

SDG 7

CSO Collective Statement

Although the Asia-Pacific region has achieved significant progress on SDG7, the rate of progress is too slow. Every country in the region should implement a National Roadmap for Accelerated SDG 7 to ensure equitable benefits for communities. The Asia-Pacific region must adopt a Just and Equitable Energy Transition that will address the adverse effects of it on workers and vulnerable communities and address clean energy in the energy sector as an urgent political agenda to change the current fossil fuel driven unjust global energy system.

Implement Just and Equitable Transition of industrial policies and investment plans based on social dialogue and the protection of labor rights to promote the creation of decent and climate-friendly jobs in renewable energy sectors and relevant supply chains. Ensure active participation and inclusion of indigenous peoples, women and all marginalized sectors in the planning, implementation and monitoring of SDG 7.

Governments should ensure consultation with local communities, women, youth, indigenous peoples and marginalised groups and knowledge systems for a holistic transition to renewable energy and towards the achievement of SDG 7. Governments and international donors must provide adequate and predictable finance for people-led renewable electrification such as community based renewable energy mini grid systems to achieve the SDG 7 targets that will be implemented with respect to human rights and ecological balance.

Fossil fuel must be kept in the ground, Natural Gas is fossil fuel, not a transitional fuel. it is used only to delay efforts to transition to renewables. Countries should have a clear plan on a quick phasing out all fossil fuels followed by a just and equitable transition plan. External costs, especially social, environmental and livelihood costs, must be included in the capital cost of energy and extractive projects, reflecting the true costs of energy projects such as nuclear, mega hydro dams and extractive activities, fossil fuel-based projects, etc.

Fossil fuel finance must be stopped and focussed on renewable energy sources that respect human rights, are gender responsive and ecologically sound. Such renewable sources must be urgently optimised and prioritised over false solutions especially nuclear, mega hydro dams, nitrogen, and ammonia. Continuing fossil fuel finance and investments in the wrong direction and the promotion of fake solutions will delay the achievement of SDG7 and other SDGs.