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PRESS RELEASE

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FOCUSING ON PEOPLE DRIVES AMBITIOUS CLIMATE ACTION

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Climate Strategies have published a new guide to help lower and middle income countries ensure that climate action has a positive impact on people lives. Referred to as the “just transition”, the approach places justice for people at the heart of climate action.

Later this year, all countries will submit new climate change plans to the United Nations. These revised Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) must show greater ambitions. Plans that consider the possible negative effects for workers, communities, consumers and citizens will be more ambitious and more likely to succeed.

While most people will benefit from climate action, there is a risk that some people will be negatively affected. This is particularly true for people with jobs in polluting industries. If these people are not included in climate action planning, these plans will likely be met by social and political opposition.

For lower and middle income countries, where unemployment tends to be high, this can be difficult. Governments have to focus on creating new jobs, any jobs, making it hard to think about better and greener jobs. What’s more, confusion around definitions, questions over relevance and a lack of capacity means that many countries are not applying ‘just transition’ principles in their climate plans. This will lead to less ambitious climate action and the risk that climate action could negatively affect people.

Andrzej Błachowicz, Managing Director of Climate Strategies said:

“The just transition means the consideration, based on dialogue and consultation, of the needs of groups of workers, communities, consumers and citizens who are vulnerable to the effects of

the low- carbon transition, and the provision of policies that support economic diversification strategies, labour market plans, skills training and social security.

Incorporating just transition principles into climate plans can enable more ambitious and equitable climate policies.”

Michał Kurtyka, UNFCCC COP24 President and Minister of Climate, Poland said:

“Just Transition should become an essential component of NDCs. It is fundamental to the achievement of plans needed to deliver the transition to a low-carbon economy. I am pleased that this Reflection Paper acknowledges work of the COP24 Presidency and adopts the recommendations from the report “Solidarity and just transition. Summary report of the actions”. The report serves as framework for mainstreaming social inclusiveness in transition policies and is based on multilateral discussion and in-depth analysis. I commend the recommendations in this Reflection Paper and suggest the resources of the UNFCCC and other international agencies be made available to support its proposed actions.”

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The report is available online at: <https://climatestrategies.org/publication/JustTransitionNDC>

If you would like more information on this topic please contact Andrzej Błachowicz, Managing Director of Climate Strategies at +447817829745 or andrzej.blachowicz@climatestrategies.org

About Climate Strategies

Climate Strategies is an international, not-for-profit research network that aims to improve climate policy through meaningful interactions between decision-makers and climate policy researchers across Europe and internationally.

We:

INSPIRE: Incubate ideas and develop climate policy research proposals

ENGAGE: Organise consultations and facilitate dialogue among researchers and climate policy-makers

CONVENE: Initiate, plan and organise multi-disciplinary events

TRANSLATE: Publish research in accessible formats in order to inform relevant audiences