



Proposition for a New Paradigm to Finance the Just Energy Transition in South Africa:

**Discussion
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0. Background

South Africa stands at a crossroads, grappling with an energy crisis that demands urgent attention and strategic intervention. The record levels of load shedding in 2022, coupled with the nation's status as one of the highest carbon emitters globally, underscore the need for a transformative approach. In response, South Africa has embraced a visionary two-pronged strategy known as the Just Energy Transition (JET). This strategy seeks not only to transition towards a green economy but also to eradicate poverty and inequality, recognizing that a truly just transition is an economic and social imperative as much as an environmental one that builds a resilient economy and society. It does so by accelerating affordable and decentralised renewable energy systems, restoring ecosystems and natural resources previously impacted by mining and energy production, reskilling present and educating future workforces in green and other development pathways, building new models for economic transitions, and supporting various impacted constituencies to play an active role in energy transition program decision making and implementation.¹

The JET initiative, as championed by the Presidential Climate Commission and enshrined in the Climate Change Bill of 2022, positions South Africa to align its climate change response with sustainable development goals. This multifaceted approach, integrating climate change strategies with development frameworks such as the National Development Plan and the National Climate Change Response Policy reflects a holistic commitment to managing climate change impacts and contributing equitably to the global effort to combat climate change.

At COP26, a groundbreaking development was announced— the Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP). This novel financing cooperation mechanism aims to mobilise resources for South Africa's energy transition, offering a beacon of hope for a nation in dire need of revitalisation while simultaneously acknowledging that further public and private funding is a must. Similar JETs have been introduced for countries such as Indonesia, Vietnam, Senegal, and India, underscoring the global recognition of the urgency and interconnectedness of addressing climate change and allocation of funds to this end.

The discussion focused on Global Public Investment (GPI) as a pivotal opportunity to finance the Just Energy Transition in South Africa. The scale of investment required, estimated at a staggering US\$250 billion over the next three decades, necessitates collaborative and innovative financial solutions. How these transition policies are financed and the extent to which support from international partners is available will shape the effect of this transition on South Africa's economy and citizens.² Here, GPI emerges as a compelling proposition, offering a pathway for international solidarity in supporting South Africa's transition to a low-carbon, climate-resilient economy.

¹ Presidential Climate Commission (2022) Just Energy Transition Investment Plan, 26.

² Climate Policy Initiative (2019) Understanding the impact of low carbon transition on South Africa, 14.

1. Introduction

The meeting commenced with a warm welcome to all attendees. Attendees introduced themselves to ensure a common understanding among participants. Nangamso Kwinana, representing African Monitor, extended greetings to representatives of various sectors, including development partners, think tanks, civil society organisations, climate finance experts, academia, the private sector, and policymakers. Nangamso highlighted that this year (2023), African Monitor, in collaboration with the Development Initiative and GIZ, initiated a project focused on Global Public Investment (GPI) as a new proposition to accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The project takes a particular interest in exploring the potential of GPI within the African context, with six pilot countries involved in the initial phase—Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Namibia, and South Africa.

The dialogue was set against the backdrop of a critical challenge facing South Africa—decarbonising and stabilising its energy supply. South Africa was among the first countries to participate in the Just Energy Transition Partnership following the COP26 climate summit in 2021. The partnership was established in collaboration with France, Germany, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, and the European Union. Its long-term goal is to support South Africa's decarbonization efforts.

The objective of this gathering was to assess practical interventions that could help secure the financial resources necessary for South Africa to successfully transition to a climate-friendly energy production model, ultimately working towards the elimination of poverty and the reduction of inequality by 2030. The dialogue aimed to explore opportunities for collective strategies to pool and mobilize financial resources and apply a newly proposed development finance paradigm to the Just Energy Transition. The importance of continuing the dialogue on social media platforms was highlighted, with hashtags including GPI, Just Energy Transition, and SDGs.

Before proceeding, house rules were outlined. Participants were requested to grant permission for recording the conversation, with an assurance that the recording would be used solely for internal administrative purposes and not broadcasted. The importance of continuing the dialogue on social media platforms was highlighted, with hashtags including GPI, Just Energy Transition, and SDGs provided for participants' reference.

Nangamso Kwinana expressed her gratitude to all participants for joining the dialogue and handed over the proceedings to Glenn Fared, who would facilitate the rest of the event.

2. Presentations

Glenn Farred passed the floor to Stephen, whom he commended with a touch of humour, likening him to a prophet in the biblical sense. He recognised Stephen's forward-thinking perspective in understanding the importance of revising global public financing post-COVID and the necessity of pushing the boundaries and paradigms governing investment and development models. Farred expressed his hope that the pioneering efforts underway in African countries would mark the initial phase of a fruitful and lengthy journey towards transformative change.

2.1 Presentation by Stephen Chacha - Development Initiatives

In his presentation, Stephen Chacha, representing the Regional Development Initiative (DI) based in Nairobi, Kenya, offered valuable insights into the concept of Global Public Investment (GPI) and its potential role in addressing the current financial challenges faced by African countries. DI focuses on harnessing data and evidence to combat poverty, and inequalities, and to enhance the well-being of societies in Africa and around the world. The presentation began with an explanation of the DI's work in tracking financial resources and assessing their impact on targeted groups and sectors.

Chacha highlighted that GPI as an idea began to take shape during the early days of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), around 2014 and 2015, during the global community's efforts to formulate a new development framework. However, by the time the GPI concept gained traction, it was too late for it to be integrated into the SDG framework, which is currently under implementation.

Chacha also spoke about the challenges posed by the existing global financial architecture, emphasising that it does not effectively address the evolving realities and needs of African countries. As a result, many African nations face soaring financing costs, leading to a growing debt crisis. These challenges have spurred ongoing discussions about reforming the global financial architecture to make financing more accessible and affordable.

Chacha introduced GPI as an innovative and equitable approach to mobilising financing for addressing global public goods, such as pandemics and climate challenges. He underlined that the existing financing mechanisms are insufficient to address the financing gaps faced by African countries, even if they receive the entirety of the Official Development Assistance (ODA) commitments and the promised climate financing.

The GPI concept is built upon three core principles: "All contribute, all decide, and all benefit." These principles aim to address issues of profitability and voice in decision-making processes, allocation of finances, and their use for development purposes on a global scale.

Chacha described DI's approach to ground the GPI thinking in key African countries, contextualising the principles and identifying use cases. In partnership with African Monitor, they are actively engaging with local stakeholders to apply the GPI principles to address financing gaps in the just energy transition in South Africa.

The presentation concluded with a warm invitation to the participants for a constructive discussion on the GPI principles and their practical application in the local and regional contexts. Stephen Chacha's comprehensive presentation set the stage for an in-depth exploration of how the GPI concept can contribute to addressing Africa's financial challenges and advancing sustainable development goals.

2.2 Presentation by Puseletso Maile -African Monitor

Puseletso Maile, the Project Coordinator at African Monitor, delivered a compelling presentation during the dialogue, focusing on the technical paper titled "Exploring the Global Public Investment Proposition for Just Energy Transition (JET) in South Africa." The presentation commenced by providing crucial context regarding South Africa's energy landscape, emphasising the imperative for a just energy transition within the country.

Maile underscored South Africa's status as one of the highest global carbon emitters, ranking 14th in greenhouse gas emissions in 2021 and holding the top position in Africa. The primary reason for this high carbon footprint is South Africa's extensive reliance on coal as the primary fuel for electricity generation, with Eskom, the country's public power utility, being a significant contributor to this carbon emissions tally.

Notably, Eskom alone accounts for a substantial share, approximately 41 to 43 per cent, of the country's current carbon emissions. South Africa concurrently grapples with a concerning energy crisis, having experienced 277 days of load shedding in 2022, a figure surpassing that of the previous year. The presentation also highlighted the possibility of even more frequent load shedding in 2023.

Given South Africa's energy crisis, the imperative for investment in power generation infrastructure was emphasised. Maile recognised this crisis as an opportunity for a just energy transition, explaining that such a transition entails the adoption of strategies, policies, and measures to ensure that no one is left behind or marginalised in the transition to a low-carbon and environmentally sustainable economy and society.

Beyond its environmental significance, a just energy transition also holds critical economic and social implications for South Africa. The nation's high unemployment rates and sluggish economic growth accentuate the necessity for an equitable energy transition that safeguards the competitiveness of the country's economy and the well-being of its citizens.

For South Africa to accomplish this, it is estimated that the country will require approximately \$250 billion over the next three decades, equivalent to about 4-5 trillion South African Rand. Financing sources for this just energy transition are expected to encompass domestic, international, public, and private finance.

Domestically, the National Treasury is poised to support Eskom's fundraising efforts, aiming to secure \$54 billion over the next three years. However, given the pressing challenges South Africa faces, such as a constrained fiscal space and mounting debt, relying solely on public finance remains a daunting prospect.

The presentation delved into international finance resources, including multilateral development financing, bilateral development financing, and development corporations. Notably, South Africa entered a partnership with France, Germany, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the European Union, establishing the Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP) and forming the International Partners Group (IPG), which committed \$8.5 billion to support the Just Energy Transition. The JETP aims to support South Africa's pathway to low emissions and climate-resilient development, to accelerate the just transition and the decarbonisation of the electricity system, and to develop new economic opportunities.³

However, these (financial) commitments, while significant, fall short of South Africa's actual financial needs, and the pledge of developed countries to raise \$100 billion annually for climate financing has yet to be fully realized. Maile also pointed out the challenges associated with multilateral development bank loans, emphasising the debt burden they impose on South Africa, which is already grappling with substantial debt.

The presentation introduced the Global Public Investment (GPI) proposition as an innovative financing mechanism for energy transitions. GPI is founded on principles that promote equitable decision-making and benefits for all contributors, thus ensuring that no one is left behind. It was presented as a means to reduce the transaction costs of international public finance and offer a reliable investment system for global public goods, addressing climate change and financing the 2030 agenda.

Puseletso Maile's presentation summarised the critical issues and opportunities related to South Africa's just energy transition, highlighting the potential role of GPI as a financial mechanism to bridge existing funding gaps. Maile highlighted that the technical paper was still in draft form and African Monitor was open to comments and feedback, encouraging an inclusive and collaborative approach to addressing South Africa's energy transition challenges.

³ Political Declaration on the Just Energy Transition in South Africa (2021)
<https://www.bundesregierung.de/resource/blob/974430/1974538/b2264555c87d8cbdd97bd1eb8b16387a/political-declaration-on-the-just-energy-transition-in-south-africa-data.pdf?download=1>.

2.3 Presentation by Tendai Makanza - IndustriALL

Tendai Makanza, representing IndustriALL Global Union, presented a comprehensive perspective on sustainable development and key issues, particularly from the standpoint of labour and trade unions. Makanza commenced by highlighting the interconnected nature of the presentations preceding hers, specifically the discussions on climate financing, just transition, and the relevance of the current global landscape, which has been marked by international conflicts and political volatility.

She emphasised that the trade union perspective brings to the forefront several pivotal issues, with climate financing and a just climate financing deal ranking high on the agenda. Makanza underscored the necessity for significant resources to drive a just transition, including addressing debt restructuring and cancellation as integral components of climate financing.

Furthermore, she addressed the narrative surrounding climate change, sustainable development, and energy transition within the context of an increasingly volatile global environment, alluding to recent events such as the Russia-Ukraine conflict and the Gaza situation, which have the potential to impact discussions related to climate change and sustainability.

In her presentation, due diligence was identified as a crucial factor in the energy supply and value chain, drawing attention to due diligence laws, particularly in Germany, and the influence these could exert on other European countries. She also pointed to the increasing participation of private sector players in energy transition, emphasising the significance of understanding that energy production, distribution, and consumption are interconnected both within countries and across regions.

Makanza elaborated on the role of mineral resources in energy transition, including cobalt, copper, nickel, and lithium, emphasising the vital role of the South African Development Community (SADC) region, which includes South Africa, in these critical transitions.

Furthermore, the presentation delved into policy issues, stressing the need to contextualise Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Agenda 2030 within the African, Southern African, and South African context. A key policy issue raised was the need to understand what the implementation of the Green Deal meant for South Africa and its development goals. Makanza also addressed the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR), highlighting its potential impact on resource extraction, sectorial transition, and the extractive sectors within the region.

Notably, the SADC Vision 2050 was mentioned as having an impact on industrialisation and South Africa's role in sub-regional collaborations, especially through the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) and other regional frameworks. According to Makanza, civil society organisations (CSOs) have a role to play here by following up and assessing these SADC frameworks to see what role these mechanisms can play.

Regarding the Conference of the Parties (COP) 28, the presentation acknowledged the significance of the African Heads of State developing an African position within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Makanza noted the increased demand for a more realistic timeframe for transitioning, taking into account the capacities, competencies, and available resources.

The presentation also touched upon Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and South Africa's use of the term "just transition" within its NDC, signalling a moral commitment to a more equitable transition process. In its current design, there is a lack of transparency and accountability in the crafting of the Just Energy Transition Partnership, in the commitments made through this deal and what violations of these commitments mean, and of a remedial process if countries cannot fulfil their commitments. For Makanza, these are the main lessons to be learned.

Makanza concluded by addressing the financing aspect, scrutinising the sources of finance and the critical questions surrounding the financial gap required for South Africa's climate action. The fiscal budget, debt restructuring, and the issues of transparency and accountability in financial agreements to address corruption and mismanagement of the energy enterprise were all mentioned as central to the conversation.

The presentation brought to the fore a trade union perspective on sustainability and sustainable development, advocating for a fair and equitable transition, due diligence, and greater participation from various stakeholders. It emphasised the complexity of the energy transition in the region and the importance of domestic and regional considerations in the broader sustainability context.

3. Discussions and Key Points

Glenn Fared expressed his gratitude for the excellent overviews provided by Stephen, Puseletso, and Tendai. He also highlighted the challenges associated with comprehending large numbers, especially when dealing with figures in the trillions and billions. Glenn then opened the floor for questions or requests for clarification from the audience. The discussions revolved around several critical issues and challenges related to achieving a just energy transition, particularly in the context of South Africa. Some of the key points and insights shared during the meeting include:

3.1 Participants' Perspectives and Recommendations

3.1.1 Zanele Mabaso - Localization Agenda for Civil Society Engagement

Zanele Mabaso emphasizes the need for a key forum that unites stakeholders, fostering collaboration and shared efforts in addressing energy transition challenges. She proposes a localization agenda to ensure Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) actively contribute to realizing governmental plans for energy transition. The agenda focuses on the increased involvement of

CSOs in shaping outcomes, with a particular emphasis on localization. Mabaso calls for a holistic approach, addressing socio-economic issues such as education, food security, technology and innovation, and opportunities in rural areas. Furthermore, she highlights the importance of zooming in on the gender dimensions of the Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP).

3.1.2 Stephen Chacha - Innovative Financing Mechanisms for SDGs

Stephen Chacha underscores the lack of adequate financing mechanisms for implementing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He advocates for innovative and complementary financing mechanisms to bridge current gaps. Chacha's perspective highlights the critical need for diverse financial approaches to support the ambitious goals set by the SDGs.

3.1.3 Tendai Makanza - Influencing and Coordinating Transition Strategies

Tendai Makanza emphasizes the inevitability of sectorial transition, particularly in the context of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. He stresses the importance of influencing and controlling this transition to harness social and economic opportunities associated with new forms of energy. Makanza advocates for a coordinated approach, suggesting the development of a single plan or strategy with various pathways. He also calls for a deeper understanding of the historical context of development discourses and processes related to the transition. Makanza hopes for a comprehensive dataset on the transition's implications and encourages further engagement and coordination between the National Planning Commission (NPC) and CSOs.

3.1.4 Zarina Rahman (via chat) - Advocacy through Parliament

Zarina Rahman suggests utilizing Parliament as a platform for civil society advocacy, emphasizing that the institution is legally obligated to provide a hearing to the concerns raised by CSOs. This strategic approach highlights the importance of engaging with legislative bodies to amplify the impact of advocacy efforts.

3.1.5 Siya Hlonga - Establishing Think Tanks for Informed Interventions

Siya Hlonga addresses the challenge of conceptualizing and implementing solutions for obtaining the necessary funds. He recommends the establishment of think tanks to facilitate conversations and explore possibilities for translating research and data into interventions on the ground. Hlonga emphasizes the need for accessible platforms to inform communities, ensuring that the Just Energy Transition (JET) is relevant to their specific contexts. He advocates for frameworks that align with human rights principles and promote equitable access to the JETP.

3.2 Other Discussion

3.2.1 Complexity of Transition

It was acknowledged that discussions surrounding the Just Energy Transition are vital. However, there is a significant challenge in bridging the gap between technocratic information and the broader public. There is a need to translate complex technical information into accessible formats to ensure that the broader population can understand and engage with the transition process.

3.2.2 Positionality of Non-profit Organizations

Non-profit organisations and civil society play a crucial role in coordinating and conceptualizing policies that lead the way towards a just and equitable energy transition. They can contribute to shaping the policies and fundraising opportunities required for such a transition.

3.2.3 Local Contextualisation

Participants highlighted the importance of tailoring the transition to the specific needs of various communities. Rural areas, villages, and urban environments all have distinct challenges and needs. Any transition plan must consider these local contexts and ensure equitable access to power and power generation methods.

3.2.4 Mastermind Think Tanks

The concept of establishing mastermind think tanks was proposed as a means to empower communities, explore the applicability of research findings, and design frameworks for the protection of human rights. These think tanks could facilitate the contextualization of the transition in different community settings.

3.2.5 Public Goods and Infrastructure Prioritisation

There was a discussion about the lack of a coherent industrialisation strategy in South Africa. Many large infrastructure projects are prioritised, but this sometimes neglects the social development and well-being of local communities. The panellists raised the need to consider the health, local governance, and social aspects of development alongside large-scale projects.

3.2.5 Role of Development Finance Institutions

The pivotal role of development finance institutions (DFIs), exemplified by the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA), emerged as a central theme in discussions surrounding the imperative of a just transition. Participants underscored the significance of DFIs in providing financial backing for initiatives that align with the principles of social equity and environmental sustainability. The Development Bank of Southern Africa, in particular, was highlighted for its potential to catalyze change. Since 2018, DBSA namely has had its own Climate Finance Facility (CFF) to catalyze

financing from public and private sources for projects that mitigate or adapt to climate change.⁴ Recommendations put forth by the DBSA emphasized the need for these institutions to adopt a nuanced and community-centric approach. Specifically, it was stressed that DFIs should prioritize supporting projects at the local level, thereby ensuring a bottom-up approach to development. Another DBSA initiative worth mentioning exists here in the shape of DLABS which aims to drive development impact for the most underserved communities.⁵ This initiative has also been named and identified in the draft version of the South African Renewable Energy Masterplan (SAREM) as an existing community-focused initiative that will be further explored.⁶ By directing resources and investments to grassroots initiatives, DFIs can actively contribute to a more inclusive and participatory energy transition process.

Furthermore, the discussions delved into the specific recommendations proposed by the DBSA to enhance its role in fostering a just transition. The DBSA advocated for a holistic consideration of local dynamics, emphasizing the importance of understanding and addressing the unique needs of communities affected by the transition. This approach aligns with the broader goals of the just transition, which seeks to balance economic development with social and environmental responsibility. The DBSA's recommendations further encouraged the establishment of collaborative platforms between DFIs, civil society, and local communities. Such partnerships would not only facilitate the exchange of knowledge and expertise but also ensure that the development initiatives are reflective of the diverse perspectives and requirements at the grassroots level.

3.2.6 Global Public Investment Proposition (GPI)

Participants sought clarification about the methodology and mechanisms behind GPI. It was explained that GPI is still in the co-creation phase and is focusing on defining the "how" rather than the "what." This includes developing a methodology and addressing key questions, such as the transfer of resources and the role of multilateral institutions in managing these resources.

3.2.7 Economic Case for Just Transition

It was highlighted that making an economic case for a just transition is crucial. This case should emphasise the cost savings and benefits for South Africa in transitioning to cleaner and more sustainable energy sources. The need to prioritise just transition as a crucial public good in the national and global context was emphasised.

3.2.8 Economic Value of Transition

The meeting addressed the complex question of the economic value of transitioning to cleaner energy sources. The discussions emphasised that sectoral transition, particularly in the energy

⁴ DBSA (2023) Climate Financing. <https://www.dbsa.org/solutions/climate-financing>.

⁵ DBSA (2023) DLABS. <https://www.dbsa.org/dlabs>.

⁶ DMR (2023) South African Renewable Energy Masterplan (Draft), 28.

sector, is inevitable, and stakeholders have a choice to either influence and control the process or bear the consequences of not adapting to it. The Fourth Industrial Revolution, with changing technology, presents both challenges and opportunities.

3.2.9 Technological Change

The meeting highlighted how technological advancements have transformed various sectors over time. The example of evolving from typewriters to modern computing technologies illustrated the inevitability of change. The industrial revolution is already underway, and stakeholders must engage with it to ensure that the transition benefits society as a whole.

3.2.10 Social and Economic Opportunities

Participants recognized that energy transition presents not only environmental benefits but also significant social and economic opportunities. New energy sources and forms can lead to decentralised production and distribution, improving accessibility and affordability. There is hope that these opportunities will specifically target vulnerable communities.

3.2.11 Challenges and Trade-offs

The meeting acknowledged that not all stakeholders will benefit equally from the transition. For example, there may be job losses in sectors like fossil fuels and coal mining. Participants highlighted the need for comprehensive statistics on job creation and losses to facilitate informed decision-making. The historical example of technological advancements, like typewriters to ICT technologies, demonstrated that while some jobs are lost, new ones are created.

3.2.12 Data and Capacity Building

It was emphasised that there is a need for accurate data and capacity building to comprehend the impacts of the transition. Economic modelling and scenario planning often exclude certain stakeholders. Making complex technical information accessible is vital to prepare communities for the transition's consequences and opportunities.

3.2.13 Local and Regional Engagement

The meeting revealed a need to engage local communities and explore opportunities for regional collaboration in the Southern African region, with a focus on the South Africa Customs Union (SACU). Engaging at both local and regional levels is essential for the just transition agenda.

3.2.13 Collaborative Platforms for Civil Society

A call for the establishment of a formal structure or platform for civil society organisations was made. This platform could promote objective consultation and coordination across different civil

society networks at national, regional, and continental levels. The goal is to ensure continuous and informed engagement on just transition topics.

3.2.14 Localisation and Gender Dimensions

Participants emphasized the importance of localisation in the context of just transition and the role of civil society in realizing localisation objectives. The meeting also highlighted the need to explore the gender dimensions of the energy transition, especially in terms of opportunities across value chains and equitable distribution of public expenditure.

4. Propositions and Recommendations

Strengthen Civil Society Coordination

There is a need to establish a formal structure or platform that brings together civil society organizations. This platform should facilitate collaboration, coordination, and information sharing at the national, regional, and continental levels to ensure that the voice of civil society is unified and influential.

Engage with Parliament for Advocacy

Civil society should consider engaging with the parliament to advocate for matters related to the just energy transition. Parliament is legally obligated to represent the people and can provide a platform for advancing the civil society agenda.

Coordinated Engagement with COP 28

As COP 28 approaches, civil society organizations should identify individuals or groups attending the conference and work collaboratively to ensure that the voice of civil society is heard. The focus should be on climate financing and the scrutiny of the deal's content to advocate for more equitable and sustainable climate finance.

Linkage with National and Regional Development Plans

Civil society organisations should actively engage with national development plans, sustainable development goals, and voluntary national reviews. These initiatives offer opportunities to influence policy decisions and integrate just energy transition principles into development strategies.

Mainstream Gender Equality and Equity

Mainstreaming gender equality and equity within the just energy transition is crucial. Gender-related issues should not be treated as mere annexures but should be woven into the narrative of the transition process. Special attention should be given to women's empowerment and the leadership of women in relevant initiatives.

Participation in the Presidential Climate Commission

Civil society organizations should actively participate in the Presidential Climate Commission, engaging with the commission to advance issues relevant to the just energy transition. Trade unions can also serve as important conduits for raising and addressing the concerns of non-state actors within the commission.

Advance the Just Energy Transition Narrative

Civil society should focus on embedding the principles of the just energy transition throughout the transition process, from local to national levels. Strategies should encompass the localization of energy systems and prioritize the needs of vulnerable communities. The DBSA DLAB initiative is an existing platform worth exploring to see where and how GPI can fit in.

Utilise Parliament for Advocacy

Civil society should take advantage of parliamentary channels to advocate for their priorities and to voice their concerns at the national governmental level to ensure that the energy transition serves the interests of the people.

Engage with COP 28

Civil society organizations should collaborate and coordinate efforts to make their voices heard at COP 28, particularly on the topic of climate financing. This includes both scrutinizing the content of the climate finance deal and advocating for a more equitable and sustainable approach.

Contribute to National and Regional Development Plans

Civil society can play a crucial role in influencing national development plans, sustainable development goals, and voluntary national reviews to incorporate the principles of the just energy transition.

5. Action Points

- Compile diverse use cases identified by various DI partners to foster cross-country learning and insights.
- Facilitate the exchange of experiences and insights from other countries to enrich discussions within South Africa, identifying commonalities and areas of convergence.
- Create a Regional Reference Group comprising partners and key institutions from the region. This group will serve as a platform for broad, regionwide conversations, enabling the exchange of best practices, the practical application of shared principles and the prioritization of relevant use cases.
- Prioritise engagement efforts on both country-specific and regional levels to ensure a comprehensive and inclusive approach to discussions and decision-making.