

Response to the Stakeholders Thematic E-Consultation for the United Nations High Level Dialogue on Energy

With reference to the United Nations' consultation documents on "Enabling SDGs through inclusive, just energy transitions" which can be accessed [here](#).

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1. What are the three main challenges to maximizing the positive impacts of inclusive and just energy transitions on the achievement of the other SDGs?

Limited institutional and financial capacities. A transition requires the coordination of multiple actors and considerable financial resources. Countries with limited financial and institutional capacity need international support to achieve a just transition away from fossil fuels (<https://productiongap.org/2020report>). It is essential to strengthen the financial and technical capacities of local authorities to anticipate and mitigate the wide range of effects from mine/industrial closure on economic development, public service delivery and the state of the environment, and to foster inclusive planning, as they often are left with the responsibility for the crafting and implementation of economic regeneration initiatives (<https://bit.ly/3eybXcL>).

Clean up environmental damage and ensure that related costs are not transferred from the private to the public sector (<https://bit.ly/3atBClp>). This is essential for people's and ecosystems' health and for the development of alternative livelihoods.

Investment and diversification in regions that depend on fossil fuels production/fossil fuel power generation. It is crucial to diversify regional economies and subnational governments' income streams, and to develop targeted re-training opportunities for workers and community members dependent on the extended value chain. Diversification efforts must actively provide opportunities to disadvantaged groups, and seek to remedy existing social inequalities (<https://bit.ly/3atBClp>).

2. What are three concrete measures that should be taken by governments and stakeholders towards maximizing the positive impacts of inclusive and just energy transitions on the achievement of the other SDGs?

Promote fiscal reforms, particularly fossil fuel subsidy reform (<https://bit.ly/3veKRhq>). Policies that promote or maintain carbon lock-in should end. This frees up more government revenue to support

transition planning, and to roll out policies, investments and financial support measures for affected communities. Fiscal policy reform should also ensure the maintenance of public income and resources, and guarantee the provision of key services in affected areas, especially attentive to the most vulnerable.

Strengthen regulatory requirements and financial guarantees for mines and major industries in relation to site closure and environmental remediation responsibilities (<https://bit.ly/3sBIFQu>). This should be particularly attentive to the uneven distribution of environmental harms on vulnerable populations.

Finance universal and sustainable infrastructure (such as around transport, communication and education) that aids a wide range of beneficiaries (<https://bit.ly/3atBClp>). Focus on increasing connectivity between carbon-intensive regions and surrounding regions – particularly linking urban and rural areas. Seek opportunities to repurpose existing industrial infrastructure, where this might be an asset or magnet for new and small businesses with similar technical needs. All projects should contribute to strengthen human rights and gender equality.

3. Please, share one example of a concrete action that can be replicated/scaled up to maximizing the positive impacts of inclusive and just energy transitions on the achievement of the other SDGs.

South Africa has included measures to support a just transition in coal areas in a key electricity planning document (2019). Since 2019, the country has also been designing a financing mechanism, the Just Transition Transaction (<https://bit.ly/3xcz453>).