

LaRutadelClima

A TRANSITION THAT REPAIRS:

STRATEGIC DEMANDS FOR SB64 AND BEYOND



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A Transition that Repairs:

Strategic Demands for SB64 and beyond

Addressing the accumulated damage and the full cost of meaningful reparations in line with legal obligations is essential for ensuring that transitions away from fossil fuels and climate actions are both just and effective. This involves eliminating the damage caused by fossil fuels, deforestation and land-use change, as well as the destruction of coral reefs and ocean acidification. However, a key obstacle to progress in international climate governance is the ongoing disregard to legal obligations by major historical emitters.

Be that we present our mission as transitioning away from fossil fuels or to achieve the stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system; the primary legal obligation regarding climate change is to prevent harm as mentioned by the International Court of Justice. The hundreds of billions of dollars each year on loss and damage or the vast ways in that climate change violates our human rights, are proof enough that we are being harmed. We have the right not to be harmed, for it to stop, to never be subjected to it and for those responsible for repairing to fulfill their legal obligation. Yet at the core of the international climate regime lies a deep rot: the persistent avoidance of responsibility and the immoral political refusal to enable reparations for climate-related harm.

The Conference for the Just Transition Away from Fossil Fuels gave the opportunity to host civic spaces to think about and layout how climate reparations should be taken forward and what place it truly has in the climate change governance discussion. Based on these lessons, we have set out a list of demands on climate reparations for SB64 and future conferences.

A Push for Reparations SB64

After 34 years of discussion, Loss and Damage still does not have a permanent agenda item in the climate conferences. Politicians at the climate conferences acknowledge that we are in a climate crisis and recognize the severe affectations to the lives and human rights of people. However, conferences like SB64 come one after the other without loss and damage having permanent agenda item established. Not being in the agenda closes the possibility have further advancement in actions, technical dialogues, or evaluations on how existing mechanisms perform in the formal negotiation proceedings.

Past lessons of progress, such as the Fund to Respond to Loss and Damage (FRLD), have taught us that a one-off decision, does not bring the structural transformation needed. In the case of the FRLD its impact is still to be seen and if projected against the scale of funding needed yearly, \$400 billion USD vs the accumulated \$817 million pledge since 2022, the possibility for transformative change to the lives of all those harmed is marginal.

The International Court of Justice, International Tribunal of the Law of the Sea and the Interamerican Court of Human Rights through their Advisory Opinion, have layout clearly that existing legal obligations imply a stringent set of standards to hold accountable States regarding their due diligence to prevent harm and to deal with the reparations owed. The obligations outlined in these opinions discard the dominance of geopolitics or lack of will as justifications for bad results in climate actions. States have to act within legal frameworks. This implies a real and enormous mandate to reform the international climate regime, and no reform is more pressing than that of loss and damage governance.

Loss and damage reparations mechanisms are none existing, data gathering and reporting is absent or inadequate, cooperation responses mechanisms are underfunded and not built to guarantee human rights nor address legal responsibilities adequately. There are sufficient reasons from a legal accountability and technical requirement perspective for loss and damage to have a permanent agenda item.

Furthermore, while cooperation on loss and damage responses as enabled by the FRLD exist due to article 8th of the Paris Agreement it is not the main avenue to justice. The core legal obligation regarding harm outlined by advisory opinions is reparation mechanisms. The lack of reparations mechanisms is a denial of justice, human rights and the rule of law.

To enable reparations advocacy and political actions, we have summarized the demands of rightsholders from the Santa Marta Conference. These demands can guide advocacy efforts in SB64 and coming conferences at all levels.

SUMMARY OF STRATEGIC DEMANDS

- Climate Reparations are a Right.
- Global Climate Reparations Framework.
- Administrative and judicial mechanisms for reparation for climate damage, as a condition of legitimacy of the transition process.
- To address reparations from a racial and climate perspective
- Climate reparations for the damage caused by historical emissions.
- Reparation of the historical human rights impacts of extractive economies
- Obligations to repair damage caused by fossil fuels are legally enforceable-
- Integral reparation of the damage and impacts caused by fossil fuels is needed before the transition can be considered complete.
- Institute accountability mechanisms and obligations for private sector actors that consider reparative actions for past and present harms.
- Current annual subsidies of \$5.9 billion USD be channeled support to vulnerable communities and others.
- Fossil fuel industry must be held accountable for its environmental liabilities
- Both fossil fuel and clean energy industries must ensure due diligence, respect for human rights, and the mitigation and remediation of the impacts resulting from their business activities.
- Implementation of corporate accountability mechanisms and international legal instruments requiring reparations.
- Frameworks to halt, reverse, and restore the environmental, social, cultural, and spiritual impacts of extractive activities and land-use change linked to fossil fuels, transition minerals, petrochemical industry and its applications, agribusiness, and biofuel production in the territories, lands, and waters of Indigenous Peoples Standards and legislation for the fossil fuel sector to ensure corporate due diligence, minimize and repair the damage and impacts on human rights from these economic operations.
- Reparations for the accumulated damages caused by the extractive industries in Afro-descendant territories.
- Territorial climate reparations funds.
- Incorporation of material (not only symbolic) reparation mechanisms
- Measures of non-repetition and effective reparation of Human Rights violations.

INTERVIEW

“An ABC of obligations in all legal systems, which are obviously reflected in the obligations of both states and companies, is to make reparations.”

Ms. Astrid Puentes Riaño - Special Rapporteur on the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment

A transition will be just if it is built on legal obligations and human rights. In a global context of uncertainty that prioritizes corporate interests over planetary well-being, it is essential that those responsible for climate impacts take responsibility for addressing these effects, which disproportionately affect the Global South, and specifically highly vulnerable sectors.

Along the same lines, the Special Rapporteur comments that if states do not move forward with these obligations, then this endless cycle will be perpetuated, in which states of the Global South continue to bear the costs of the loss and damage caused by big carbon emitters.

She also considers that reparations is important because it makes visible the impacts that many sectors, which do not contribute significantly to climate change, are paying for. Furthermore, the rapporteur highlights the jurisprudence of international courts that addresses the obligations of sectors that emit polluting gases with respect to climate solutions, such as the fossil fuel sector.

Finally, she emphasizes that the framework for climate reparations contains interconnected elements and solutions. A cross-cutting approach must be prioritized that includes both the protection of human rights and the protection of ecosystems. In addition, it is also evident that many solutions exist within communities that must be strengthened from and for the territories, and it is important to remember that if there is financial resources available for fossil fuels subsidies, those resources should be redirected toward finding solutions.

Listen to the full podcast in [Spotify](#).

REPARATIONS COALITION

The Climate Reparations Coalition—comprising of non-governmental organizations, and social actors is committed to advancing climate justice & reparations for the protection of our right to a healthy climate.

The Climate Reparations Coalition along with 190+ organizations signed an open letter calling for reparations as key element for a transition to be just and rights-based.¹

“Fossil fuel–based economies are the fundamental cause of climate change and the persistent reason why carbon emissions have not stabilized. Decades of sustained increases in extraction and the uncontrolled use of fossil fuels have led to climate impacts that exceed the adaptive capacity of our ecosystems. Speculation on fossil fuels by the private sector and by some states has caused widespread damage to our climate and human rights. Remedying these unlawful acts is intertwined with actions to eliminate fossil fuel dependence.

We must follow the path of accountability and reparations to phase out fossil fuels and foster well-being and dignity in our societies and economies. Wealthy nations and billionaire investors who have profited from oil exploitation must be held accountable.”²

REPARATIONS & TRANSITION

A transition away from fossil fuels must repair the harm that has been caused by the carbon economy. Pathways away from oil, gas and coal must be intertwined with justice and historical responsibility. The transboundary harm suffered by communities and ecosystems will not disappear with renewable energy.

Reparations mechanisms must be part of the transition and climate action to enable restoration of our homes and ecosystems, cessation of harm and to create structures that ensure no repetition. If transitions advance without States and corporations being held accountable, people and planet risk repeating mistakes through extractivism and neglecting their existing obligations to international law and human rights.

¹ Adrián Martínez, ‘180+ ONGs Reclaman Reparaciones Climáticas en la Conferencia de Santa Marta’ (*La Ruta del Clima*, 24 April 2026) <<https://larutadelclima.org/2026/04/24/somos-180-reclamando-reparaciones-en-santa-marta/>> accessed 15 May 2026.

² Climate Reparations Coalition, ‘Open Letter Santa Marta Conference’ (2026) <<https://larutadelclima.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Open-Letter-%E2%80%93-Santa-Marta-Conference-1.pdf>> accessed 15 May 2026.

In the first Conference for the Just Transition Away from Fossil Fuels in Santa Marta, Colombia, 14th sectors of stakeholders were ensembled. Participants from National and Subnational Governments, MDBs and DFIs, Trade Unions, Peasant Communities, Private Sector, Parliamentary, Children and Youth, Afro-descendant Communities, Non-Governmental Organizations, Academia, Indigenous Peoples, Social Movements, and Women and Diversities provided technical inputs prior to the conference. During the Conference these sectors met to provide advice to the conference process.

Based on the synthesis provided by the co-host of the Santa Marta Conference an analysis of need for climate reparations was conducted. A Reparatory Transition is a priority for many sectors as highlighted in their technical input. The sectors that explicitly demanded reparations as essential and enabling element of the transition away from fossil fuels were the Academia, NGOs, Social Movements, Indigenous Peoples and Women and Diversities. It is relevant to point out that many of these groups represent rights holders whose communities or populations are particularly vulnerable to climate impacts.

Sector Technical Input	Explicit Mentions of Reparations
National and Subnational Governments	NO
MDBs and DFIs	NO
Trade Unions	NO
Peasant Communities	NO
Private Sector	NO
Parliamentary	NO
Children and Youth	NO
Afro-descendant Communities	YES
Non-Governmental Organizations	YES
Academia	YES
Indigenous Peoples	YES
Social Movements	YES
Women and Diversities	YES

The list of sectors that did not address directly reparations on their technical input can help us focus on our engagement. Dialogues with organizations of these sectors can help build awareness and collaborations to further efforts in advocacy for climate reparations.

ACADEMIA

As part of the 12 Action Insights for the Santa Marta Process the Academic Sector proposed that to implement a transition away from fossil fuels it is needed to proactively protect livelihoods and workers through early retraining, skills development, and community and regional redevelopment based on dialogue, ensuring the economic benefits and costs of the transition are distributed fairly. They also highlighted that a transition away from fossil fuels must repair the damage caused by the fossil fuel economy.

Academics argue that a successful reduction on fossil fuels requires distributive and procedural justice, fairness and human dignity to be at the center of the transition. A transition must foster “a more resilient and inclusive global economy starts with redistributing economic flows from the Global North to the Global South, in particular the most vulnerable regions, to repair the damage of historical emissions and guarantee prosperity for all without fossil fuels”³

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

The Summary of Written Contributions prepared by the Colombian government regarding the Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) sector analyzed 809 proposed solutions. An important element is that within the dominant narrative of the 258 contributions made by NGOs regarding the pillar of Reducing Economic Dependence on Fossil Fuels, is that it “is essential to guarantee effective participation in budgetary decisions, the fair distribution of benefits, and the reparation of the historical human rights impacts of extractive economies.”⁴ Some NGOs mentioned that there is a right to reparation, thus “the transition is not only a process towards the future, but also the settlement of a historical debt.”⁵ The technical inputs also highlighted the existing legal obligations stated in Consultative Opinion 32 of the Interamerican Court of Human Rights stating that “an integral reparation of the damages and impacts caused by fossil fuels is needed before the transition can be considered complete”.⁶ NGOs proposed that the current annual subsidies of \$5.9 billion USD be channeled to renewable energies, job retraining and support to vulnerable communities.

³ Friedrich J Bohn and others, ‘Synthesis Report Workstream of the Santa Marta Academic Dialogue’ (2026) 5 <<https://doi.org/10.5281/ZENODO.19797562>> accessed 12 May 2026.

⁴ ‘Resumen Orientativo de Aportes Escritos- Sector: Organizaciones No Gubernamentales (ONG)’ 1 <<https://transitionawayconference.com/>>.

⁵ *ibid* 2.

⁶ *ibid*.

The technical input from NGOs stated with consensus that:

- “The industry must be held accountable for its environmental liabilities. Obligations to repair damage caused by fossil fuels are legally enforceable and must be incorporated into the transition process.
- Both fossil fuel and clean energy industries must ensure due diligence, respect for human rights, and the mitigation and remediation of the impacts resulting from their business activities.”⁷

Enabling path to move forward towards a reparative transition included: “Administrative and judicial mechanisms for reparation for climate damage, as a condition of legitimacy of the transition process.”⁸

The discussion regarding the Transformation of the supply and demand of fossil fuels, reparations was also considered within the enabling path. Specifically, NGOs made reference about the usefulness of “standards and legislation for the fossil fuel sector to ensure corporate due diligence and minimize and repair the damage and impacts on human rights from these economic operations.”⁹

On the discussion on Strengthening international cooperation and climate diplomacy, NGOs addressed reparations by stating that a barrier for the transition is the “lack of effective redress mechanisms for historical damages caused by fossil fuels” and they identified a “gap between historical responsibility and current action.”¹⁰

Finally, the NGO sector regarding the Cross-cutting gender and differential approach stated that this issue was not an accessory but an enabling condition for the legitimacy, effectiveness, and sustainability of the transition beyond fossil fuels. Furthermore, this approach demands to advance “towards reparation schemes in the face of historical impacts of the fossil model, integrating criteria of distributive justice, recognition and non-repetition in transition strategies.”¹¹ To accomplish the integration of this approach to the transition, NGOs states that it “is imperative to consolidate robust and binding international human rights standards applicable to all productive activities, guiding both state action and private sector behavior, and closing the gaps between normative

⁷ *ibid.*

⁸ *ibid* 5.

⁹ *ibid* 14.

¹⁰ *ibid* 27.

¹¹ *ibid* 28.

commitments and effective practices.”¹² This approach is said to correct structural inequalities, broadens the scope of the transition by grounding it in principles of justice, participation, and territorial sustainability.

It is evident that reparations for the historical harm caused by fossil fuels is an indispensable element for a transition to be implemented. The lack of implementation of mechanisms for reparations will not only infringe legal obligations but will impede enabling conditions for a complete transition away from fossil fuels.

AFRODESCENDANTS

Afro-descendant organizations submitted written proposals and had two virtual dialogues which were the basis for the synthesis of this sector’s positions. The Afro-descendant community considered that to overcome economic dependence on fossil fuels, it is necessary to address reparations from a racial and climate perspective. They considered that there is a link between fossil fuel dependence and systemic racism, which then makes the removal of subsidies and incentives for the fossil fuel industry a measure of reparations.

There was consensus within Afro-descendant organizations that the “energy transition must incorporate climate and racial reparations, not only economic reconversion”.¹³ There must be reparations for the accumulated damages caused by the extractive industries in Afro-descendant territories. An enabling path towards a transition that included climate reparations would be “territorial climate reparations funds”.¹⁴ The solution put forward is the incorporation of “material (not only symbolic) reparation mechanisms” in the transition.¹⁵

Furthermore, Afro-descendant organizations regarding the advancement of international cooperation agreed that it must be oriented toward climate justice rather than debt creation and that global climate governance reproduces structural power asymmetries. An enabling path that was agreed upon is the creation of a Global Climate Reparations Framework. Solutions that were mentioned in line with that path is the implementation of “corporate accountability mechanisms and international legal instruments requiring reparations.”¹⁶

¹² *ibid.*

¹³ ‘Synthesis of the Afro-Descendant Communities Proposal’ 2 <<https://transitionawayconference.com/>>.

¹⁴ *ibid.*

¹⁵ *ibid.* 3.

¹⁶ *ibid.* 7.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Indigenous people's position on just transition departs from their condition of rights-holders, self-governing Peoples, and guardians of our territories and Mother Earth. Just transition is understood to be grounded in the recognition that humans are inseparable from Earth and nature. Just Transition and phase out of fossil fuels has to be built with them or it will not be just.

Their position sets up a list of essential principles that reflect their holistic vision of a just transition. Within these 13 principles, there are 3 that addresses reparations. The principle of Protection of the rights of Indigenous defenders includes the implementation of measures of non-repetition and effective reparation of Human Rights violations. Also, the principle of Elimination and non-repetition of extractivism, highlights how the transition “must not become a new form of colonial extractivism that perpetuates models that exploit our territories, lands, and waters and generate the accumulation of wealth for a few at the expense of life on the planet”.¹⁷ Finally, the principle of Territorial, social, cultural, and spiritual reparation and restoration, reiterates the right of Indigenous Peoples to reparation in accordance with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples¹ and ILO Convention 169. Specifically, article 8 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples mentions that:

“2. States shall provide effective mechanisms for prevention of, **and redress** for: (a) Any action which has the aim or effect of depriving them of their integrity as distinct peoples, or of their cultural values or ethnic identities; (b) Any action which has the aim or effect of dispossessing them of their lands, territories or resources; (c) Any form of forced population transfer which has the aim or effect of violating or undermining any of their rights; (d) Any form of forced assimilation or integration; (e) Any form of propaganda designed to promote or incite racial or ethnic discrimination directed against them.”¹⁸

Indigenous peoples are clear in that just transition must include key elements of climate reparations, such as cessation and restoration. They demand for “frameworks to halt, reverse, and restore the environmental, social, cultural, and spiritual impacts of extractive activities and land-use change linked to fossil fuels, transition minerals,

¹⁷ 'Position of Indigenous Peoples' 4 <<https://transitionawayconference.com/>>.

¹⁸ '61/295. United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples' (2007) art 8 <https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/wp-content/uploads/sites/19/2018/11/UNDRIP_E_web.pdf> accessed 13 May 2026.

petrochemical industry and its applications, agribusiness, and biofuel production in the territories, lands, and waters of Indigenous Peoples.”¹⁹

Furthermore, Indigenous Peoples contributions to the Santa Marta Conference reminded that discussion on transition away from fossil fuels must include safeguards. Among the safeguards listed is the implementation of “coordinated responses to halt, reverse, repair and restore the various transboundary and regional impacts affecting Indigenous Peoples and their territories, related to extractive activities and land-use change in the energy sector.”²⁰

SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

For social movements the transition away from fossil fuels is part of a broader transformation of global economic systems that is needed. The understanding of a just transition by social movements include concepts such as climate justice, historical reparations, energy sovereignty, and transformation of the economic model.

WOMEN AND DIVERSITIES

Feminist organizations affirmed that all actors, especially those of the Global North, owe a historical debt and are responsible to allocate public resources away from fossil fuels. They demand that States must institute accountability mechanisms and obligations for private sector actors that consider reparative actions for past and present harms.²¹

Reparations and reparative justice is essential for fossil-fuel-impacted communities: “For communities impacted by the harms of fossil fuel production, processes of reparative justice should go hand in hand with a just phaseout that does not leave behind fossil fuel workers, care and informal workers, or the communities economically intertwined and impacted by them.”²² Reparative mechanisms are necessary to challenge abuses from multinational corporations and uphold accountability.

¹⁹ ‘Position of Indigenous Peoples’ (n 17) 5.

²⁰ *ibid* 11.

²¹ ‘A Feminist Vision Statement for the Transition Away from Fossil Fuels Conference’ 3 <<https://transitionawayconference.com/>>.

²² *ibid* 5.

A Reparative Transition from Latin America

Climate reparations are often discussed in relation to the damages generated by climate change and the obligations of major historical emitters to provide redress. While this dimension remains essential, the Latin American experience suggests that reparations cannot be understood solely as compensation for climate impacts. In this region, climate injustice is inseparable from longer histories of extraction, dispossession, racialized exclusion, and unequal patterns of development that have shaped relations between territories, economies, and political power for centuries.

From the colonial period to the present, Latin America and the Caribbean have supplied many of the resources that enabled economic expansion beyond the region. Silver, gold, agricultural commodities, oil, gas, coal, and other natural resources have sustained successive cycles of accumulation in the global economy. While the benefits of these processes have often been concentrated elsewhere, their environmental, social, and political costs have remained disproportionately embedded in territories inhabited by Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendant communities, peasant populations, and other historically marginalized groups. This historical trajectory is particularly relevant in a region where climate vulnerability overlaps with pre-existing forms of territorial exclusion, environmental degradation, and unequal access to political power.²³

The climate crisis emerged within this broader historical context. The fossil fuel economy did not develop independently from these dynamics, rather, it expanded through them. As a result, many communities across Latin America experience climate change not as an isolated environmental phenomenon, but as the continuation of longer processes of territorial dispossession, environmental degradation, and unequal exposure to risk. This reality invites a broader understanding of reparations: one that addresses not only the consequences of climate change, but also the structures that enabled those consequences to emerge and persist.

²³Hartinger, S. M., et al. (2025). The 2025 Lancet Countdown Latin America report. The Lancet Regional Health - Americas.

This perspective becomes particularly relevant in current debates regarding the transition away from fossil fuels. Decarbonization is indispensable to achieving the objectives of the Paris Agreement and preventing further harm. However, reducing emissions alone cannot be the sole measure of justice. As La Ruta del Clima has argued, addressing loss and damage requires moving beyond voluntary responses and advancing approaches grounded in climate justice, accountability, and human rights.²⁴ Reparations emerge not as an act of charity, but as part of obligations associated with climate harm and historical responsibility.

A transition that replaces fossil fuels while reproducing patterns of extraction, exclusion, and territorial sacrifice risks perpetuating many of the same injustices that characterized the carbon economy. Across Latin America, this concern is increasingly visible in discussions surrounding critical minerals, renewable energy infrastructure, biofuel production, and other sectors associated with low-carbon development. While these industries may contribute to emissions reductions, they can also generate new pressures on land, water, ecosystems, and communities if implemented without robust safeguards, meaningful participation, accountability mechanisms, and respect for collective rights. The challenge, therefore, is not only to transform energy systems, but also to transform the political and economic relationships through which those systems operate.

Recent discussions on environmental and climate justice in Latin America have increasingly highlighted the need to address the full life cycle of extractive activities, including closure, restoration, remediation, and responsible exit processes. Heinrich Böll Stiftung (2025) argues that extraction projects cannot be assessed solely through their economic productivity, but must also be evaluated according to their long-term environmental and social consequences, particularly in territories historically affected by extractive activities.²⁵ This perspective reinforces the idea that climate action cannot be separated from questions of restoration, accountability, and repair.

²⁴ La Ruta del Clima. (2024). Climate Reparations Field Manual. La Ruta del Clima. <https://larutadelclima.org>;
La Ruta del Clima. (2024). The impact of loss and damage from the adverse effects of climate change on human rights. La Ruta del Clima.

²⁵ Heinrich Böll Stiftung. (2025). Closure and responsible exit: A requirement for environmental and climate justice in Latin America. Heinrich Böll Stiftung. <https://co.boell.org>

It is in this context that Latin America offers an important contribution to global debates on climate reparations. Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendant organizations, environmental justice movements, feminist networks, and territorial communities throughout the region have consistently argued that climate action must be evaluated not only through carbon metrics, but also through its capacity to restore territories, protect rights, repair accumulated harms, and prevent future forms of dispossession. Their contributions suggest that justice cannot be measured solely by the speed of decarbonization, but also by the extent to which transitions alter the conditions that have historically concentrated environmental burdens on particular peoples and territories.

This approach increasingly finds support within international human rights law. Amnesty International and the Center for International Environmental Law (2024) have argued that climate-related harms generate obligations concerning effective remedy and reparations, particularly where historically marginalized populations experience disproportionate impacts.²⁶ Their analysis emphasizes that responses to loss and damage must be grounded in rights-based approaches capable of addressing both present and accumulated forms of harm. Reparations therefore cannot be reduced exclusively to financial transfers, they also involve access to justice, restoration, guarantees of non-repetition, and mechanisms capable of addressing structural inequalities.

From this perspective, a reparative transition requires more than compensation mechanisms. It requires restoring ecosystems affected by extractive activities, strengthening territorial governance, protecting environmental and human rights defenders, guaranteeing meaningful participation in decisions concerning energy and development, and preventing new forms of sacrifice zones from emerging under the banner of decarbonization. It also requires acknowledging that historical responsibility extends beyond greenhouse gas emissions alone and is connected to broader patterns of extraction and unequal exchange that have shaped both climate vulnerability and development trajectories across the Global South.

²⁶ Amnesty International, & Center for International Environmental Law. (2024); Climate-related human rights harm and the right to effective remedy. Amnesty International. <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/ior40/7717/2024/en/>

The contribution of Latin America and the Caribbean to climate reparations therefore extends beyond a demand for justice. The region offers a framework for understanding how climate action, territorial rights, ecological restoration, historical accountability, and structural transformation can be addressed as interconnected challenges rather than separate policy agendas. This perspective does not replace existing approaches to loss and damage, rather, it expands them by asking a broader question: what would it mean to repair not only the impacts of climate change, but also the structures that made those impacts possible?

As negotiations advance through SB64 and future climate processes, Latin America's experience suggests that a genuinely just transition cannot be defined exclusively by emissions reductions. It must also be capable of restoring what has been damaged, transforming relationships that have produced harm, and ensuring that the transition away from fossil fuels does not generate new forms of dispossession in the name of climate action. In this sense, reparations are not external to the transition, they are one of the conditions that make a truly just transition possible.

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