

**Panama's submission**  
**Strengthening Article 10: Just Transition**

Panama would like to propose stronger language for Article 10 to ensure a truly fair and equitable transition for all parties affected by plastic pollution and efforts to reduce it. Emphasizing respect for and protection of human rights, the text includes specific safeguards for the most vulnerable populations and the environment, promotes sustainable livelihoods, and provides direct funding to support this transition.

**Proposed Text:**

Paragraph 1:

Panama strongly supports replacing “should” with “shall” to ensure the legal clarity and binding nature of Parties’ commitments to promote and facilitate a just transition. This would strengthen accountability and demonstrate genuine commitment to social equity in the implementation of the instrument.

Paragraph 2:

Inclusion of “Afro-descendant Peoples” following “Indigenous Peoples,” recognizing that these communities face unique vulnerabilities and must be actively included in just transition strategies. Additionally, we recommend explicit reference to the safeguarding of human rights and environmental protection.

*New paragraph on financing:*

4. The Conference of the Parties shall establish a dedicated fund for implementing this Article, which will provide direct and accessible funding to vulnerable populations affected by the production, use, and disposal of plastics. This fund shall have a mechanism to ensure that resources reach affected populations directly, along with transparent and equitable governance.

**Justification:**

- The current language of Article 10 is insufficient to guarantee a just and equitable transition. The use of the term "should" introduces ambiguity and does not establish a firm commitment on the part of the Parties.
- Establishing the promotion and facilitation of a just transition as a mandatory requirement ("shall") will ensure that the Parties prioritize the needs of affected workers and communities.
- The explicit inclusion of Afro-descendant peoples recognizes their specific vulnerabilities and ensures that they are not excluded from the transition. These communities often face historical marginalization and are disproportionately affected by environmental degradation and economic disruption.
- Requiring Parties to report, monitor, and evaluate their progress will increase transparency and accountability in the implementation of the Article.
- The creation of a specific fund and the mandate to the Conference of the Parties (COP) to develop implementation guidelines will ensure a consistent and effective approach to a just transition in all Parties. These guidelines are essential to ensure that this Article is implemented through concrete measures. The inclusion of environmental, social, and cultural safeguards ensures that the transition avoids generating negative collateral impacts.

A strengthened Article 10 is paramount to achieving a just transition to a future free from plastic pollution, upholding the rights and well-being of all. Direct financial assistance is therefore indispensable, enabling vulnerable populations to adapt while safeguarding their fundamental human rights during this transformative process.