

Task Force Statement

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05

Accelerating Climate
Action and the Just
Energy Transition

Task Force mission and priorities

In a context of escalating and interlinked climate and biodiversity crises, ambitious, integrated and inclusive action towards just transitions is central to ensuring a more sustainable, equitable and resilient world for current and future generations.

The year 2025 marks the 10th anniversary of the Paris Agreement and the submission of the second round of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), with COP30 in Brazil and the [Baku to Belém roadmap to \\$1.3 trillion](#) placing renewed emphasis on ambitious action and means of implementation.

All of this unfolds against a backdrop of mounting geopolitical competition and concern over the rapidly narrowing window to keep the crucial 1.5°C goal within reach. At the same time, unequal access to finance and technology, along with the persistence of economic, trade and power models that deepen social inequalities and cause continued harm to biodiversity and ecosystems, threatens to undermine progress in advancing the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and promoting climate action. This includes tripling renewable energy capacity, doubling energy efficiency and transitioning away from fossil fuels in a just, orderly and equitable manner, in line with the outcomes of the Paris Agreement's First Global Stocktake.

As South Africa's G20 presidency underscores, disparities in wealth and development, within and between countries, require a paradigm shift that places solidarity, equality and sustainability at the core. Given its economic and political weight and its significant contribution to global greenhouse gas emissions, the G20 must exercise leadership in promoting global transitions that are ambitious, equitable and just for all. The group is uniquely positioned to foster international partnerships that expand and improve access to climate finance, support countries in pursuing just transitions and promote inclusive industrial development through equitable and cooperative critical mineral value chains – generating added value while upholding sustainable economic, technological and environmental practices.

Guided by the spirit of Ubuntu, 'I am because we are', Task Force 05 (TF05) of the T20 seeks to advance solutions to enhance G20 action and international cooperation towards inclusive, sustainable development around the following four priorities:

- promoting sustainable and equitable critical mineral value chains;
- scaling adaptation finance;
- supporting inclusive, just energy transitions; and
- biodiversity-climate-development nexus.

Diagnosis of main problems

Global climate action remains vastly insufficient, in both scale and speed, to drive sustainable transition toward low-carbon, climate-resilient and inclusive societies. Furthermore, these efforts are unfolding in a context marked by deep structural inequalities, where the burdens of the climate crisis, as well as the environmental and social impacts of transition activities, fall disproportionately on those who have contributed least to the problem, particularly in developing and low-income countries, notably in Africa. Meanwhile, the economic gains – whether from global value chains, critical minerals or clean energy technologies – are largely concentrated in already industrialised nations. This inequitable distribution of benefits and burdens continues to undermine both justice and effectiveness in global transitions.

A central challenge lies in the persistent asymmetries embedded in the global economic system. Restrictive trade regimes, intellectual property barriers, the cost of capital and investment concentration in high-value segments of clean energy and critical minerals limit the ability of low- and middle-income countries to build domestic industrial capacity. Despite their wealth of natural resources and biodiversity, many developing countries remain locked into primarily extractive roles within the global economy – a consequence of a political-economic order shaped in the mid-20th century and perpetuated by outdated and unfair global rules and trade patterns. These structural barriers continue to prevent them from fully participating in value-added stages of production and reaping the socio-economic benefits of the transition.

Biodiversity loss, land conflict and community displacement already accompany many transition-related projects, particularly in extractive sectors. These challenges are further compounded by limited access to truly concessional, affordable and long-term finance, as well as significant fiscal constraints, with many governments forced to make a false choice between delivering basic services and meeting climate priorities. Where financing mechanisms do exist – such as Just Energy Transition Partnerships – they add to the debt and remain disproportionately focused on mitigation, often lacking transparency, predictability and direct accessibility. Funds, such as those provided by the Global Environment Facility and the Green Climate Fund, are frequently heavily intermediated and slow to disburse, while failing to reach the local level or support context-specific, locally led strategies. Adaptation finance, in particular, remains severely underfunded, leaving frontline communities without the resources needed to build resilience.

Without a change of course, the transition risks reinforcing patterns of vulnerability, ecological degradation and social exclusion. Despite significant geopolitical challenges, it is imperative to transform the multilateral system to drive structural transformation and catch-up strategies in low- and middle-income countries, while addressing the global urgency of decarbonisation and

resilience. This must be complemented by transformative shifts in high-income countries, including reducing their material and ecological footprints.

This demands strong leadership by states and a transformational reform of the international financial architecture, along with a strategic, developmental partnership with the private sector, to facilitate and direct economic development and social progress on a global scale. International cooperation between G20 countries is crucial to steer away from an economic, social and environmental 'race to the bottom' and initiate real pathways towards sustainable development for all.

Key recommendations

Recommendation 1. The G20 Critical Minerals Governance Framework should promote value addition and fair benefit-sharing in critical mineral value chains for equitable green industrialisation, making partnership agreements related to critical minerals publicly available, endorsing a credible global mining standard and capacitating producer countries for implementation and monitoring, including consideration of social and environmental monitoring and safeguards.

The G20 should adopt shared rules for equitable critical mineral value chains that prioritise fair benefit-sharing, transparency, community participation, environmental sustainability and socio-economic upgrading in producing countries. This includes upholding the [G20 Principles for Just and Inclusive Energy Transitions](#) and ensuring that the proposed G20 High-Level Principles on Green Industrial Policy and G20 Critical Minerals Framework firmly anchor green industrialisation and the development of critical mineral value chains within broader inclusive, sustainable socio-economic strategies in developing economies. This should support the rebalancing of supplier-consumer relationships towards mutually beneficial, inclusive partnerships – bridging the gap between long-term security of supply and local, equitable development. To actively foster sustainable, inclusive value addition and economic diversification compatible with climate action and biodiversity protection, the G20 should ensure equitable access to fit-for-purpose technologies, skills and finance, while upholding decent working conditions and human rights obligations as per International Labor Organization standards. It should mandate the appropriate *ex ante* consideration of social and environmental impacts and safeguards and their monitoring, as well as promote private sector compliance, transparent supply chains and robust traceability mechanisms. This mandate can be advanced by making partnership agreements related to critical minerals publicly available, endorsing a credible global mining standard and capacitating producer countries to capture value from their mineral endowment, as well as for implementation and monitoring.

Recommendation 2. Champion comprehensive ‘whole-of society, whole-of-economy’ just transition taxonomies and exercise political leadership in UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) negotiations to secure concrete outcomes and the means of implementation for just transitions at global and local levels.

The G20 should lead on local, national, regional and international just transition policies and taxonomies – in line with a ‘whole-of-government, whole-of-society’ approach – that pursue, among others, poverty alleviation, social equity and resilience, gender equality and economic empowerment. Acknowledging that just transitions are heavily conditional on the transformation of existing international norms and structures, the G20 should commit to helping build consensus within the UNFCCC around an equitable approach to just transition, in line with its own Principles for Just and Inclusive Energy Transitions. It should exercise political leadership to help overcome the current impasse and revitalise the Just Transition Work Programme, enabling it to deliver concrete, outcome-oriented progress focused on delivering the means of implementation for just transitions. To foster the delivery of concrete, outcome-oriented progress, the G20 should also promote the use of practical, data-driven and implementation-orientated monitoring frameworks. In addition, strengthened South–South and North–South collaboration, alongside enhanced regional integration, should underpin inclusive governance frameworks for just transitions, particularly by supporting skills development, capacity building and the transfer and co-development of technology.

Recommendation 3. The G20 should significantly increase and accelerate climate adaptation and just transition finance. This should include enhancing the availability and affordability of insurance, including reinsurance, to address disaster protection gaps, including through the development of climate risk templates and methodologies and capacity building on risk modelling.

The G20 should adopt measures to improve both the quality and scale of climate adaptation and just transition finance, prioritising grants and concessional resources that avoid worsening fiscal distress, while positioning climate finance as a driver of decarbonisation and technological advancement. It should support the incorporation of specific pathways to strengthen adaptation and just transition finance within the Baku to Belém roadmap to \$1.3 trillion, while advancing the swift implementation of the G20 Roadmap Towards Better, Bigger, and More Effective Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) and the recommendations of the Independent High-Level Expert Group [Review of the Vertical Climate and Environmental Funds](#) and of the Expert Review on [Debt, Nature and Climate](#). Particular attention should be paid to mainstreaming nature and climate considerations into macro-economic and fiscal analysis, streamlining accreditation processes, accelerating direct disbursements to local communities and harmonising procedures to reduce transaction costs. The G20 should also support country-led investment platforms and locally driven

adaptation and transition strategies, anchored in national and community priorities, especially to make developing countries socially resilient and economically competitive. The G20 should support context-specific, fit-for-purpose innovations, especially in highly vulnerable regions, such as low-lying areas, water-stressed countries and low-income societies. In parallel, it must adopt practical measures to enhance the availability and affordability of insurance, including reinsurance, to address natural catastrophe protection gaps, including through the development of climate risk templates and methodologies and capacity building on risk modelling.

Recommendation 4. Integrate climate and biodiversity nexus solutions with bioeconomy principles within the G20 agendas on sustainable finance, food systems and energy transitions. This should include concrete implementation pathways; financing that is new, additional and complementary; and the integration of multilateral commitments, monitoring and reporting.

The G20 should champion concrete measures to strengthen synergies between climate action and the conservation, use and restoration of biodiversity. This includes supporting the establishment of a Joint Work Programme among the three Rio conventions; enhancing collaboration between the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification's Committee on Science and Technology; and establishing nature as the foundation for sustainable development. G20 members should lead in the integration, submission and implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions, National Adaptation Plans, National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and other Rio conventions-aligned instruments while enhancing their support to developing countries, preventing double counting and ensuring that financing for climate and biodiversity is new, additional and complementary. Finally, it should promote the [G20 High-Level Principles on Bioeconomy as a key part of the solutions to complex, nexus challenges, by](#) identifying concrete pathways for their implementation domestically and in multilateral and financing forums. The G20 must lead by example in delivering the transformations increasingly identified as essential to integrate climate, biodiversity and development goals in the future.

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