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Global Council call - Energy Transition

21 April 2021

MINUTES

Attendees

Global Council Members

Adnan Bahiya, Iraq (MENA) AB
Athayde Motta, Brazil (Latin America) AM
Chadwick Llanos, Philippines (Asia Pacific) CL
Fatima Diallo (ASC representative) FD
Gloria Majiga, (Anglophone Africa) GM
Joe Williams, UK (Global Reach) JW
Maria Ramos, USA (Global Reach) MR
Mariatou Amadou, Niger (Francophone Africa) MA
Miles Litvinoff, UK (Europe and North America) ML
Olena Pavlenko, Ukraine (Eurasia) (Chair) OP

Secretariat

Elisa Peter, Executive Director EP
Joe Bardwell, Strategic Communications and Campaigns Manager JB
Stephanie Rochford, Director of Member Engagement SR
Sandrine Levy, Executive Administrator SL

Observers

Caroline Avan, France
Christian Mounzeo, Congo Brazzaville
Mariya Lobacheva, Kazakhstan
Oleksiy Orlovsky, Ukraine
Sihem Bouazza,, Tunisia
Tatyana Sedova, Kazakhstan
Vitalii Fylenko, Ukraine

Actions

Action	By who	By when
Share the energy transition positions paper and accompanying blog publicly	JB	23/04
Include an agenda item on the Ford social bonds at the next GC meeting	SR	Next meeting
Circulate doodle poll to select date for next meeting (July)	SL	30 April



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Welcome

The Chair welcomed participants and reviewed the agenda. The two new GC members Maria Ramos (Global Reach) and Fatima Diallo (ASC representative) introduced themselves.

Discuss PWYP position statement on energy transition

JB gave an overview of the process of developing PWYP's global position on the energy transition over the past year. The purpose of this global position is to give a coherent direction to the movement on the issue of the energy transition while ensuring enough flexibility for national coalitions to engage on this issue in ways that make sense in their varied, respective contexts.

JB noted that there was a broad consensus in the movement about the need for a rapid, fair and equitable transition to a low carbon economy and that PWYP had a role to play in this process.

He reviewed the four elements of the position:

- A managed yet rapid decline of fossil fuel production, with high-emitting rich countries moving first
- An economically fair and socially just transition, that addresses the needs of people in fossil fuel rich countries
- Disclosure of financial risks related to the transition to a low carbon economy
- Transformative governance of so-called "transition minerals" to address potentially devastating environmental, social and human right impacts

PWYP's value-add includes our expertise in the extractive sector and the fact that we are a global network with roots in resource rich countries.

ML noted consensus among PWYP members in Europe and North America that countries in these regions needed to move first to reduce their emissions and phase out fossil fuel production. He noted concerns of one PWYP member organisation on the continued use of the term "revenues" to describe the proceeds generated by the extraction of non-renewable resources. He urged colleagues to coordinate closely in the next few months to ensure complementarity of efforts in implementing the positions. He mentioned that President Biden's climate summit could provide a hook to widely circulate and communicate our position this week.

JW agreed that the position is fit for purpose and noted NRG's support. He pointed out that PWYP's core expertise in transparency and openness to address corruption risks in the energy transition could have been made more explicit in the position. This could be factored in in programming and advocacy efforts in the next few months, including in relation to the role and assets of large SOEs in the energy sector.



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AB noted that some fossil fuel-dependent countries such as Iraq do not have a clear or adopted strategy by the government for a gradual transition to a low-carbon economy. AB indicated that now that the positions have been developed, it will be important to understand the nature of the partners and the strategies that PWYP members can use to make progress toward an equitable energy transition. This includes identifying skills gaps and attitudes approved by governments; drawing on the expertise of developed nations in the area of clean energy; and leveraging existing partnerships and global initiatives, such as EITI, to advocate for a just transition. **AB suggest that the United Nations adopt a draft publishing an annual regulation indicating the nature of countries' efforts and plans towards an energy transition.**

GM expressed endorsement from the ESA region, noting that the broad framing means that it can apply to coalitions with different contexts. There are high expectations around the opportunity to embrace technology transfer to pursue emissions reductions. GM noted that the perspective is very different from that in the global north but that PWYP members are moving in the same direction.

CL notes that there is a high level of excitement from the Asia Pacific region that PWYP is formally adopting positions on this issue.

MA supported the comments of AB that wealthier countries should take the lead in emissions reduction. There is consensus from the Francophone West Africa region to adopt the positions. One specific issue for the region is the impact of deforestation.

AM highlighted that the energy transition is a critical issue across the Latin American region so it is a timely agenda that can be used to mobilise different partners. PWYP can play three important roles: to initiate discussions at community level; to push for government policies to actively address policy issues including around financing the transition; to pressure companies to invest in technologies to reduce their impact, starting in the global north.

OP shared that members in Eurasia are in favour of adopting the positions, with no objections.

MR noted that corruption and FPIC could be added as political signals, but that there are no objections to approving the position as it stands. She highlighted economic viability as a potential campaign issue for PWYP, as well as a role in mitigating the risk of the climate crisis being used to accelerate extraction of critical minerals with limited oversight.

FD also expressed support for adopting the positions, noting the expansion of fossil fuel exploration on the Africa continent (oil, coal etc) despite the looming climate crisis. The role of PWYP to consult with communities is particularly important.

The PWYP Global Council agreed by consensus to adopt the positions on behalf of the global movement. EP congratulated the Global Council on this important decision and also highlighted the role that other PWYP members have played in getting to this point, specifically Emily Nickerson (PWYP Canada), Kathleen Brophy (PWYP US) and Clancy Moore (PWYP Australia).



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JB highlighted next steps to create wider awareness of the positions both within the PWYP membership, as well as with external audiences.

Civic Space Updates:

The Global Council heard updates from MA, AB and OP about the civic space situation in Francophone Africa (Niger, Chad and Congo Brazzaville), Iraq and Kazakhstan. These conversations have been ongoing for some months, and the GC is monitoring progress in order to be able to identify appropriate responses, including public statements and potentially identifying sources of funding.

Niger (MA)

MA gave an overview of civic space issues in Niger to build on a written document already shared. Noted the situation is worrying and attention is needed.

FD shared concern and noted there is an awareness of a worsening situation, noted that it is a big challenge and solidarity is needed to build protection. In response to MR's question on how we can support, MA said that political advocacy is important and has been helpful in the past, and also financial support for legal costs.

EP updated on opportunities such as the upcoming France-Africa summit to highlight the situation in Niger and PWYP is involved in conversations. In response to FD's question on whether the Secretariat has an emergency fund available, EP confirmed that there is a small fund that can be used to respond to a specific need, or the Secretariat can make referrals to organisations who specialise in this.

Iraq (AB)

AB recapped the situation in Iraq that has arisen out of the Diwana Order No. 6 and Reasserted that the issue is about civil society being able to participate in the Iraq MSG. AB updated the Global Council on the progress that has been made and the lessons learned.

Kazakhstan (OP)

OP highlighted a potential environmental crisis in the Caspian Sea related to oil exploration. She requested GC members to identify experts or other resources to help work on this issue.

Observers left

New Ford Foundation opportunity (SR)

SR presented a summary of a new 5-year, core funding opportunity for the PWYP movement from the Ford Foundation. She outlined some of the risks and opportunities associated with the grant.

JW welcomed the opportunity as a way to strengthen the movement at a time of shrinking funds for civil society. MR would welcome a longer conversation to better understand how this funding could meet PWYP members' needs and priorities. AM noted the challenges in sub-granting funds to member



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organisations and while he welcomed the opportunity presented by the Ford Foundation, he also emphasized the importance of not underestimating the challenge it poses.

Other GC members expressed their support for the Secretariat to pursue this opportunity on behalf of the movement.