

# Just Transition

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Center for Energy, Ecology, and Development (CEED)

# Just Transition: A Definition

a concept that addresses **worker displacement** due to a **shift in economies**.



**Wartime → Peacetime Economy**

**Carbon-intensive → low-carbon  
economy**

# Just Transition: A Definition

## Paris Agreement

- Adopted into the Agreement's preamble:

*“Taking into account the imperatives of a just transition of the workforce and the creation of decent work and quality jobs in accordance with nationally defined development priorities”*

# Just Transition: A Definition

## ILO's conception of Just Transition

- *Guidelines for a Just Transition towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies for all* was adopted in 2015
- **Decent work agenda:**
  - **Rights at work** - include the right to freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining.
  - **Social dialogue** - either a bipartite process between unions and employers, or a tripartite process that includes governments. It exists in all countries where unions exist and at all scales, from the workplace to international negotiations.
  - **Social protection and employment** - “involves access to health care and income security, particularly in cases of old age, unemployment, sickness, invalidity, work injury, maternity or loss of a main income earner.”

# Ecological Crisis: A Symptom of a Bad System



# Ecological Crisis: A Symptom of a Faulty System

“Our **economic system** and our **planetary system** are now at war. Or, more accurately, our economy is at war with many forms of life on earth, including human life.

**What the climate *needs* to avoid collapse** is a contraction in humanity's use of resources; **what our economic model *demand*s to avoid collapse** is unfettered expansion. Only one of these sets of rules can be changed, and it's not the laws of nature.”

— Naomi Klein, “This Changes Everything”

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# Ecological Crisis: A Symptom of a Faulty System

- **No regard for limits of resources**
  - Hinged on unlimited growth
- **Concentrated growth**
  - Activities that generate wealth adversely affect some communities
    - Cases of mining-affected people, indigenous people, rural women
  - Wealth generated by economy experienced by few
    - Poverty rate is still high



# Ecological Crisis: A Symptom of a Faulty System

**“As consumption levels increase, so do emissions.** In many countries, efficiencies have been introduced that have meant that less energy is used per unit of growth, but that has not stopped the rise in emissions.

Rising levels of consumption have not altered the fact that roughly half of the world’s population still lives on less than USD2 per day, almost 1 billion people are seriously underfed, and similar numbers lack access to fresh water and electrical power.

Moreover, it is the poorest people in the poorest regions of the world who are today affected by global warming and degradation of the environment generally.” — *International Transport Workers’ Federation, “Transport Worker’s and Climate Change: Towards Sustainable Low-Carbon Mobility”*

# Ecological Crisis: A Symptom of a Faulty System

“The kind of growth that is needed is social growth grounded in environmental sustainability.

Any alternative policy framework that fails to intercept and reverse the systemic drive for traditional growth and accumulation (where most of the benefits are enjoyed by a minority) will simply replace one failed model after another.”

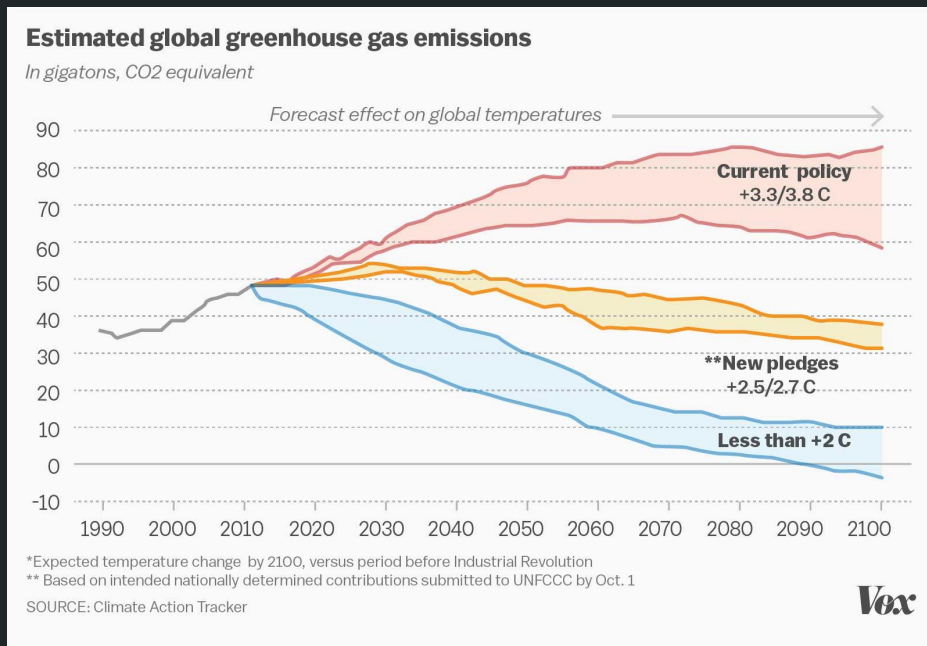
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# Just Transition: Uprooting Our Ecological Crisis

Primarily, Just Transition addresses **issues of displacement** risks brought by the intended low-carbon economy shift. More than that, it is also a call to:

- Transition away from the economic system, including the energy sector, that brought about our current climate crisis
- Transition into a new economic system, including a new energy system, which addresses the shortcomings of the previous system:
  - Transition from an extractivist approach towards our environmental resources and human resources
  - **Transition away from growth-oriented, profit-motivated economic system, encompassing our energy system**

# Transitioning Away from Our Climate Situation



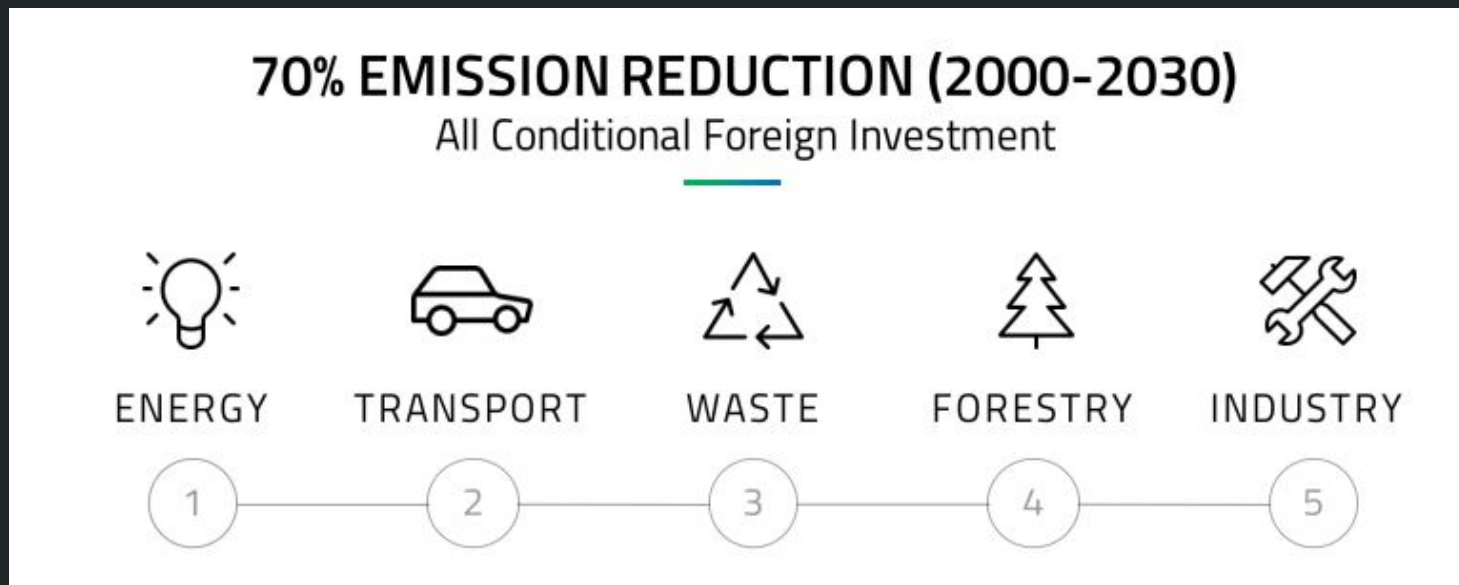
## 2015 Paris Climate Agreement

The backbone of the Paris agreement is the global target of keeping global average temperatures from rising 2°C (compared to temperatures pre-industrial revolution) by the end of the century.

To accomplish this 2-degree goal, the accord states that countries should strive to reduce their carbon emissions.

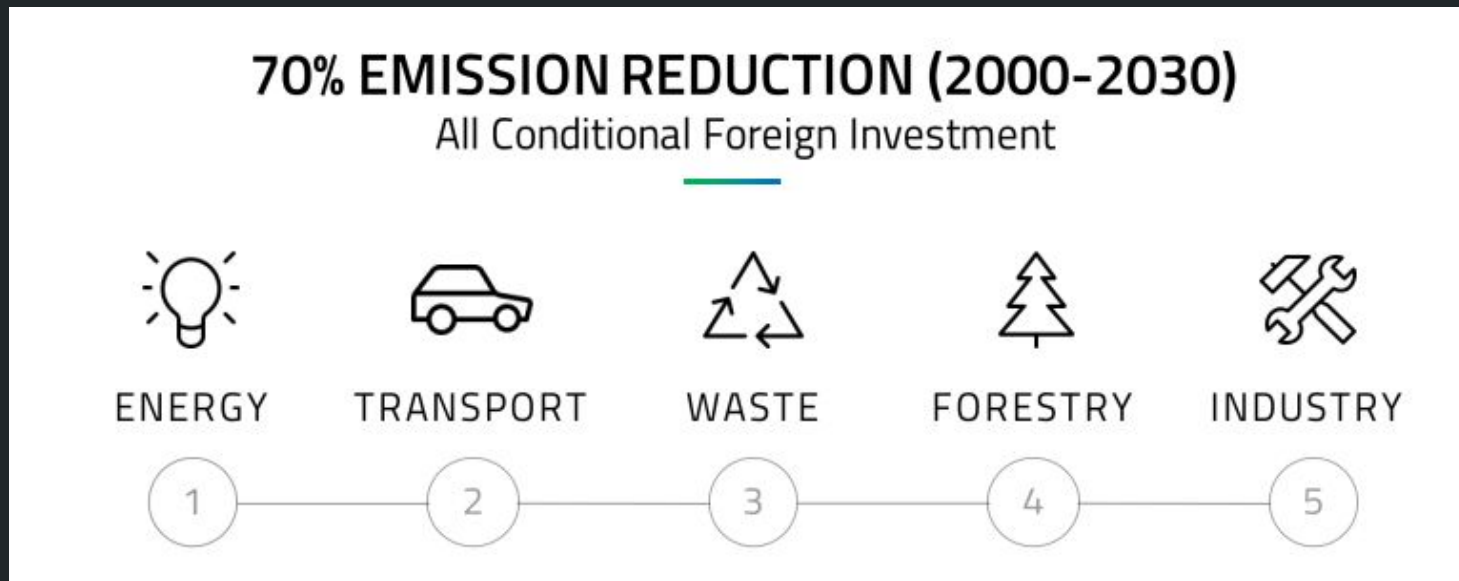
# Transitioning Away from Our Climate Situation

The transition will affect a lot of carbon-intensive industries. In the Philippines alone, sectors have been identified for emissions reduction programs.



# Transitioning Away from Our Climate Situation

Challenge: to make the transition *just*.



July 2017 Multi-Stakeholder Consultation Forum for the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) Sectoral Targets  
Climate Change Commission

What makes a transition  
*just*?



Stopping the expansion of carbon-intensive industries must be accompanied by a just transition, which means:

- a. Alternative jobs and livelihoods for workers and communities that will be displaced
  - b. Economic diversification for areas and societies dependent on fossil fuel production and trade
  - c. Transition must also address universal and equitable access to energy for basic needs and fulfillment of rights
  - d. Others
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## Philippines: An Unjust Transition



# Just Transition in the Philippine Development Plan

**AMBISYON NATIN 2040** and **PDP (Philippine Development Plan) 2017-2022**  
according to Dr. Rene Ofreneo:

- An assessment of the PDP reveals that **environmental issues do not pose a priority in the overall development program of the country**, especially since it has **vague action plans for managing the mining industry** in the country — an industry which has long caused massive environmental destruction and climate vulnerability to frontline communities.

# Just Transition in the Philippine Development Plan

**An assessment of the PDP by the Green Thumb Coalition (GTC), a coalition composed of 40 NGOs and network NGOs, of which CEED is one of the founders and convenors, whose work is centered on surfacing ecological justice issues in the present administration's policies:**

- The government considers the mining industry as a potential driver of economic growth and job generation. However, studies show that despite its promises of 'development', large-scale mining and extractive industries have done little to improve the lives of the people and community.



## Case Study: Coal Mining Affected Communities & Coal Workers



Semirara Coal Mines

## Case Study: Coal Mining Affected Communities & Coal Workers



Coal mining host communities have their livelihoods and their health hit by coal operations in their area.

Primary livelihoods in a number of these communities are usually comprised of work provided by coal companies or agricultural work, with the former having a negative impact on the latter.

Coal workers and fisherfolks usually find themselves at odds with each other on the matter of continuing coal operations.

## Case Study: Coal Mining Affected Communities & Coal Workers



Meanwhile, a persisting coal industry — especially its coal mining component — continues to operate in already climate-vulnerable communities. A review of the timeline of coal operations in select areas reveal that the industry has a poor record of implementing reparations for damaged resources.

As the global and climate situation compel the Philippines to transition away from fossil fuels, the continuing expansion of coal, the lack of development in renewable alternatives and transition policies leave affected communities even more susceptible to environmental and economic threats.

# Criteria for a Just Transition

1. Addresses immediate displacement issues of workers, communities, and other sectors at the frontline of the transition
  - a. Places affected groups at the center of the transition process
  - b. Employs a democratic approach to implementing the transition to a low-carbon economy

# Criteria for a Just Transition

2. Promotes a society and economy founded on ecological and social justice
  - a. Paves a development pathway centered on the needs of the people and guided by the integrity of the environment and ecology
    - i. Promotes hand-in-hand a high quality of life and livelihood among communities and a respect for the limits and dignity of the environment and ecology



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