

# ODISHA CLIMATE CHANGE & JUST TRANSITION FORUM

## Civil Society Declaration Note

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### 1. Preamble

Odisha is at a decisive moment in its development journey. The state faces rising climate risks—repeated cyclones, floods, heatwaves, coastal erosion, water stress, and growing health impacts—that threaten lives, livelihoods, infrastructure, and economic stability. These challenges affect both rural and urban areas, particularly vulnerable communities with limited coping capacity.

At the same time, many regions in Odisha depend on the fossil fuel sector and fossil fuel-based industries. As Odisha and India move toward clean energy and net-zero goals, these regions will need proactive planning, targeted investments, and clear transition pathways to ensure that communities gain new economic and employment opportunities and remain socially and economically vibrant. A well-managed transition is crucial to avoid deepening vulnerabilities or widening regional inequalities.

Recognising these interconnected priorities—strengthening climate resilience and enabling a just and inclusive transition—civil society organisations have come together to form the Odisha Climate Change & Just Transition Forum. The Forum aims to bring diverse actors onto a shared platform, build collective leadership, and catalyse practical, scalable solutions that support Odisha's development and climate goals.

### 2. Vision

A climate-resilient, economically diversified, and vibrant Odisha where communities across rural and urban regions are protected from climate and transition risks, have access to sustainable and future-ready livelihoods, and are active partners in shaping the state's low-emission and inclusive future.

### 3. Core Objectives

The Forum will function with the following core objectives.

- i) **Advance climate resilience** by promoting approaches that reduce risks, safeguard communities, and strengthen resilience across both rural and urban areas.
- ii) **Drive a just and inclusive transition** by ensuring that fossil fuel–dependent regions shift toward diversified and future-ready economies without leaving workers or vulnerable groups behind.
- iii) **Strengthen local leadership** by building the capacity of civil society organisations, community institutions, local governments, and urban bodies to guide climate and transition actions.
- iv) **Promote collaborative governance** by creating a platform that connects government, civil society, academia, industry, and communities to shape integrated climate and transition strategies.
- v) **Guide effective utilisation of local development funds for development transformation** by promoting economic diversification and livelihood generation, climate-resilient infrastructure development, education and skilling development and transition-aligned investments in mining-affected regions.
- vi) **Enable convergence of government schemes and missions** by aligning efforts across rural development, urban development, environment, livelihoods, and skill missions to maximise overall impact.

## 4. Functions

The Forum will have the following functions.

- i) Will support districts, blocks, and panchayats in integrating climate considerations into local development plans, helping institutions identify risks and incorporate resilience measures into routine planning processes.
- ii) Will assist municipalities and urban local bodies in preparing and implementing an integrated heating and cooling action plan, including strategies for managing heat stress, improving environmental quality, and strengthening services for vulnerable populations.
- iii) Will contribute to enhancing green skilling and workforce development initiatives in collaboration with government and private agencies by generating insights, developing training resources, and supporting initiatives that prepare youth, women, and workers for emerging economic opportunities.
- iv) Will facilitate structured economic diversification planning and implementation measures in fossil fuel–dependent regions to enhance climate-resilient economic and green growth opportunities.

- v) Will work with local partners to strengthen livelihood ecosystems by supporting the design and scale-up of viable livelihood models and green enterprise opportunities.
- vi) Will promote effective and transparent use of District Mineral Foundation (DMF) resources by sharing evidence, good practices, and implementation models that align fund utilisation with climate resilience and development priorities.
- vii) Will help strengthen the capacities of civil society organisations, community institutions, and local governments by providing knowledge resources, technical inputs, and training related to climate and transition planning.
- viii) Will encourage cross-learning by facilitating the exchange of experiences, case studies, and innovations across districts, sectors, and institutions, helping partners adopt scalable and context-appropriate solutions.
- ix) Will support the development of collaborative pilot initiatives that generate practical evidence for scaling up solutions in the context of climate-resilient development and just transition.
- x) Will assist in the conceptualisation and development of joint projects and proposals, enabling partners to access technical and financial resources for climate, livelihoods, and transition-related initiatives.

## **5. Forum Structure**

### **5.1 Membership**

Open to:

- Civil society organisations
- Academic institutions
- Technical and research partners working on climate, environment, health, livelihoods, governance, or transition issues in Odisha.

### **5.2 Working Approach**

- Quarterly thematic meetings and annual state-level convenings.
  - District chapters in priority regions.
  - Joint development of proposals, training modules, and research products.
  - Collaborative engagement with state and district authorities and agencies.
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## 6. Declaration

We, the members and supporters of the **Odisha Climate Change and Just Transition Forum**, affirm our commitment to advancing a **resilient, inclusive, and future-ready Odisha**.

We pledge to work collaboratively—across government, civil society, industry, academia, and communities—to strengthen climate action, support just transition pathways, and ensure that every region and community can thrive in a changing climate.