






# PULSO AMBIENTAL

POLITICAL AND DEBATE MAGAZINE

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## Climate change: Where are we?

In light of the Conference of the Parties - COP28, urgencies, debates and reflections are addressed in a context marked by the environmental and ecological crisis.

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## EDITORIAL FARN

# Climate change: the time is now

**C**limate change is the challenge of our times and it demands urgent action. The scientific evidence is unmistakable: human activity, mainly through greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, has caused and continues to cause global warming. Over the last decade, the average surface temperature on Earth has reached 1.1 °C above the pre-industrial average (1850-1900), according to the [Climate Change 2023: IPCC's Synthesis Report](#).

In fact, the eight years between 2015 and 2022 were the warmest ever recorded and there were extreme climate events in 2023, such as exceptional heatwaves, wildfires, torrential rains, and devastating tropical cyclones, as reported in the World Meteorological Organization's [United in Science 2023](#). In Argentina, the rise in GHG emissions and the resulting rise in temperature also have an economic impact: according to the [2022 Climate Transparency Report](#), the potential loss of income in 2021 due to the reduction of the work capacity related to heat was USD 603 million, which represent the 0.13% of the national GDP.

In order to address this climate crisis, the international community relies, mainly, on the [United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change](#) (UNFCCC) and on the [Paris Agreement](#), in force since 2016, which establishes the foundations for the battle against climate change at an international, national, and subnational level.

This year, the 28th annual reunion of the [Conference of the Parties](#) (COP) from the UNFCCC will take place. This reunion brings together decision-makers about climate policies from all around the world, members of the civil society and the private sector, communities' representatives, activists, and young people. During the COP28, the state of implementation of climate commitments will be assessed and the Parties will make decisions to promote a greater climate ambition.

Most notably, this year, the first Global Stocktake will be published, which is one of the main mechanisms of the Paris Agreement to assess the current condition of the situation and the fulfilment of the commitments and goals agreed by the countries. Another central issue of this edition will be the adoption of the regulatory frame-

work for the Global Goal on Adaptation, which will be the tool to document and track the global efforts to reduce the impacts, risks, and vulnerabilities of climate change.

However, while climate action needs a strong response, this COP will take place in a complex geopolitical situation, marked by the recent armed conflicts, like the ones in Ukraine and the Gaza Strip. On top of that, there are also several crises occurring at an ecological level (biodiversity and pollution crisis), at a political level (crisis of representation and the rise of the extreme right), and at a social level (persistent inequality). This critical context demands a comprehensive response from the international community, unlike what happened during the COVID-19 pandemic –when there was a weak coordinated response at an international level–, through the strengthening of international cooperation.

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**While climate action needs a strong response, this COP will take place in a complex geopolitical situation, marked by the recent armed conflicts, like the ones in Ukraine and the Gaza Strip.**

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In this context, it is imperative to promote a socioecological transition, in which the just energetic transition is intersectional with other issues (gender, employment, climate finance, among others) that should be addressed during the upcoming COP28 and after it. Planning a just transition does not only require prioritising the current climate crisis, but also reconsidering the patterns of consumption and production, as well as halting the ex-

tractive pressure on our land. The time to bring about structural transformations to cut out GHG emissions and adapt is now.

Actions against climate change cannot be postponed: we are halfway through the time stipulated to comply with the 2030 Agenda, and more than 50% of the countries of the world are falling behind, according to the [United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals Report 2023: Special Edition](#).

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**Planning a just transition does not only require prioritising the current climate crisis, but also reconsidering the patterns of consumption and production, as well as halting the extractive pressure on our land.**

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To sum up, aside from the climate change denial rhetoric, which has already made an impact on the political agenda in many countries around the world, the international community, and our own country –with its traditional support of multilateral negotiations and its strong commitment to democracy– must work in line with the goals and targets of the Paris Agreement that this COP sets and focus on socio-environmental justice.

This edition of *Pulso Ambiental* magazine addresses some of the main issues that are currently part of the climate agenda and that will be discussed during the COP. It also gives rise to debates and proposals that seek to fight for a space among the issues that are important for the Global South's territories and societies, but that do not necessarily have a place in the multilateral climate agenda.

**Enrique Maurtua Konstantinidis**

Senior adviser in Climate Diplomacy, Latin American Independent Global Stocktake for Latin America and the Caribbean. Coordinator of the G20 Climate Action Network International group.

# Stopping the rolling ball for a more careful aim

Does the Paris Agreement work? Can we, in time, change the course of the countries' actions? Who assesses the collective progress? The first global stocktake of the Agreement must address key issues, such as fossil fuels, adjustments and financing, but also cross-cutting issues, such as gender and human rights.

**T**he Paris Agreement was created in a framework of international cooperation and of commitments, made from the bottom up, that must respect the sovereignty of the countries that signed it. The nature of the Agreement requires accountability mechanisms that contribute to the constant improvement of the commitments and to achieving the proposed goals (see text box). In this sense, the Agreement incorporates an enhanced transparency framework (Article 13) and the development of a global stocktake (GST) as of 2023, that will take place every five years (Article 14) to assess the countries' collective progress (or lack thereof) in achieving the goals. By doing so, the conclusions of this process drawn by the countries during the UN Climate Change Conference in 2023 (COP28) in Dubai must be taken into account on the next update round about the countries' "commitments" under the Agreement, that is to say, their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

Thus, the global stocktake turns into the Agreement's ambition mechanism. Its goal is to collect all the available information about the current conditions and to identify the opportunities that could improve international cooperation and the commitments under the Agreement. In order to achieve this, it relies on a technical phase that addresses multiple approaches to climate action with broad participation from government representatives and from the civil society. More than 170,000 pages with information were submitted and taken into account in a two-year period to take to the COP28 and to negotiate which will be the agreements made based on this assessment.

More than 170,000 pages with information were submitted and taken into account in a two-year period to take to the COP28 and to negotiate which will be the agreements made based on this assessment.



### Waiting on the first global stocktake

The countries' decision must include clear indications about the gaps that need to be bridged in order to align their commitments to the goals of the Agreement. That is to say, if the GST indicates the need to reduce emissions in a sector such as fossil fuels, for example, the next round of NDCs should convey, in some way, that assessment in their recommendations. For this reason, it is important that, in this case, this first global stocktake highlights key issues such as the abolishment of fossil fuels, the increase in international funding –including the reform of the financial system– and that it addresses the improvement of the adaptation strategies, as well as the funding for actions related to damage and loss caused by climate change, including cross-cutting

The nature of the Agreement requires accountability mechanisms that contribute to the constant improvement of the commitments and to achieving the proposed goals.

issues like gender and human rights. In the same way, countries must acknowledge the role of non-state actors, so the civil society and their government have the necessary arguments to keep strengthening the implementation of the Agreement and the improvement of the next round of commitments that must be submitted in 2025.

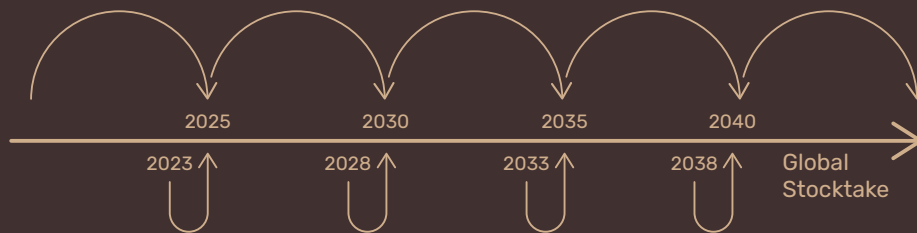
#### Article 2 of the Paris Agreement

This Agreement, in enhancing the implementation of the Convention, including its objective, aims to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change, in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty, including by:

- a) Keep the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, acknowledging that this would decrease the risks and effect of climate change considerably;
- b) Enhance adaptive capacity to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emissions development, in a manner that does not threaten food production; and
- c) Making finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development.

This Agreement will be implemented to reflect equity and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances.

Reporting cycles of new NDC



This graphical representation of the ambition cycles starts in 2023 and depicts how the GST carries out an assessment of the progress that should inform the next round of new commitments.

**Anabella Rosemberg**

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# Social implications of climate action: Is a just transition possible?

The historic push and pull between those who fight for the protection of the environment and those who consider it a priority to meet the social needs and demands started to improve due to the just transition perspective. However, for developing countries, finding the necessary funding to support the social transition from fossil fuels is challenging.

**T**he debate around climate change has gone through a great transformation in the last decades. Due to the mobilisation of the civil society, we have gone from a technical conversation about emissions to a discussion that finally starts to connect the battle against climate change to the production models, mobility, and power generation, and to wealth accumulation, external debt, and to alternatives to the extractivist development model, among others. On the other hand, the increase in emissions and the real urgency for a change in direction lead many people to think that the problem can only be solved under the conditions of the current economic system, that is to say, with market instruments, technology, and regressive impacts.

The concept of just transition could help us out of that dead end.

The ILO declared that without a set of social and economic policies, it is likely that there will be a dramatic and unplanned loss of employment in polluting sectors and sectors with high levels of emissions.

## History of just transition in the international negotiations about climate change

The concept of just transition came up, partly, in order to solve, in a positive way, the tension between environment protection and the social and work-related needs of the population. The concept, first conceived in North American syndicalism, was installed in international syndicalism, which was then mobilised in a broad alliance with the civil society until it materialised in the Paris Agreement, which states that it is necessary to take into account “the imperatives of a just transition of the workforce and the creation of decent work and quality jobs”.

Since 2015, the debate about just transition has expanded in and out of the negotiations about climate change, and made it to the COP27 in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, where it was decided that a work programme would be created to discuss the pathways to bring about a just transition.

## Work, structural transformation, and unequal impacts

In June 2023, the International Labour Organization (ILO) declared that without a set of social and economic policies, it is likely that there will be a dramatic and unplanned loss of employment in polluting sectors and sectors with high levels of emissions. It is estimated that around 78 million jobs might be destroyed, relocated or redefined, which highlights the need to strengthen policies to handle the transition.

Aside from employment loss, the ILO underlines the risks of a structural transformation of the economy and of the following sectors: energy, industry, transport, agriculture, forestry, the management of pollution, waste and their value chain, and the impacts of the equity in the

increase of energy costs. We could also add that, even though these factors will affect all countries, some contexts will make it harder to aid society in the transition.

The return of a certain industrial policy in the countries from the Global North (the Inflation Reduction Act, in the United States, or the European Union’s plan RENEW) seeks to set in motion alternatives to the fossil fuel model by creating sustainable jobs and positioning those countries in the green technology and sustainability markets. But from the perspective of the developing countries, the situation could not be more unequal. There is no fiscal scheme that could subsidise the emergence of clean industries and that could replace the foreign currency gained from extraction, and even when progressive governments recognise the transition from fossil fuels as a goal, they do not have the funding to support their social transition.

## A challenge for Dubai

A work programme about just transition that clearly identifies the need to address issues such as inequality, employment and income, related to climate policy, and the possible answers to these challenges –including social protection, the promotion of decent work, industrial policy and economic diversification, environmental restoration of the land, the participation and protection of human rights, labour rights, and indigenous and gender rights, among others– would help national social actors to advance this agenda in a more specific way.

In order to move forward in a global transition such as this, we must strengthen international cooperation so every country can support their workers and their communities and reinvent a productive framework that is coherent with environmental protection.



## How would a just transition be made in Argentina?

For many countries whose economy is mainly based on the exportation of raw materials, agreeing on the fate and goals of the transition is something that has not been done yet. Not only must we imagine a finish line to decarbonisation as we have agreed on the Paris Agreement, but we must also make sure that our country's worldview is based on respect for the rights of all people, equality and the satisfaction of basic needs (food, health, education, rest, healthy environment) and that these remain crucial goals.

With this goal set, the concept of just transition offers some guidelines on how to move forward, building social consensus and taking the climate debate out of a technocratic domain, to make progress on a roadmap that is built on the basis of fair social and economic policies.

This does not rule out difficult conversations and decisions, since arbitration is a complex procedure during a crisis. Some questions arise from this analysis: When will the expansion of extractivism end? How do we deal with the need for foreign currency? Which sectors could become the country's pillar of prosperity? Which proposals and consensus about these questions are being discussed in civil society to encourage this debate? These are complex but crucial issues. These are issues that require that certain actors of the civil society –environmentalists, trade unionists, social movements– leave sectarianism behind to find convergence points that allow us to move away from political debates, which have been inefficient for these issues.

Even though these and many other questions must be subjects of national discussion, we must also find international support and solutions, since the characteristics of the international division of labour in Argentina make it difficult to find answers and solutions in isolation. This sets in motion the search for agreements within the framework of the just transition work programme from the convention on climate change.

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Different actors of the civil society like environmentalists, trade unionists and social movements must leave sectarianism behind to find convergence points that allow us to move away from political debates.

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In Dubai, we might hear the first few ideas about how we contribute to boost a transition with social justice. The fact that this issue is being discussed shows that the need and urgency to make it happen are part of a pressing reality.



**Claudia Rubio**

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# The UNFCCC and the issue of gender in the climate agenda

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This article is an update of the one published in Pulso 16, which explains the challenges posed in mainstreaming a gender perspective in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The Convention made the first mandate that was specifically about gender in 2001 and it was followed by 120 mandates that refer to women or gender. However, there is no comprehensive understanding of this issue in climate policy.

**T**he gender issue is an undeniably visible element in the negotiations of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Gender and climate change are permanent topics in the Conference of the Parties (COP) agenda, and since 2001, the UNFCCC has made **120 mandates** that refer to women or gender. In addition, the most recent negotiations held in Bonn, Germany, in June 2023, recorded the highest percentage (48%) of women’s participation in Party delegations to UNFCCC in a face-to-face negotiating session, although women’s participation in annual COPs has been stagnated at around 35%.

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The UNFCCC has laid the foundations to work on gender equality, but concrete actions are still needed to establish inclusive processes, leadership paths and funding mechanisms.

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The history of gender progress within the UNFCCC has been marked by advances that, although inconsistent, represent a continuous defence by the feminist civil society, especially through the Women and Gender Constituency (WGC), established in 2009.

Since the first mandate that was specifically about gender in 2001 ([Decision 36/CP.7](#)), which was solely focused on the participation of women in established bodies, there is still no comprehensive understanding of the gender aspect in climate policy. Gradually, gender and equality considerations have been starting to surface in adaptation planning (2001), capacity building (2010), and effective climate action (2010), and in several others sectors, before they were adopted in the Lima Work Programme on Gender (in 2014) and before the fundamental recognition of gender equality was incorporated in the preamble of the Paris Agreement (in 2015).

The issue of gender was a key factor in the Katowice climate package (in 2018), with its guideline on Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), the Transparency Framework, the Technology Framework and on how to communicate about adaptation. Additionally, the potential to promote gender equality in the [NDCs](#) and in the [National Adaptation Plans](#), with gender responsive processes in its development, offers key points of entry for capacity promotion and reinforcement.

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**The design of the Gender Action Plan does not succeed in boosting the systemic change that is needed for a climate action that promotes gender equality, raises climate ambition, and the effectiveness of the climate action.**

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## A work in progress

Currently, the [Enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender and its Gender Action Plan](#) (Decision 3/CP.25), adopted in 2019, are being [implemented](#).

Unfortunately, the design of the Gender Action Plan (GAP) does not succeed in boosting the systemic change that is needed for a climate action that promotes gender equality, raises climate ambition and the effectiveness of the climate action, and that facilitates, for example, a just transition. In the COP27, the GAP underwent a mid-term evaluation and the [WGC acknowledged](#) that “the activities did not reach the desired level of ambition, total funding is not guaranteed, and there are no progress indicators apart from the completion of certain deliverables”. The [evaluation did not succeed](#) in properly addressing the current condition of the GAP implementation and it produced half-hearted results with few improvements in the GAP activities and with a generic language that “invites” the Parties and other actors to “improve the implementation” and it “encourages” the Parties to implement activities centred in climate at regional level, incites public and private entities to boost a gender responsive climate finance, and promotes the development of gender disaggregated data.

Gender equality in the UNFCCC [must go beyond the GAP](#) and its established activities. The next actions must cover the complex dynamic of the entities that are involved and the diverse forms of marginalisation based on age, race, ethnicity, education, geography, and disabilities, among others. Although the UNFCCC has laid the foundations to recognise the importance of gender equality, concrete actions are crucial to establish inclusive processes, leadership paths, and funding mechanisms. The GAP evaluation shows that its sole existence cannot facilitate a radical and systemic change, but it is the Parties, the feminist civil society, and other relevant organisations who must contribute to the implementation of gender responsive policies and climate plans through advocacy, actions, and fundings.



### María del Pilar Bueno

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# The implementation of the Global Goal on Adaptation and the sense of urgency

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In a context of extreme climate events and two armed conflicts that could escalate to a global level, international climate negotiations are at risk of remaining stuck in technicalities, away from people's real needs. However, the UNFCCC could facilitate the international cooperation needed to boost or strengthen critical national policies.

**T**he 28th Conference of the Parties (COP28) from the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) will take place in the city of Dubai (United Arab Emirates) in an adverse and discouraging international context. This context is not only marked by the war between Ukraine and Russia, which, as indicated by the [United Nations](#), has already claimed the lives of more than 27,000 civilians and, according to the [New York Times](#), half a million Ukrainian and Russian soldiers, but also by the armed conflict taking place in the Gaza Strip. On top of that, the energetic crisis has slowed down the fulfilment of the climate commitments by the main great powers, according to the [World Energy Outlook 2022](#) of the International Energy Agency (IEA), and the last eight years have broken records as the warmest in history [according to data collected by the World Meteorological Organization](#) in 2023.

The extreme climate events, just in 2023, have had devastating effects all over the world, especially for the most vulnerable populations. These events include the floods last September in Libya, which caused more than 6,000 deaths and 10,000 people were missing; the floods caused by a cyclone in the south of Brazil, which displaced more than 2,300 people; the floods and torrential rains in the southeast of China, which cost more than USD 75 million in loss; the fires in Greece, where more than 19,000 people had to be evacuated; and the fires in Hawaii, which caused 97 deaths and burned 878 hectares. The heatwaves in all continents have become the new normal in the era of global climate change.

However, while the impacts of climate change increase, the adaptation gap grows wider (USD 160,000/340,000 million by 2030 and 315,000/565,000 million by 2050),

with a financing gap that is five to ten times greater than the current financial flows, while the developed countries constantly breach the agreed commitments in terms of climate finance, according to the [data collected by the United Nations Environment Programme in 2022](#).

**While the impacts of climate change increase, the adaptation gap grows wider, with a major financing gap and while the developed countries constantly breach their funding commitments.**

Argentina has recorded, only in 2023, nine heatwaves, floods by intense rainfall, like in La Plata, where more than 300 people had to be evacuated. The drought that happened as the result of the combination of the La Niña phenomenon and climate change cost the country at least USD 20,000 million, according to [Rosario Stock Exchange](#), and more than 20% of its exportation, according to the president, Alberto Fernández, during the general debate in the General Assembly of the United Nations. However, the data about human and economic loss related to climate change in the country, aside from the agro-export sector, is harder to collect.

### A complex context

In this context, international climate negotiations are at risk of drifting farther away from the daily events that affect people’s lives, due to technicalities and political exchanges that, despite their rhetoric, do not highlight the urgency. This does not change the fact that the Convention is a favourable place to globally boost issues that are addressed in national and local politics and that promote the international cooperation that our countries need to drive or strengthen their agendas.

The adaptation to climate change, promoted by developing countries in the negotiations, has grown exponentially as part of the climate agenda in the traditional search for political equality with mitigation. This expansion can be seen in both its presence in specific political and regulatory instruments, such as the creation of institutions and standing bodies, and in its significant global prominence, but it is always competing with the decarbonisation agenda.

The COP28 will bring about the conclusion of the first Global Stocktake, which is a new collective evaluation process incorporated to the Paris Agreement due to the need to consider the regular progress of the long-term goals of the Agreement, including mitigation, adaptation, and funding, among others. One of the distinctive aspects of adaptation in the Global Stocktake is the revision of the progress towards achieving the Global Goal on Adaptation established in the Agreement. This goal involves reducing vulnerability to climate change, enhancing adaptive capacity, and strengthening resilience, (Article 7.1. Paris Agreement); key aspects to face the effects of climate change that we are facing in our communities.

After a decade of discussions about the opportunities and challenges of a Global Goal on Adaptation in conceptual, political, methodological, and empirical terms (UNFCCC, 2021), this conference will provide an opportunity to launch a framework for this goal that will allow its operationalisation. This is important to make the components of the goal more tangible (vulnerability, resilience, and adaptive capacity) and make precise commitments that are linked to moments of the adaptation policy cycle (a diagnosis through the evaluation of vulnerabilities, risks, and impacts; planning, implementation, monitoring, and assessment). With this method, the governments have been prioritising and implementing adaptation options since 2010, when the Cancun Adaptation Framework was adopted and the process of the national adaptation plans were released.

In addition, key issues have been identified, such as water, agriculture, food, cities and settlements, health, poverty and ways of life, ecosystems and biodiversity, tangible cultural heritage, and mountain ranges. Cross-cutting issues have also been identified, such as gender, human rights, the role of indigenous and local communities, and the importance of having a process that is based on the best science available. These are also crucial components of this goal framework.

Although the methodological details of the goal framework, and specifically the objectives associated to it, are still under negotiation, it is essential that the result of this conference does not lose sight of the true goal for which millions of dollars are invested in negotiation processes: to reach multilateral agreements of high impact that promote more action and support, especially for those who are more vulnerable.

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The Convention is a favourable place to globally boost issues that are addressed in national and local politics and that promote the international cooperation that our countries need to drive or strengthen their agendas.

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# The necessary preservation of the High Andean Wetlands in the context of climate crisis

The integrity and contributions of the High Andean wetlands and the Puna wetlands suffer the impact of climate change, and the advance of lithium extraction adds more pressure on these ecosystems. In order to stop them from turning into “the new sacrifice zone” of the Global North’s energy transition, it is necessary to develop public, national, and provincial policies that include the social-environmental dimension and that recognise the importance of preserving them and prevent their degradation.

**T**he climate and ecological crisis mean that we must think of real, long-term solutions that cannot be postponed. The international climate commitments are **insufficient** to accomplish the expected goals of the Paris Agreement, while **the damage to the ecosystems keeps spreading at record speed**.

The predominant rhetoric around energy transition aims to replace, at a quick pace, the transport and energy sources based on fossil fuels with “clean” technologies, with raw materials like lithium. This transition model puts more pressure on the Global North’s extraction in the Global South, and does not take into account the demand of en-

vironmental goods. It is urgent and necessary to reflect on what this rhetoric implies.

In Argentina, there is lithium dissolved in the brine from the **High Andean wetlands and the Puna wetlands**, endorheic basins that are higher than 3,000 metres above sea level, distributed between the provinces of Jujuy, Salta, and Catamarca. Water is essential for the survival and the functioning of these ecosystems, their fauna and flora, and the sustaining of the communities that live there. These are extremely arid regions, with a natural water deficit and high evaporation rates.

Since time immemorial, these have been the homes of **indigenous communities who are connected to the salt flats** under the Andean cosmology “Buen Vivir”, according to which salt is life. On top of that, the High Andean Wetlands are **carbon sinks** and, therefore, are essential to contribute to mitigating the effects of climate change and creating adaptive conditions for them.

Currently, their **contributions** are being **threatened by the impacts of climate change, and lithium extraction adds more pressure over these vital zones**, mainly due to the great amount of water that it consumes and its potential negative impacts in an arid region.

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To date, there are no hydrographic studies that serve as a baseline from a perspective that considers the basin an indivisible unit, which makes it more difficult to identify the true risks of extractive activities.

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To date, there are no hydrogeological studies that serve as a baseline from a perspective that considers the basin an indivisible unit, which makes it more difficult to identify the true risks of extractive activities. Therefore, it is necessary to reflect on how the High Andean Wetlands can be protected and **how to stop them from becoming “new sacrifice zones”** for the Global North’s energy transition.

### How do we add the social-environmental dimension?

Going back to the document **“Recommendations for the appreciation and protection of the High Andean Wetlands in public environmental policies” (FARN)**, we summarised some of the proposals described there in order to incorporate the social-environmental dimension involved in preserving these ecosystems and to move away from the sectoral and limited mindset of accelerated decarbonisation.

1

Undertaking baseline studies that offer a deep understanding of the hydrological cycles and the characteristics that maintain the balance of these ecosystems, and that are promoted by state authorities and carried out from a perspective that considers the basin an indivisible unit.

2

Passing laws that enforce a minimum budget for environmental protection, guarantees the conservation of the wetlands and the implementation of Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA), and that adds the compulsion to take the cumulative and synergistic effects into account.

3

Carrying out Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in plans, programmes, and policies that promote early civic engagement and that interlink the environmental management of the land, the climate crisis and biodiversity.

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It is necessary to carry out baseline studies about hydrological cycles and wetland balance, and Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA), and to pass laws that enforce a minimum budget for environmental protection.

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### In conclusion

It is necessary and urgent to collect information that reflects the complexity and importance of the High Andean Wetlands from a perspective that is multidimensional and that considers the basin an indivisible unit to guarantee the access to information, civic engagement, and the compulsory engagement of the government.

The transition we must make in order to overcome the crisis must prioritise social-environmental issues, reconsider consumption patterns, and halt the extractivist pressure.

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# A reform for the international financial system for climate justice

Due to the inefficiency of climate private funding and the inadequate role of the IFIs to promote climate action, public climate finance on a large scale is a priority. In this context, the developing countries are exerting pressure so the Global North provides new and additional funding that is based on government grants.

**T**he current international financial system is incapable of facing multiple crisis, including the climate and the biodiversity crisis, on top of the growing inequality. There is global consensus about that. Although the international financial institutions (IFIs) have their own reform model, it follows the traditional methods that have done more harm than good. The World Bank's new Evolution Roadmap lacks a reflection on its own role in bringing about the current crisis, especially on its wrong decision to prioritise private funding.

Another central element of its blind approach is the dangerous supposition that the private sector is the solution

to the climate crisis, or what the economist Daniela Gabor calls "the Wall Street Climate Consensus", which promises that, with the right policies, financial capitalism can deliver a low-carbon transition without radical political or institutional changes. In order to make the projects investable, it aims to transfer some risks from private to public balance sheets, squeezing public funding to generate profits for companies that, in general, will not address the needs of the marginalised communities that are most affected by the climate crisis. Private funding plays a limited role in mitigation. Usually, it consistently neglects many adaptation efforts in developing countries and it is completely inadequate to address loss and damages.

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## The concerning role of IFIs

The strengthening of the IFIs with the intention of having them play a central role in the architecture of global climate finance (through the proposed reforms) is concerning. Firstly, by rooting their policies in a market-based ideology and exacerbating the debt —which is usually dispersed by harmful macroeconomic conditionalities—, these global financial institutions are promoting the very same policies that are the driving force of the current climate crisis.

Secondly, these proposals increase the interests of the developed countries, on top of empowering international financial institutions, where the Global South's voice and participation are limited.

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## The World Bank's new Evolution Roadmap lacks a reflection on its own role in bringing about the current crisis.

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Public climate finance at large scale is urgently needed to boost climate action. The developing countries are united and exerting pressure on the developed countries so they provide new and additional funding that is based on government grants. The Paris Agreement, adopted in 2015, clearly states that the developed countries will provide financial resources for developing countries. It is an obligation based on the principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC). The developed countries are historically responsible for pollution and must pay their just part of the climate finance; however, by defending unsuccessful approaches that prioritise the private sectors, they are rejecting this responsibility.

As the Prime Minister of Barbados, Mia Mottley, mentioned, "climate action should be about saving lives, not saving profits". Money is available when there is political will, as we have seen with the 2008 housing crisis, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the Russian invasion of Ukraine. There is no excuse for not providing public funds on a large scale to address the climate crisis. There is no impediment for the governments to demand contributions from the polluters, especially considering the obscene profits that the fossil fuels industry makes.

Adopting a reform of the global financial architecture is urgent. But it must be made so there is an adequate system for its purpose, based on equity, justice, and need-to-know principles, and with a more equitable global economic governance. A key part of the solution is the access to public climate finance, that is new, additional, debt-free, favourable to the poor, gender responsive, based on government grants and free of conditionalities. We will not achieve climate justice if we do not address debt justice, fiscal justice, and illicit financial flows, as well as broader economic justice issues connected to the funding agenda for development.

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# The role of renewable energies in Just Energy Transition Partnerships and the expectations for the COP28

Just Energy Transition Partnerships (JETPs) are financing mechanisms that can forge innovative alliances towards decarbonisation and equity in the matrix of energy supply, especially in countries with a high potential for renewable energy. They are expected to play a crucial role in the next COP28. Will they succeed in producing a significant change in the energy transition and in promoting a more sustainable future?

**T**he urgent need to take action to fight the climate crisis and make the transition towards a sustainable and just energy system is more evident than ever, and the Just Energy Transition Partnerships provide an opportunity to accelerate the countries' process towards decarbonisation, and at the same time, new development alternatives are being promoted.

According to the [Statistical Review of World Energy](#) from the Energy Institute, globally, the carbon dioxide emissions from energy use, oil extraction, industrial processes, and methane reached historical levels in 2022. In addition, fossil fuels still dominate, representing 82% of total consumption, despite the fact that wind and solar energy reached a record high of 12% share of power.

er generation, due to their growth in capacity. **At the same time, 2023 has registered the hottest days ever recorded.** That is why the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources is an essential component of the global efforts to fight climate change.

However, the transition towards a sustainable energy matrix cannot be limited to reducing carbon emissions. It must be regulated by the principles of justice, equity, inclusion, and participation, which, at the same time, requires funding to design, implement, and monitor the necessary action plans. In this context, the Just Energy Transition Partnerships emerge. These consist of **financing mechanisms** whose purpose is to promote the energy system transitions of those countries that greatly depend on fossil fuels and have high renewable energy potential, under a justice framework. This mechanism is supported by the International Partner Group (IPG), composed by the European Union, the United Kingdom, the United States, Japan, Germany, France, Italy, Canada, Denmark, and Norway.

The first **JETP** emerged at the **COP26** in Glasgow, Scotland, when South Africa was promised USD 8.5 billion in funding by the **IPG**. In 2022, India, Indonesia, Vietnam, and Senegal were named as the next beneficiaries of the approach. Since then, the donor coordination group has grown to include national and multilateral development banks and development finance agencies.

JETPs also intend to address the social consequences of the transition, such as guaranteeing the creation of alternative employment and training for workers in the electricity sector, and access to stable and affordable energy sources to the sectors of the population who lack this service. The **United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the Global Green Growth Institute** found that a USD 1 million investment in fossil fuels could create 22 and 33 jobs in Indonesia and South Africa respectively. In contrast, using this investment for clean energy could create 103 and 66 jobs respectively.

**JETPs** can therefore be considered a great funding packet destined to boost just energy transition strategies defined and aimed at receptive countries with the goal to accelerate the decarbonisation of their electric matrix. For example, during the **COP27** in Sharm El-Sheikh (Egypt), South Africa published their Just Energy Transition Investment

Plan. It is expected that its implementation will avoid the emission of around 1 to 1.5 gigatons of greenhouse gas (**GHG**) to the atmosphere in the next 20 years.

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**The JETPs could fight the inequality in the energy matrix, create alternative employment for workers of the electricity sector, and provide access to affordable energy, while they promote decarbonisation.**

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The reason why the different countries define the operation rules of the JETPs is so they can fulfil their climate commitments, their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), and at the same time, address their own needs and challenges effectively. This is one of the biggest challenges a **JETP** faces in Latin American countries. In order for the design and the implementation of this mechanism to achieve the goal of being truly just, it must promote spaces for dialogue and debate that greatly involve social movements and the local communities in all their diversity. They will be the ones who determine how funding must be used so it aligns with their proposals for economic development and with their concerns about the resources they own, such as their land.

### The Mexican case

A country that could benefit from a **JETP** is Mexico. According to their 2022 national energy balance, **64% of their emissions are created by the energy sector and 87% of their energy still comes from fossil fuels.** Their wind potential and their location in a region that is rich in solar resources place them in an ideal position to move towards renewable energy sources. However, in terms of **inequality**, the poorer 50% of the Mexican population produces less than two tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per capita, while the emissions produced by the richer 10% and the richer 1% of



the population are 10 and 44 times greater respectively, and represent 26.8% of the total emissions. Paradoxically, a great number of renewable resources can be found in regions marked by extreme inequality and poverty.

In their **NDCs**, Mexico has undertaken targets to reduce emissions by 30% (unconditional) and 40% (conditional to international cooperation) by 2030. However, the **Mexican Climate Initiative** (ICM) estimates that if immediate changes are not made in the country, it will be among the ten largest producers of emissions in the world as of halfway through our present decade, and therefore, the fulfilment of their goals is essential to contribute to the mitigation of climate change at a global level.

For this reason, the organisation proposes that the government expands the ambition of their commitments and sets as new goals to achieve in 2030, an unconditional 30% reduction in the **GHG** emissions and a 47% reduction on condition that they receive international funding support. It is estimated that an investment of USD 105,640 million and USD 255,997 million is needed respectively.

### What can we expect during the COP28 regarding JETPs?

The 28th United Nations Climate Change Conference will take place in November 2023, in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, and will be led by Sultan Al Jaber, CEO of the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company, a fact that has given rise to **controversies in the global climate and environmental community**. This conference is also relevant because it is the first year, since the adoption of the Paris Agreement in 2015, in which the countries will make a stocktake of their progress in fulfilling their **NDCs**. However, just like it happened during the **High-level Pledging Conference for the Green Climate Fund** (GCF-2) that took place in October 2023, it is expected that developed countries will announce that they did not fulfil their commitment on providing USD 100 billion to **the UN's Green Climate Fund**. Developing countries need this funding to implement their mitigation and adaptation projects during 2024-2027.

It is also likely that the negotiations will be directed towards demanding the developed countries to fulfil the

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During the COP28, developed countries might face demands to fulfil the funding of the UN's Green Climate Fund and the commitments made during the COP15 in 2009.

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commitment they made during the **COP15** in 2009. In this event, it was agreed that the richest countries in the world would raise USD 100 billion per year by 2020 to help developing countries adapt to climate change. However, this is another commitment that has not been fulfilled.

In this sense, it is possible that the conversations during the **COP28** trigger negotiations that touch on the need to promote innovative financial mechanisms, like **JETPs**. Since they involve a relatively small group of actors, the **JETPs** have the potential to make progress more quickly towards energy transition than would be possible in the climate conversations during the **COP**, where the great oil and gas producing countries could reject an agreement. Of course, despite the fact that this financial mechanism represents progress, only its implementation will be the true proof of effectiveness, as it has already been mentioned.

We cannot know for certain if **JETPs** will truly be an effective way to accomplish a just energy transition in the Global South countries. However, they do represent an opportunity. We can **learn from the experience** of the countries that are already implementing their own **JETPs**, like Indonesia and South Africa, and identify the challenges and opportunities that other countries might face when adopting this mechanism to fund their own just energy transition.



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## Fundación Ambiente y Recursos Naturales

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