

Statement

iFOREST Welcomes the Brazil COP30 Presidency's Leadership in Advancing the Global Just Transition Work Programme

New Delhi / Brazil, November 22, 2025: The International Forum for Environment, Sustainability and Technology (iFOREST) welcomes the leadership of the Brazil COP30 Presidency in steering Parties toward an implementation-focused outcome on the Just Transition Work Programme (JTWP) and the proposal to establish a global Just Transition Mechanism (JTM). This is a significant step in elevating just transition from a conceptual ambition to a structured, action-oriented agenda under the UNFCCC.

The decisions at COP30 reaffirm that just transition is integral to climate action across mitigation, adaptation, resilience-building, and loss and damage. The Presidency's emphasis on a whole-of-economy approach—grounded in national circumstances, equity, and development priorities—is important for designing interventions that align climate ambition with local developmental priorities.

The text on the implementation of the UAE-JTWP has also called upon countries to integrate just transition components across Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), and Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategies (LT-LEDs), a critical aspect of mainstreaming just transition within national planning instruments.

"This framing is essential. Climate action will only succeed when transitions are inclusive, equitable, and aligned with development priorities while building low-carbon economic pathways," said Chandra Bhushan, President & CEO, iFOREST.

"Integrating just transition into NDCs, NAPs and LT-LEDs is a critical step forward—but we must recognise that the real work lies ahead. The proposed Just Transition Mechanism is a welcome development, yet substantial effort will be required to operationalise it, design effective modalities, and ensure it delivers meaningful support to developing countries," added Bhushan.

iFOREST also welcomes the clear emphasis on the integrated focus on education systems alongside reskilling and upskilling of the workforce, a central issue to ensuring that countries are prepared for the emerging green and low-carbon economy.

Preparing youth and workers for new economic opportunities will require both modernised training systems and stronger foundational education," said Srestha Banerjee, Director, Just Transition & Climate Change, iFOREST. "For countries like India and other Global South economies, a successful workforce transition will determine whether climate investments translate into long-term, equitable economic growth."

The direction set by Brazil also resonates strongly with the recommendations iFOREST put forward earlier under the UAE-JTWP to the UNFCCC subsidiary bodies- SBI and SBSTA (Subsidiary Body for Implementation and the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice), which provides advice on scientific and technological matters related to climate change. iFOREST had proposed a set of actionable steps for operationalising just transition globally, including making it an overarching agenda of climate mitigation, adaptation, disaster risk management, and loss and damage mechanisms.

Through its deep engagement in India's fossil fuel-dependent states and districts, iFOREST has also consistently emphasised aligning just transition planning and implementation measures with local developmental priorities. The India Just Transition Centre—iFOREST's flagship initiative—is also advancing South-South cooperation by building knowledge, strengthening institutional capacities, and supporting mechanisms to mobilise green investments through public and private channels.

"The next phase of global climate action must be about implementation through cooperation," said Bhushan. "The decisions taken at COP30 provide the momentum needed, but meaningful outcomes will depend on how quickly global mechanisms—including the proposed JTM—are operationalised and translated into real support for people and economies within the countries".

"iFOREST we will be supporting governments, industries, local communities, and international partners in advancing just transition planning and implementation measures that support green economic growth, generate employment, while helping us to meet climate goals," he emphasised.