissioning funding status, asset-level economic limits, and planned capital expenditure, using existing international reporting frameworks such as UNFCCC/EITI rather than creating separate processes. This may require an international taskforce.

b) Standardise reporting frameworks for exported fossil-fuel emissions using full life-cycle accounting from extraction to final consumption, aligned with existing international efforts under the UNFCCC rather than standalone regulation.

c) Require annual public reporting by states and extraction companies on phase-out trajectories, closure liabilities, and exported emissions in a comparable format, initially focusing on four core items: production, expected decline, decommissioning liability, and funded/unfunded closure amount.

d) Use comparable disclosure to guide transition planning and finance decisions, helping governments, investors, and communities identify stranded-asset risks, unfunded liabilities, and priority areas for managed phase-out support.

Action Insight 8: **Implement harmonised fossil fuel supply levies to incentivize demand shifts and fund just transitions. Track economic risks, pursue development benefits and ensure a fair, inclusive transition.**

Unchecked fossil fuel oversupply risks lowering prices, which incentivises consumption and delays electrification. National supply levies allow governments to stabilise prices, aligning market signals with decarbonisation while creating revenue to support regional just transitions and invest in economic diversification.

Internationally coordinated supply levies would help reflect national supply levies in international fossil fuel market prices and reduce the risk of market leakage.

Simultaneously, governments need to advance their monitoring systems from tracking production metrics to monitoring economic vulnerabilities, including stranded assets, revenue shortfalls, and decommissioning liabilities.

As global demand peaks, fossil fuel-dependent jurisdictions face significant fiscal risks that must be foregrounded to counter misinformation. The transition offers substantial rewards: clean energy investment now is nearly double fossil fuel spending, creating millions of new jobs. Foregrounding these benefits and ensuring inclusive planning — is essential to overcome political obstacles. By combining fiscal interventions with transparent risk-benefit analysis, producing regions can transform the inevitable decline of fossil fuels into a predictable, well-funded pathway toward economic diversification and long-term social welfare.

Actors and ministries: *Ministries in charge of energy, finance, foreign affairs and environment*

Action recommendations:

a) Implement fossil fuel supply levies and use the revenue to support economic diversification and social transition in regions where fossil fuel extraction is an important industry.

b) Establish international collaborative arrangements towards harmonisation of fossil fuel supply levies.

c) Track economic risks, pursue development benefits and ensure a fair, inclusive phase-out.

d) Foreground benefits from well-managed transitions in public communications and ensure inclusive transition planning.

Action Insight 9: **Leverage central banks' financial and price stability mandates to reduce the financing costs of clean energy, electrification and enabling infrastructure. Alongside other financing instruments, foster systemic clean energy integration to control inflation, underpin energy security and long-term economic resilience**

Variable renewables (VRE) backed by energy storage offer a decentralised, stable alternative to the inherent volatility of fossil-fuel-dependent systems. To realise this potential, governments and central banks must collaborate to reduce high upfront capital requirements of renewable infrastructure. By providing targeted incentives and green financing, financial institutions can effectively insulate economies from "fossilflation"—inflationary price spikes driven by geopolitical conflicts or trade wars.

Within their mandates for price stability, central banks should recognise systemic integration of fossil free energy production, storage and end use technologies at distributed unit level as a vital long-term inflation hedge. This requires a holistic approach: supporting carbon-neutral mineral extraction while facilitating the deployment of distributed energy. Moving beyond a narrow interpretation of "transition risk" allows financial institutions to foster a reinforcing cycle where stable, low-cost energy reduces interest rate sensitivity, further accelerating green investment, for energy security and financial stability.

Actors and ministries: *Central banks and ministries in charge of finance, and government funding vehicles such as green banks.*

Action recommendations:

a) As part of their core financial and price stability mandates, central banks need to deploy their monetary, prudential and other policy levers to support capital reallocation from high carbon assets to a clean energy system, as fossil fuels are a systemic source of economic and financial instability.

b) Provide targeted incentives and support green financing for systemic integration of clean energy production and end-use systems.

c) Adopt an atmospheric viability test for assessing new fossil fuel reserves. This would be a climate -scenario -based financial stress test designed to assess whether new fossil fuel reserves are viable within the constraints of the remaining carbon budget within planetary limits and 1.5° aligned, with no or low-overshoot pathways.

d) Countries should redirect public and private financial institutions' support of fossil fuel expansion, including overseas; and redirect those resources to support effective, evidence-based Just Transition activities.

Action Insight 10: **Strengthen international cooperation on transitioning away from fossil fuels within and outside the UNFCCC, including through the possible adoption of a dedicated international legal instrument on fossil fuel supply.**

International cooperation on fossil fuel supply is crucial for providing support to fossil fuel-dependent states with limited capacity to shift to alternative energy sources, to avoid the risk of stranded assets and stranded nations, and to address the problem of fossil fuel supply-side leakage. Effective, good-faith international cooperation to address fossil fuels, including fossil fuel supply, is also a legal obligation of all states.

International cooperation on transitioning away from fossil fuels should continue under the UNFCCC process, e.g. by including fossil fuel supply-side commitments in Nationally Determined Contribution long-term strategies, as well as through dedicated efforts outside the UNFCCC tackling specific issues such as oil and gas production and fossil fuel subsidies.

These efforts should be complemented by a comprehensive international governance framework on fossil fuel supply, which can take the form of a dedicated international legal instrument aligned with other multilateral agreements. Such a framework can offer clear pathways forward for both states and non-state actors by setting out an objective and principles governing the transition away from fossil fuels. A framework can also put in place concrete measures through which states can fulfil their international legal obligations to transition away from fossil fuels. The framework can further ensure fairness and equity in the transition away from fossil fuels by providing for the participation by affected communities. It can also strengthen transparency and accountability for states and non-state actors through monitoring, reporting, and review. Lastly, it can provide for implementation mechanisms, including access to finance, the sharing of clean technologies, and other economic cooperation mechanisms.

Actors and ministries: *Ministries of foreign affairs and environment*

Action recommendations:

a) Agree on the need to strengthen the international governance architectures for transitioning away from fossil fuels through the UNFCCC as well as complementary cooperative frameworks.

b) Begin defining the objective, principles, scope, and structure of an international legal instrument addressing fossil fuel supply and set out a clear and ambitious timeline for such discussions.

c) Acknowledge that international cooperation on fossil fuel supply is in line with the International Court of Justice’s emphasis on international cooperation as a customary rule of international law, as well as its caution that fossil fuel production, licensing and subsidisation may constitute an internationally wrongful act.

Action Insight 11: **Integrate all forms of knowledge and development imperatives in planning for just transitions. Define success through tangible social progress and improved human welfare.**

Extractivism leads to environmental destruction and the displacement of affected communities, as well as human rights violations. These communities are also excluded from the benefits-sharing and decision-making process. Structural inequalities, such as corporate capture of local government, economic dependence on specific industries, and the historical marginalisation of women, young/elderly people, disabled people, and Indigenous and Afro-descendant communities, lead to self-reinforcing cycles and lock-ins. Since participation is often merely symbolic, trust in institutions erodes.

A transformative approach must therefore enshrine procedural and distributive justice as constitutive principles of the transition. To ensure a just transition, mechanisms for meaningful community engagement must respect all forms of knowledge (indigenous, local, scientific), local worldviews, territorial autonomy and self-determined development. This requires shifting from technocratic consultation to participatory governance, involving public interest committees and gender-responsive advisory bodies that link community priorities to policy decisions. Such practices should also extend to any new mining of energy transition minerals to ensure historical injustices are not replicated.

Actors and ministries: *Ministries (both national and sub-national), communities (indigenous, afro-descendent, local), women, youth and marginalized groups, international organisations*

Action recommendations:

a) Establish national and sub-national participation frameworks: create establishments of clear mechanisms for meaningful stakeholder engagement, which are instituted to guide the transition away from fossil fuels, including public interest committees and gender-responsive advisory bodies that ensure representation of women, youth/elderly, disabled, Indigenous and Afro-descendant communities.

b) Develop international guidelines and standards for meaningful stakeholder engagement in transition away from fossil fuels to define minimum benchmarks for participation and consultation, including principles such as Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), transparency, and accountability mechanisms to ensure participation influences decision-making outcomes.

c) Integrate participation into fossil fuel phase-out planning and funding mechanisms into long-term national and sub-national planning. Include benefit-sharing mechanisms and access to transition finance and ensure that communities not only contribute to decision-making but also benefit materially from the transition.

Action Insight 12: **Realign international legal frameworks to support just transitions away from fossil fuels. Collectively act to neutralise the barrier from Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) to the transition.**

Realigning legal frameworks is essential to dismantle barriers that currently prioritise corporate interests over public interest. Currently, ISDS allows fossil fuel corporations to sue governments for millions or billions, resulting in a chilling effect on climate policy through the threat of costly arbitration. To overcome this, nations must move beyond fragmented efforts and pursue coordinated action to nullify the threat from ISDS, in international investment agreements and contracts.

This realignment also involves neutralising "sunset clauses" through mutual agreement and ensuring that future contracts explicitly permit termination in the public interest. Sunset clause in this context means investment protections continue for many years even after a country withdraws from the treaty. Neutralising such clauses allows states to reclaim the sovereign policy space necessary to regulate private actors effectively and enable a just transition.

Actors and ministries: *Ministries in charge of economy, foreign affairs, and justice*

Action recommendations:

a) Explicitly recognise that ISDS is a barrier to the just transition away from fossil fuels and the urgent need to address it collectively, in light of States' obligations on climate change as outlined in the International Court of Justice's advisory opinion.

b) Commit to refrain from negotiating, signing, ratifying, or adopting national and international legal instruments that protect fossil fuel investments and include ISDS provisions.

c) Commit to initiate termination of or withdrawal from legal instruments with ISDS and agree to carry out mutual termination of treaties, and neutralise the sunset clause, where a treaty partner so requests.

d) Commit to initiate negotiations to stop protecting fossil fuel investments and eliminate ISDS in agreements between them, either through a new standalone plurilateral agreement or as part of a broader treaty.

e) At Santa Marta, countries agree to launch and lead a working group with participation of affected communities, public interest organizations, vulnerable groups, academics, and Indigenous Peoples to collectively address ISDS as a barrier to the just transition away from fossil fuels and report back on progress in implementing these recommendations at subsequent conferences on the Transition Away from Fossil Fuels.

12 Quick facts for the Action Insights

Overcoming economic dependence

1. Early retraining prevents job loss and resistance to transition.
2. Fossil dependence persists due to systemic political and economic lock-ins.
3. Public support exists but is underestimated and undermined.
4. Health and economic benefits framing accelerates acceptance of transition away from fossil fuels.

Transforming supply and demand

5. Stopping new fossil projects avoids decades of locked-in emissions.
6. Carbon pricing and subsidy removal shift markets towards clean energy.
7. Transparent reporting enables safe, predictable transition away from fossil fuels.
8. Supply levies reduce demand and finance just transition pathways.
9. Central banks can help reduce the financing cost of clean energy investments.

Advancing international cooperation and climate diplomacy

10. Stronger international cooperation is essential for transition away from fossil fuels.
11. Inclusive participation ensures fair and effective just transitions.
12. ISDS legal risks deter climate action and must be addressed.