Progressing the Transition Away From Fossil Fuels

A guide for policy-makers working on TAFF roadmaps and plans

IISD GUIDE

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Executive Summary

The global transition away from fossil fuels (TAFF) has entered an implementation phase. While clean energy deployment continues to accelerate and investment increasingly flows toward renewables, electrification, and clean technologies, fossil fuel production and consumption plans remain misaligned with climate science and expose countries to growing geopolitical, economic, and fiscal risks.

Political appetite for structured cooperation is evident. More than 80 countries endorsed the call for a global roadmap on transitioning away from fossil fuels at the 30th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 30), and 2026 presents multiple diplomatic and technical processes that can help translate commitment into delivery. The central challenge is no longer simply setting ambition, but ensuring coherence, coordination, and implementation across national plans, international coalitions, and sectoral initiatives.

This paper focuses on the practical question of **how to design effective roadmaps for transitioning away from fossil fuels—at both global and national levels**. Its primary contribution is a structured review of selected case studies of existing initiatives, alliances, and national processes. These examples provide concrete lessons on what works, where gaps remain, and how principles such as scientific alignment, justice, national ownership, and coordinated international support can be operationalized. A detailed description of each case study can be found in the accompanying paper, *Progressing the Transition Away from Fossil Fuels: Lessons From Case Studies*.

Drawing from these case studies, the brief identifies core principles, essential planning elements, and international coordination needs that should underpin TAFF roadmaps. It aims to inform ongoing processes in 2026—including the Brazilian COP 30 Presidency's global roadmap initiative—and beyond, and to support countries in developing coherent, whole-economy national TAFF roadmaps that are just, orderly, and aligned with science.

Key Takeaways

1. **TAFF roadmaps must be anchored in clear principles to ensure credibility and fairness**. Case studies show that effective transition planning depends on alignment with the best available science, application of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, procedural/distributive/restorative justice, national ownership combined with international coordination, and a rights-based development approach.
2. **Effective TAFF roadmaps require a comprehensive set of planning elements**. National TAFF roadmaps should connect and operationalize existing plans, such as sectoral decarbonization strategies, nationally determined contribution implementation plans, long-term low-emission development strategies, just transition frameworks, and supply-side policies. Case studies demonstrate that credible roadmaps integrate multiple elements, including energy access; fossil fuel production and consumption pathways; fossil fuel subsidy reform; just transition and economic diversification;

decommissioning and cleanup; managed and manageable finance; strong participatory governance; clear timelines and monitoring, reporting, and verification systems; and cross-ministerial coordination.

3. **International coordination must address systemic transition risks**. Case studies highlight the need for structured producer–consumer coordination, reform of global finance and credit systems, scaled financial and technical support, supply chain cooperation, policy knowledge sharing, coordinated political signals, and common standards and monitoring, reporting, and verification. Acting in isolation increases volatility, first-mover risks, and inequitable outcomes.
4. **Designing effective TAFF roadmaps requires learning from practice and improving international process design**. Existing initiatives demonstrate that successful coordination efforts have clear scopes and modalities, complement rather than duplicate other processes, incorporate expert and multistakeholder input, are country-driven, and include structured follow-up. The main value of this paper lies in distilling these lessons from case studies to inform roadmap processes in 2026 and beyond.

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1.0 Political Context

Early 2026 has shown, once again, how fossil fuel dependence continues to drive global geopolitical instability—from unrest in Iran and intervention in Venezuela to disputes over Greenland and assertive U.S. liquefied natural gas diplomacy, both fossil fuel-consuming and fossil fuel-producing countries face accelerating levels of exposure to the security and volatility risks of relying on coal, oil, and gas. These developments are taking place within the context of broader, fragmented diplomatic spaces and mounting strain on the multilateral cooperation architecture.

At the same time, the politics of the global energy transition are entering a more turbulent phase—one defined less by ambition-setting and more by the hard realities of delivery, implementation, and risks of backlash and backtracking, as countries manage the dynamics of finance, trade, supply chains, infrastructure needs, and squaring supply and demand as systems transition.

This phase is driven by the increasing inevitability of the global switch to clean energy. Renewables are the fastest-growing energy source globally in all International Energy Agency (IEA) transition scenarios (IEA, 2025b), setting new deployment records each year and—alongside a new "age of electricity"—having a structural and increasingly irreversible impact on fossil fuel demand. Last year, wind and solar overtook fossil fuels in the European Union's (EU's) power mix (Rosslowe & Petrovich, 2025), and coal generation fell in China and India for the first time in five decades as a result of record clean energy additions (Myllyvirta, 2026). In 2025, roughly two-thirds of global energy spending was directed toward clean energy investment (IEA, 2025a) as countries now embed clean energy exports and tech into their industrial strategies, competing to reap the economic benefits of the transition.

However, progress remains far from what is required to meet climate goals. Countries are still collectively planning coal, oil, and gas production levels in 2030 that are more than double what is consistent with a 1.5°C pathway (Stockholm Environment Institute et al., 2025), risking climate goals, carbon lock-in, stranded assets, and economic volatility from a mismatch in supply and demand. The energy transition is also deeply uneven across regions. Only 15% of clean energy investment flows to emerging economies (outside China) (IEA, 2024), revealing a stark imbalance in access to finance and support between Global North and Global South countries. This leaves many developing and fossil-fuel-dependent countries facing risks of deepening inequality from missing out on the economic, security, and industrial benefits of clean energy growth.

Without **planning and international cooperation between producer and consumer countries** on the global transition away from fossil fuels (TAFF), countries across the board now face growing risks of energy insecurity, economic volatility, climate impacts, and disruption.

Political spaces for cooperation to accelerate a just, equitable, and orderly transition, such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), are fragile, but they endure, especially as they benefit countries' own interests. In a volatile and increasingly

multipolar world, flexible processes and coalitions of the willing become key avenues for cooperation grounded in countries' shared interests around combating climate change, security, energy system resilience, prosperity, and managing volatility in the energy transition.

At COP 30, more than 80 countries came together to back the call for a global roadmap on transitioning away from fossil fuels (Harvey & Watts, 2025), showing the political appetite for implementation and collaboration spaces (Tilgaard Petersen et al., 2025). This set the stage for new and existing diplomatic avenues to drive stronger coordination and cooperation on this agenda between countries this year.

In 2026, there are now multiple **processes and coalitions offering opportunities to progress the transition away from fossil fuels**. These include

- the Brazilian COP 30 Presidency's initiative to develop a global roadmap on fossil fuel transition (TAFF roadmap);
- the First International Conference on the Just Transition Away From Fossil Fuels, convened by Colombia and the Netherlands in Santa Marta in April 2026, with plans for a follow-up process and continued dialogue;
- IEA and International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) processes on analysis, tracking, and country dialogues, including the intent from IRENA to support development of a global TAFF roadmap (IRENA, 2026);
- The efforts of the Equitable Framework and Finance for Extractive-based Countries in Transition on Collaborative Exporter-Importer Governance for Shared Prosperity from Fossil Fuels (CEIG);
- first-mover alliances such as the Powering Past Coal Alliance (PPCA), the Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance (BOGA), the Coalition on Phasing Out Fossil Fuel Incentives Including Subsidies (COFFIS), and the Clean Energy Transition Partnership, fostering policy exchange, enabling dialogues, supporting implementation, and showcasing leadership;
- domestic country plans on nationally determined contribution (NDC) implementation, long-term low-emission development strategies, and sectoral energy planning processes. Many of these plans will already address fossil fuel dependence and clean energy deployment, and can, as next steps, be aligned into making up single, whole-economy, national TAFF roadmaps to guide a country's transition;
- International processes to support domestic energy transition planning, including:
    - the United Nations Development Programme's Climate Promise evolution of technical support for NDC implementation planning (United Nations Development Programme, n.d.);
    - Global Implementation Accelerator dialogues and report process that the COP 30 and COP 31 Presidencies will lead into 2027 (United Nations Climate Change, 2025b);
    - Belem Mission to 1.5 report that the COP 29, COP 30, and COP 31 Presidencies will present at COP 31 (United Nations Climate Change, n.d.);

- Just Transition Mechanism to be developed by COP 31 (United Nations Climate Change, 2025a); and
- calls from the COP 30 Mutirão Decision for countries to develop implementation and investment plans for their NDCs (United Nations Environment Program Finance Initiative, 2025).

These coalitions and spaces present opportunities to address systemic barriers, build momentum, and support national implementation of the global commitment made at COP 28 in 2024 to transition away from fossil fuels.

However, there is even greater opportunity in joining these different processes into more than the sum of their parts, ensuring coherence, coordination, and continuity. Proactive strategic alignment, such as through complementary analysis, coordinated political signals, pooled technical and financial resources, and shared mandates across processes and alliances, could significantly enhance collective impact and foster a stronger international architecture for delivery.

2.0 Defining the Transition Away From Fossil Fuels

The transition away from fossil fuels requires a **planned, whole-systems transformation of energy systems and economies**. It restructures how energy is produced, transported, consumed, and governed across the entire fossil fuel value chain and replaces the economic models anchored in fossil fuels. It entails a coordinated shift from fossil-based systems to clean energy systems in a world where energy is tightly interwoven with global trade, finance, and geopolitics, as well as national political economies, and where only a comprehensive, system-wide shift can enable a low-risk, orderly transition.

Lessons for TAFF Roadmaps and Plans From Selected Case Studies

The development and content of TAFF plans or roadmaps require clear guiding principles and operational components to ensure fairness, ambition, consistency, and trust. This paper sets out and discusses the principles and planning elements that should underpin global and national TAFF roadmaps. Drawing lessons from existing international processes, it also identifies where international support can add the most value. These principles and elements are informed by a selected set of case studies that illustrate both effective approaches and gaps in design and implementation. A full discussion of the case studies is presented in the accompanying paper, *Progressing the Transition Away from Fossil Fuels: Lessons from case studies*. The terms *TAFF roadmaps* and *TAFF plans*, while not identical, are used interchangeably throughout this document.

Principles of Transitioning Away From Fossil Fuels

TAFF roadmaps and plans ought to be guided by principles to build trust and ensure fairness, ambition, and consistency. Case studies highlight the following principles as critical to any process for planning a transition away from fossil fuels, in a just, orderly, and equitable manner:

1. **Alignment with the best available science**. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change pathways, IEA scenarios, and Production Gap Report scenarios provide the baseline for the speed and scale of the transition.[1]
2. **Common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities**. Transition planning must reflect differentiated obligations, with developed countries leading in ambition and support, including financial support to developing countries, consistent with equity and historical responsibility and different respective capabilities to diversify economies away from fossil fuels.[2]

[1] Principle 9, Rio Principle for Sustainable Development, Annex 1, Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, A/CONF.151/26 (Vol. I), Annex, 1992.

[2] Principle 7, Rio Principle for Sustainable Development, Annex 1, Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, A/CONF.151/26 (Vol. I), Annex, 1992.

3. **Procedural, distributive, and restorative justice**. Procedural justice implies a participatory, inclusive, and transparent approach to developing plans and processes on fossil fuel transitions. Transition planning must involve governments, civil society, workers, Indigenous Peoples, women, youth, and private sector actors, ensuring legitimacy and broad ownership of outcomes. Distributive justice means fairness in the allocation of resources, benefits and burdens of the transition, both across and within countries. Restorative justice means repairing the harm done by the fossil fuel economy.[3]
4. **National ownership** (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, 2024). Countries retain the right to sovereignty and to define their own transition pathways and schedules, while contributing to global goals. While there is a lot that can be done at the international or multilateral level, such as international financial architecture reform, at its heart, the transition away from fossil fuels needs to be owned by countries. For example, finance-receiving countries need to be able to define their own priorities and investment plans, and fossil fuel-importing countries need to be able to define their own timelines and strategies for reducing fossil fuel demand, in line with global, science-based goals.[4] To be maximally effective, however, national actions need to be coordinated as much as possible at the international level, to allow for peer learning and a predictable, managed transition of both energy exporters and importers.[5] This requires greater cooperation between international organizations active in supporting just transitions.
5. **Rights-based approach to development**. Energy transition strategies should uphold human rights, including Indigenous peoples' rights, gender equality, and the right to sustainable development, ensuring no community is left behind and that social protections are embedded in transition planning.[6]

Elements of Planning the TAFF

While COP 30 supercharged international recognition of the need for forward planning on the transition away from fossil fuels, national-level action on TAFF is not commencing from a standing start.

Whole-economy TAFF roadmaps (linked to NDCs and based on existing national planning processes) are what is ultimately required, and few countries have yet committed to establishing these. However, many countries and political blocs already have sectoral plans to reduce fossil fuel supply or use, although many more are required (Janzwood & Harrison, 2023; Trencher et al., 2025). NDCs remain the key policy instrument through which

[3] Principle 10, Rio Principle for Sustainable Development, Annex 1, Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, A/CONF.151/26 (Vol. I), Annex, 1992.

[4] Principle 2, Rio Principle for Sustainable Development, Annex 1, Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, A/CONF.151/26 (Vol. I), Annex, 1992.

[5] Principle 12, Rio Principle for Sustainable Development, Annex 1, Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, A/CONF.151/26 (Vol. I), Annex, 1992.

[6] Principle 3, Rio Principle for Sustainable Development, Annex 1, Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, A/CONF.151/26 (Vol. I), Annex, 1992.

countries set climate commitments and intentions. National TAFF roadmaps should be seen as implementation tools for relevant parts of NDCs; however, as a whole-economy approach, TAFF roadmaps can go beyond NDCs and link to LT-LEDS as longer-term visions for economic transformation.

TAFF requires reducing fossil fuel production, but also reducing demand through whole-economy electrification (industry, transport, heating and cooling, etc.) backed up by power sector decarbonization. Such sectoral fossil fuel reduction plans are the constituent components of national roadmaps.

At least 46 countries already have power sector decarbonization plans, including the EU (through national climate and energy plans), the United Kingdom (Clean Power by 2030), and Norway (already running on clean power). The United Kingdom, Colombia, and at least nine other countries have plans in place to reduce fossil fuel supply to varying degrees, with subnational leaders—such as California and Quebec—also moving ahead (Marshall et al., 2025).

Meanwhile, a growing number of countries have similar plans for reducing fossil demand in the transport, buildings, heating and cooling, and other key economic sectors. Plans to remove fossil infrastructure are emerging: EU legislation now requires gas-network decommissioning plans where demand is falling, and countries including the United Kingdom, Netherlands, and Germany have frameworks to retire or repurpose oil and gas grid assets. In parallel, just transition and workforce policies, such as EU regional transition funds and Canada's sustainable jobs legislation, show governments are planning for social and fiscal impacts even where production remains politically sensitive (Marshall et al., 2025). When aggregated, these fossil fuel-reducing plans demonstrate that, whether driven by security, growth, climate, or a combination of political motivators, many countries are already on a path toward being able to develop domestic TAFF roadmaps.

Lessons from these domestic plans, and the case studies discussed in the accompanying paper, *Progressing the Transition Away From Fossil Fuels: Lessons from case studies*, suggest that a TAFF roadmap should include the following elements:[7]

1. A roadmap must coherently **address both fossil fuel production and fossil fuel consumption**, although depending on a country's specific circumstances—for example, whether it is a producer, consumer, exporter, or importer—it may emphasize production or consumption more. This is necessary to fulfill the principle of alignment with the best available science (Green & Denniss, 2018; Lazarus & van Asselt, 2018; Stockholm Environment Institute et al., 2025). The transition away from fossil fuels means reducing the production of fossil fuels, but also reducing demand through whole-economy electrification (industry, transport, heating and cooling, etc.), matched with power sector decarbonization. All of this will need to sit alongside scaling clean energy systems to meet demand, including building out renewable power, grids and storage, energy efficiency measures, electrification, energy market reforms, digitalization, and clean fuels. Paths may differ depending on the fuel types that are

[7] Most of the elements listed apply to both national and international TAFF roadmaps. Where this is not the case, it has been specified in the element's explanation.

dominant in any given country, the extent to which a country is reliant on fossil fuel revenues, the amount of fossil fuel reserves in a country, and other factors.

2. **Energy access**. Energy access is a fundamental driver of human well-being, economic growth, and the achievement of global development goals, including the provision of clean water, sanitation, health care, transport, and telecommunications (House of Commons, 2025; Wolde-Rufael, 2006).
3. **Fossil fuel subsidy reform**. This is a key entry point, as public finance for fossil fuels artificially enhances their competitiveness while increasing the barriers for renewable energy and undermining energy security (Kuehl & Brnic, 2025; Laan et al., 2025). Redirecting these subsidies and other incentives toward clean energy will help align public finance with the Paris Agreement (Article 2.1C). Levelling the playing field requires not only action on subsidies but also tackling the political influence that the fossil fuel sector has with many governments.
4. **Just transition and economic diversification measures**. Just transition measures flow from the principles of procedural, distributive, and restorative justice and are essential to support workers, communities, and regions that currently depend on fossil fuel industries during the transition (International Labour Organization, 2015). Support for diversifying economies, including green industrial strategies, is equally important to enable fossil fuel production-dependent states to maintain state revenues and ensure prosperity while supporting workers, communities, and regions (Muttert, 2025; Peszko et al., 2020), as fossil fuel demand peaks and declines through the transition. Importantly, justice principles must be considered in the economic diversification strategies to ensure that new transition investments (e.g., renewable energy projects) do not replicate the "unjust legacy" of the fossil fuel industry, which often excluded local voices and prioritized resource extraction over community welfare and human rights.
5. **Decommissioning and cleanup**. The safe and just removal, decontamination and dismantling of fossil fuel infrastructure and sites is essential for meeting Paris Agreement goals while protecting communities and ensuring environmental health (Invernizzi et al., 2020; Partridge et al., 2023).
6. **Managed and manageable finance**. Just, orderly, planned transitions depend on strong investment planning to secure finance for infrastructure needed for grid management and electrification, as well as planning for public revenue replacement, managing stranded asset risks, and financial system stability, particularly for fossil-fuel-dependent economies. National delivery in developing countries depends on access to dedicated, predictable, and reliable financial support from international sources. Non-debt-creating public finance is particularly critical, as is scaling blended finance strategies that leverage concessional loans and grants to unlock private investment.
7. **Strong participatory governance structures**. This flows from the procedural justice principle, and it allows, in practice, strong participation by a wide range of potentially marginalized groups, alongside other stakeholders such as the private sector, in the decision-making processes (Fischer, 2012; Newell et al., 2024).

8. **Clear time horizons and robust monitoring, reporting, and verification (MRV) systems**. This ensures accountability and higher compliance with agreed targets, making falling behind less likely. It also helps build institutional capacity through data systems, regulatory oversight, and enforcement mechanisms. As the case studies in the accompanying paper, *Progressing the Transition Away From Fossil Fuels: Lessons from case studies*, illustrate, the best existing examples of roadmaps are time-bound and oriented to clear delivery horizons.
9. **Whole-of-government approach via cross-ministerial coordination**. This is an essential element for the successful application of national roadmaps as it allows countries to overcome internal political obstacles to the transition. Relatedly, internal policy coherence and long-term clarity are important. Having a just transition strategy as part of a clear TAFF goal would ensure that plans all speak to the core purpose of the transition and avoid risky inconsistencies.

Table 1 illustrates how the listed TAFF principles and elements each relate to the case studies discussed in the accompanying paper, *Progressing the Transition Away From Fossil Fuels: Lessons from case studies*.

Table 1. TAFF principles and elements highlighted by analyzed case studies

		Case studies for reference
Principles	Alignment with the best available science	PPCA
	Common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities	Just Energy Transition Partnerships, PPCA
	Procedural, distributive, and restorative justice	Colombia's national roadmap
	National ownership (and international coordination)	Methane Abatement Partnership Roadmap, to a limited extent, JETPs, Brazil's national roadmap preparations
	Rights-based approach to development	Colombia's national roadmap
Elements	Fossil fuel production and consumption	MAPR, Colombia's national roadmap, COFFIS, Germany's coal phase-out strategy
	Fossil fuel subsidy reform	COFFIS
	Just transition measures and economic diversification	Colombia's national roadmap, national coal phase-out plans
	Energy access	Colombia's national roadmap
	Decommissioning and cleanup	Colombia's national roadmap, South Africa JETP, some national coal phase-out plans

		Case studies for reference
	Managed and manageable finance	MAPR, some national coal phase-out plans
	Strong participatory governance structures	Colombia's national roadmap
	Clear time horizons and robust MRV systems	MAPR, COFFIS, national coal phase-out plans
	Whole-government approach via cross-ministerial coordination	Some national coal phase-out plans, Türkiye's National Just Transition Strategy preparations and Brazil's national roadmap preparations

Source: Authors' own assessment.

International Coordination Needs

The challenges countries face in planning and implementing transitions away from fossil fuels are inherently systemic, interconnected, and linked to global markets (Meckling & Hughes, 2018). Acting in isolation can expose countries to political, economic, social, and fiscal risks that cannot be managed unilaterally (Bradley & Lahn, 2018). International cooperation, coordination, and support are therefore essential (Newell, 2026). Cooperation can take place bilaterally, in minilateral groups, and at the multilateral level. While bilateral and minilateral cooperation carry advantages of speed and efficiency with fewer interests to reach agreement between, multilateral cooperation within a rules-based architecture can ensure an equal voice for developing or most-affected countries.

Lessons from global cooperation from our case studies point to six key elements of international cooperation needed:

1. **Producer and consumer coordination**. Lock-step action between producers can address first-mover risks; however, coordination between producers and consumers, such as importer–exporter (consumer–producer) dialogues, can align production decline with demand reduction to avoid oversupply, price volatility, stranded assets, and inequitable economic shocks. Joint planning can support orderly phase-down pathways, revenue diversification for producers, and predictable signals for investors and workers, particularly as global fossil fuel use declines. The EU's Methane Abatement Partnership Roadmap offers a nascent example of this type of coordination, while wider literature (Newell et al., 2023) and case studies of national fossil fuel transition processes highlight the lack of international spaces for producer–consumer coordination on the wider transition away from fossil fuels.
2. **Global finance and systemic reforms**. Systemic barriers constraining transition commitments and investments, like high borrowing costs, debt burdens, and risk premiums, require reforms across the global financial system and its institutions.

Similarly, unoptimized risk calculation around investing in clean energy projects in parts of the world that desperately need that investment is limiting access to capital to support transitions. Global coordination is also needed to avoid global financial stability risks. Case studies show that agenda-setting initiatives have highlighted necessary areas for global reforms, but action on them remains stagnant. Case studies of national transition processes highlight the need to address how credit ratings agencies and International Monetary Fund surveillance can price in the benefits of producer transitions, as well as the need to improve access to finance for infrastructure investment and green industrialization that can secure alternative revenue and development pathways.

3. **Financial support and technical assistance**. Scaled-up, predictable international financial support is essential to help countries manage the social, economic, and fiscal impacts of transitioning away from fossil fuels. Coordinated technical assistance is needed to strengthen institutional capacity, support workforce transitions, and enable inclusive planning that reflects national and local contexts. Importantly, technical assistance and financial support must also be optimized for supporting the transition to avoid incentivizing unsustainable continued national strategic prioritization of gas infrastructure (Recourse, 2025). Several global initiatives are aimed at achieving this, including the Clean Energy Transition Partnership, COFFIS, and can be drawn on for further fossil fuel roadmap processes.
4. **Supply chain coordination**. International cooperation is needed to manage critical mineral, technology, and infrastructure supply chains required for the energy transition, while avoiding new dependencies and social or environmental harms. Coordinated approaches can enhance transparency, resilience, and sustainability across global supply chains and support value creation and alternative industrial and development pathways in producer countries. Few initiatives are currently addressing this big issue, though the nascent Global Clean Power Alliance Supply Chains Mission is beginning to. Recent developments around critical minerals supply chain coordination, with the United States inviting a blatant non-China alliance to discuss cooperation (Pacheco, 2026), highlight the geopolitical tensions that roadmap processes will need to grapple with.
5. **Knowledge sharing and knowledge creation**. Sharing policy experience, data, and best practices across countries can accelerate learning and reduce the risks associated with transition planning and implementation. International platforms can help disseminate effective approaches on worker protection, economic diversification, and fossil fuel phase-out governance. They can also share approaches for managing risks amongst fossil fuel producers. Case studies show many initiatives already create space for knowledge sharing, but few count major producers among their membership. Beyond the case studies analyzed in this paper, multilateral development banks and intergovernmental agencies also provide knowledge and analysis syntheses, such as the World Bank Just Transition platform and toolkits (World Bank Group, n.d.). Threats from the U.S. Trump Administration to the IEA's impartiality (Natter, 2025) present risks to this foundational knowledge synthesis and analysis source.

6. **Political goals and signals**. Clear, coordinated international political goals are necessary to provide credibility and direction for the just transition, shaping expectations across markets, governments, and society. Collective signals at the national level, such as agreed timelines, commitments, and cooperative frameworks, can reduce uncertainty and strengthen accountability while providing political cover for countries to act in unison rather than alone.
7. **Common standards and accountability.** Common international standards and robust MRV systems are needed to track progress on fossil fuel phase-out and just transition outcomes. Harmonized frameworks can enhance transparency, comparability, and trust, while supporting alignment between national actions and global goals. In international roadmaps, a focus on a set of key common denominators, such as the elements drawn from case studies above, would help countries progress at their own pace, as long as tangible progress in line with the roadmaps' targets can be achieved by each of them. The Paris Agreement's Enhanced Transparency Framework or Taskforce on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures could offer other case studies in how to build and deploy such common standards.

Lessons From International Processes to Support Policy Shifts Like Transitioning Away

Multilateral, minilateral, and bilateral coordination processes can address the gaps in international cooperation and support. Crucially for the transition away from fossil fuels, few spaces have allowed deep dialogue on what it means to actually decommission while scaling up alternative energy supplies and revenue streams. The key lesson from past experiences in developing roadmaps, task forces, alliances, or negotiated consensus decisions is to ensure broad and deep participation. Case studies highlight the need for the following steps.

1. **Specify Scope and Modalities**. International coordination efforts are most effective when they have a clearly defined scope, objectives, and operating modalities, avoiding overly broad or ambiguous mandates. Clear parameters help participants focus on practical outcomes, manage expectations, and ensure discussions translate into actionable guidance for transition planning.

2. **Complement, Not Compete With, Existing International and National Processes**. International coordination should aim at avoiding duplicating existing processes and initiatives, including those listed above and throughout the case studies. New processes can leverage existing initiatives by creating councils of advisors, inviting written submissions, inviting co-chairs, participating in regular exchanges with like-minded initiatives, and anchoring in the multilateral climate architecture, the UNFCCC and Paris Agreement transparency and reporting processes.

3. **Involve Expert Inputs and Support Multistakeholder Processes**. Incorporating technical experts and multiple stakeholders helps ground discussions in evidence, reflect real-world impacts, and build shared ownership of transition pathways. This improves the quality and legitimacy of international coordination efforts.

4. **Country-Driven Leadership**. Coordination initiatives are more durable and credible when they are led by participating countries with clear modalities for who is included and who is not. Country-driven leadership ensures alignment with national priorities, enhances trust, and increases the likelihood that international commitments will be reflected in domestic planning and implementation.

5. **Follow-Up Processes**. Effective international coordination requires structured follow-up processes to maintain momentum and translate dialogue into action. Regular check-ins, reporting mechanisms, and opportunities for iteration can help track progress, share lessons, and adapt coordination efforts as transition needs evolve. Anchoring within the multilateral climate frameworks of the UNFCCC and Paris Agreement is crucial.

Table 2 illustrates how the outlined international coordination needs and lessons from international processes each relate to the case studies discussed in the accompanying paper, *Progressing the Transition Away From Fossil Fuels: Lessons from case studies*.

Table 2. International TAFF coordination needs and lessons learned highlighted in analyzed case studies

		Case studies for reference
International coordination needs	Producer and consumer coordination	MAPR
	Global financial system and systemic reforms	MAPR, JETPs, gaps in structural support identified across first-mover alliances case studies
	Financial support and technical assistance	MAPR, JETPs, BOGA, financial support gaps identified in national case studies
	Coordination for supply chain management	Global Clean Power Alliance Supply Chains Mission
	Policy knowledge sharing	PPCA, COFFIS, guidance gaps identified in national case studies
Lessons learned	Specific scope and modalities	Baku to Belem Roadmap, first-mover alliances
	Complement, not compete with, other initiatives	First-mover alliances
	Involve expert inputs, multistakeholder processes	Colombia's national roadmap process, JETPs Baku to Belem Roadmap to $1.3T
	Country-driven leadership	MAPR, JETPs, COFFIS, Baku to Belem Roadmap
	Follow-up processes	Baku to Belem Roadmap

Source: Authors' own assessment.

3.0 Conclusions and Recommendations

Conclusions

The transition away from fossil fuels has entered a decisive implementation phase. While clean energy deployment is accelerating, progress remains insufficient and uneven, exposing many countries—particularly developing and fossil fuel-dependent economies—to heightened risks from unplanned or poorly coordinated transitions.

Many of the building blocks for the transition are already in place, including national sectoral plans, international initiatives, and first-mover coalitions. The central challenge is to connect these efforts into coherent, whole-of-economy approaches that address both fossil fuel supply and demand, manage systemic risks, redirect finance, and deliver just, orderly, and equitable outcomes.

This brief, therefore, sets out recommendations to inform any process for planning a transition away from fossil fuels in a just, orderly, and equitable manner, including the global TAFF roadmap led by the Brazilian COP 30 Presidency and the development of national TAFF roadmaps.

Recommendations

TAFF roadmaps—at global and national levels—should be grounded in the principles and planning elements outlined earlier in this brief. Building on these foundations, the following recommendations highlight how 2026 processes and longer-term ones can address key gaps in political momentum, knowledge, and international coordination.

Filling Gaps in Political Momentum

1. **Advance national TAFF roadmaps through existing planning processes**. Governments should join up and operationalize NDC implementation, long-term low emissions development strategies, energy transition strategies, and just transition frameworks to develop whole-economy TAFF roadmaps that integrate sectoral plans and set clear delivery horizons. Such roadmaps should incorporate the principles and elements set out above.
2. **Leverage first-mover alliances and use 2026 convenings to sustain leadership**. First-mover coalitions should continue to reduce first-mover risks, support implementation, and send clear political signals on how they are already progressing TAFF —particularly on fossil fuel supply reduction, capitalizing on countries already declining their production. The Santa Marta conference and the Brazilian presidential roadmap initiative leading up to COP31 are key moments to maintain political momentum and connect relevant initiatives to each other.

Filling Gaps in Knowledge and Shared Understanding

1. **Systematize policy learning aligned with science-based targets**. Peer-learning platforms should disseminate good practice on subsidy reform, decommissioning, just transition policies, participatory governance, and assessing economic, fiscal, and employment impacts. The IEA and IRENA processes on analysis, tracking, and country dialogues will be contributors to such efforts this year.
2. **Improve transparency and tracking**. Common approaches to monitoring, reporting, and verification can strengthen accountability and enable progress tracking across processes.

Filling Gaps in International Coordination

1. **Address international finance gaps and systemic barriers**. TAFF processes should support coordinated fossil fuel subsidy reform, align public and private finance with the transition, and mobilize predictable, non-debt-creating finance—particularly for developing and fossil-fuel-dependent economies—in line with common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. They should address economic transition implications and the challenge of fiscal dependence on fossil fuels that many developing countries face.
2. **Coordinate producer–consumer action to manage systemic risks**. Producer–consumer dialogue is needed to manage the pace and sequencing of fossil fuel decline, reduce volatility, and avoid disorderly outcomes or new lock-in. The Brazilian roadmap is an opportunity to start these dialogues in the context of country engagement with the roadmap process, building the groundwork for more long-term governance frameworks/institutional spaces for these conversations.

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