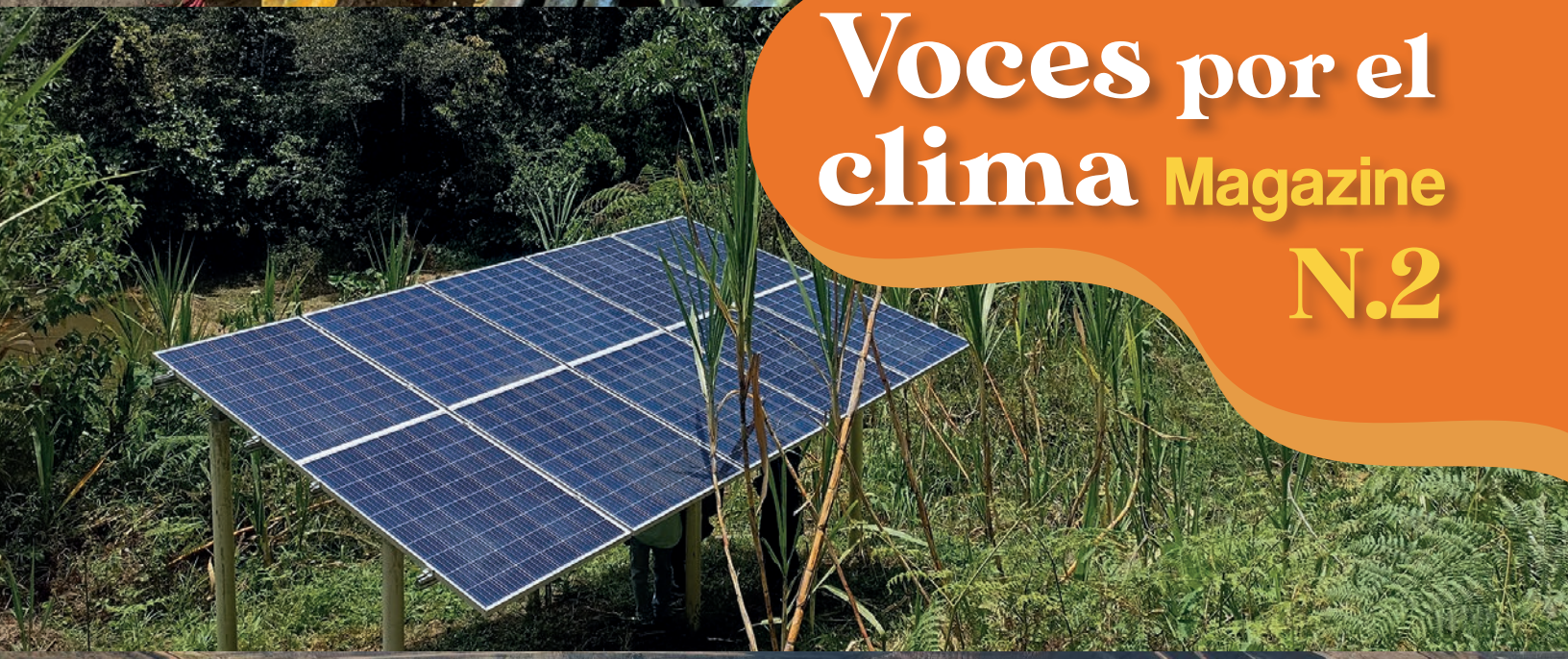

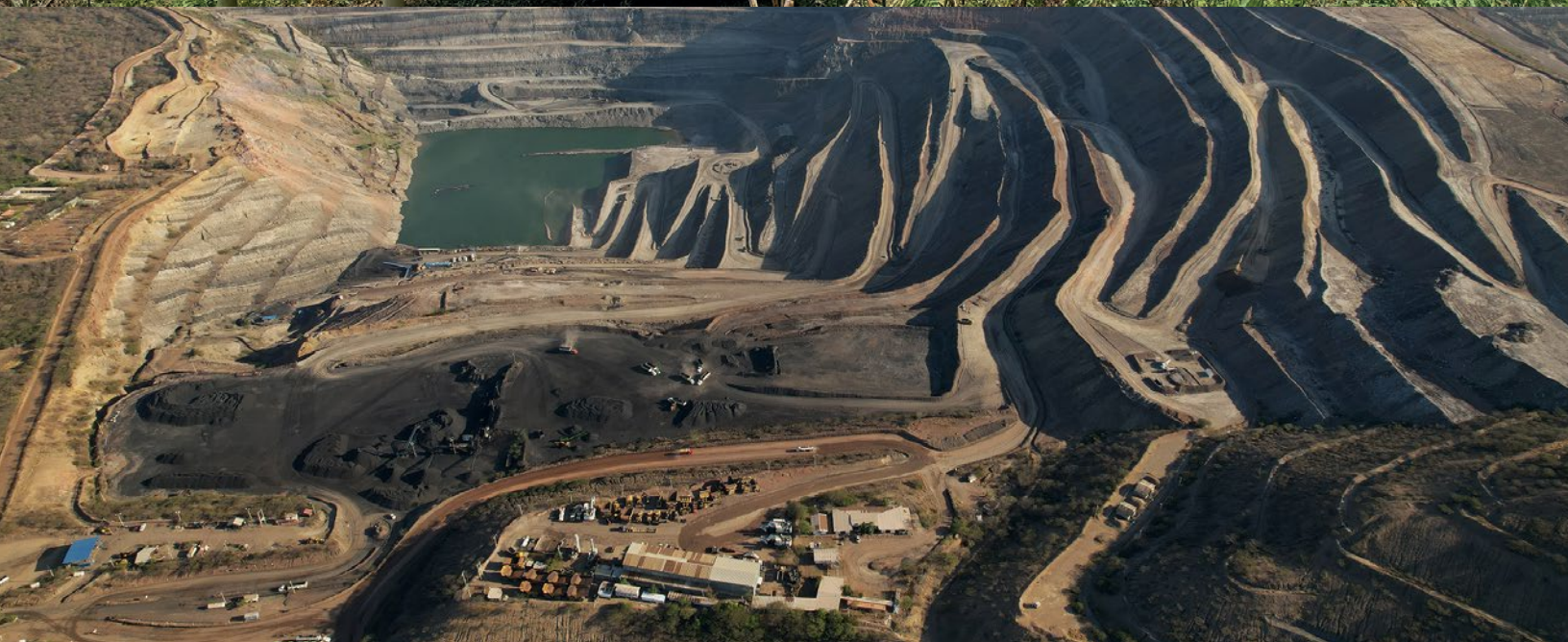

# Voces por el clima Magazine

## N.2

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## Perspectives from civil society on popular energy transition and climate justice in Colombia

HEINRICH BÖLL STIFTUNG BOGOTÁ Colombia

CENSAT AGUA VIVA

CLIMA LAB

ASOCIACIÓN AMBIENTE Y SOCIEDAD

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# Voces por el clima Magazine N.2

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“...although the purpose of the transition is to achieve zero emissions scenarios, we write with the recognition that this commitment implies a non-negotiable exercise of zero omissions in regard to our rights.”

# Introduction

**By: Santiago Aldana Rivera**

**The different crises that affect us as a human race, reaffirm the need for various socio-environmental transitions, including the energy transition. Despite the importance and urgency of the climate crisis and its devastating consequences in all the social systems, this transition is falling under corporate approaches and is driven by purposes that do not serve the reasons why we announce that we are in the middle of a crisis, taking into account the territorial, experiential and scientific evidence.**

This corporate-focused transition, tailored to the needs of a capital-concentrating market and a supposedly saving technological response, fails to recognize the profound injustices connected to the way we currently relate to energy. Despite the political call that evokes the transition, the responses are created to delay the de-fossilization of our societies and consolidate even more energy management, violating any social or climate benefit and establishing deepen scenarios of inequality and injustice.

In this sense, the corporate transition takes advantage of the tension and conflict to play easily with panic and with life, resorting to preserve the pattern of sacrificing and using territories for energy; leaving communities at the end of the list, with no return chances in view of the undoubted increase of the planet's global temperature and its effects. The territories and their communities find that between climate policies and diplomatic announcements, the response and the solutions proposed, are insufficient to their needs and those of nature; which leads them to reorganize their actions in the face of the crisis.

Thus, from different corners of Colombia, a socio-environmental transition is taking shape, including the energy transition, based on criteria of justice, democracy, and reparation. This is the case of youth, women, indigenous, Afro-Colombian, academic, social, and environmental organizations that autonomously undertake sovereign experiences of energy management in the key of resistance to the expansion of various extractive ways (such as fossil or corporate green economies) while defending their rights, expressing their needs and demanding coherent actions that allow them to lead sustainable lifestyles.

Under this reality, this second version of the "Voces por el Clima Magazine" is built with the purpose of contributing to the reflection and discussion on the energy transition in Colombia. The voices that collaborate in this magazine recognize that the discussion on the transition is still in dispute and that, therefore, more spaces and inputs are required to agree on a common path. Also, although the purpose of the transition is to achieve zero emissions scenarios, we write with the recognition that this commitment implies a non-negotiable exercise of zero omissions in regard to our rights.

In this way, the magazine makes a journey through different positions on the transition, to expose cases of the institutional and citizen response to achieve it, exchanging in parallel capacities on how to understand the factors that make the energy transition an exercise in dispute. Finally, we present key messages and proposals collected from the organizations that are part of the Voces por el Clima team, regarding the approaches that should guide the energy transition in spaces of national discussion with the current government, up to international negotiation spaces such as COP27.

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# Designs of a squandered heritage

**By: Mariana Pinzón Cortés**

Social communicator with a Master's Degree in Environment and Development. Currently working for Censat Agua Viva in the Energy and Climate Justice department. She has worked supporting, analysing and socializing the realities of communities displaced by the violence, homeless people, members of gangs and discharged armed groups. During her environmental studies, she investigated about social emphasis to return to rural life and support communication papers of the Environmental Studies Institute of the National University of Colombia.

Large heritages have normally left families with vestiges of misery, internal disputes, destroyed fortunes, and wasted lives. Something similar has happened to the human race and fossil fuel; which is considered an energetic gem, created from underground condensation processes for thousands of years back, when there used to be rich vegetation that now becomes scarce. Headlines from all over the world show evidence of an unbalanced climate and ecosystem, caused for the burning of these gems (fossil fuels), this proves how valuable and also dangerous these gems were and the dramatic speed at which we waste them.

Voices from scientists, academists, activists, and multiple communities from several corners of the world, raise their voices and clamor to leave this "valuable" heritage in the subsoil; before the searching and abstraction of it, end up with the human race and also the rest of living beings. This warning is described as ridicule by most of the government and higher social classes and they refer to it as "going back to the caves", "unrecognizing the advance of technology", or "driving the world to poverty". As happens with the most privileged families, those who have been getting used to living on the easy money of their family heritage, reuse to abandon it and even more share it.

The squandered, elitist, and sumptuous consumption of the world's richest population is equivalent to 10 % of half of the emissions that have caused the environmental catastrophe, which starts to show its threats. The remaining 40 % of the world's population which habits mainly cities, fed the suicide logic of global markets, insatiable desires, corporative governments, energetic waste, programmed obsolescence, and industrial garbage; most of them for perpetuity.

The remaining 50 % of the population is not even aware of the extraction of this "pre-Columbian treasure" from the ground they are in contact in a daily way; in case they know, they are not interested in or they feel it is not worthy. This huge population, mostly rural, lives in the pre-indus-

trial system life and is treated like an outcast or an undesired daughter. This population will encounter an acute risk that increases exponentially day by day, thus the burning of fossil fuels and their adjacent overflow system is producing the caloric equivalent to throw 4 Hiroshima atomic bombs per second since 1998 (Church et al., 2011).

Despite the frightening measured, proven, and reported reality, the economic and technological sumptuous and unfair global engine refuses to stop; now, with the social and media blessing of the "green market" an illusion to continue with this mortuary and unintelligent machinery has been created. The lithium extracted from Chile it is transported along with Colombian carbon to China (Urrutia, 2021), a lithium disposable battery is produced there to be installed in an electric car manufactured in Noruega; then this same vehicle is transported back to Chile to be sold as an "ecological car".

If we were able to have a world collective consciousness, and be responsible for all damages caused to the rest of living beings that habit and will inhabit the planet for the rest of the centuries and millenniums, we would accept immediately to stop this crazy machinery that does not benefit most of the human beings, and that only produces unbalance, displacement, and death. We would surely turn back to rurality or any other type of city that allows us to focus on food sovereignty; because when one has a full belly, the rest of the changes and detachments would be bearable.

Even though, the damage has been done. The most ignored and discriminated communities by the system are the ones living the consequences of the climate crisis; the world that they have inhabited before, will never be the same, probably ever. Rainfall and droughts will be longer than before, and unpredictable and it will affect crops and harvests. Hunger will breathe down everyone's neck, especially the less civilized; the less prepared to encounter the violent reaction of an intoxicated planet.

If we are to believe that we deserve even more time for this "transition", then the line of fuel fossils, those who have all this expensive machinery arranged for its exploitation, would destinate themselves to improve the quality of life of the 50 % of the population who did not benefit from that heritage, while encountering a decline due to the misuse of it.

A fridge powered with solar panels, a small processor machine for agriculture disposals, and a machine to dehydrate fruits along with a public, efficient and massive transportation system; instead of private and heavy vehicles and trucks could be a useful investment for minimum infrastructures that could improve the lives of families or communities in remote areas.

In this way, the finite resources of fossil fuels and minerals that are handled by the industry with distress, will not end depleted in 9 years but they will be available for 100 or 200 years, since they can be consumed in a planned, austere and equilibrated manner in order to leave a common infrastructure that benefits human race in a long term, without walking all over natural cycles and the rest of human beings who inhabits the planet.

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# Air and climate as a double strategy to face climate crisis from cities

**By: Daniela García Aguirre**

Environmental Engineer and Layer from Andes University with a Master's in Public Policies and Environmental Rights from Stanford University (California). She has experience as a researcher in meditation and monitoring of air quality as well as public policy development under an Environmental justice perspective. She has worked in the academy to guide and accompany communities in the design of strategic litigation and the creation of judicial or political solution proposals to prevent socio-environmental conflicts and guarantee the right to a healthy environment and well-being. She currently leads the Initiative for Clean Air of the Interamerican Association for Environmental Defense - AIDA.

Short-lived climate pollutants (SLCP) are atmosphere agents that can absorb or reflect solar energy, which means, they can warm or cool down the earth. That is why global warming consequences are ascribed to them, additionally because of their effect as air pollutants. These agents degrade air quality and have higher climate impacts in short time scales (from days to years) in comparison to Greenhouse Gases (GHG) such as carbon dioxide (whose climate effects can long decades, centuries, or even more) (Ortúzar & Tornel, 2016).

The most common SLCP are Black Carbon (BC), methane (CH4), Ground-level Ozone (O3), and Hydrofluorocarbon (HFCs). From these four, BC acts as a spray, not as a Greenhouse Gas, even though it has climate consequences (Ortúzar & Tornel, 2016). The BC comes mainly from fossil fuel burning, biofuel, and biomass. BC is part of the PM2,5 since it is an air pollutant with serious effects on health. In South American cities, PM2,5 is the main air pollution issue and the main cause of death due to poor air quality (World Health Organization, 2021).

Methane is considered a GHG with a global warming potential, 67 times higher than CO2, in a period of 20 years (AIDA, 2020). Nevertheless, SLCP remains for only 12 years in the atmosphere. 40 % of this GHG comes from natural resources such as volcanos, 60 % from ranching, mining, and dumping sites sources, and almost 25 % of global warming is attributed to this GHG (AIDA, 2020).

Ground-level ozone is created from the interaction between solar light and other gases such as methane or NOx coming from vehicles or industrial emissions. Higher concentrations of ozone to ground level in the air can produce negative consequences on human health as pulmonary diseases and respiratory issues including asthma (World Health Organization, 2021).

Lastly, Hydrofluorocarbon (HFCs) are gases produced by humans, these gases entered the market to replace chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) when these were regulated by the Montreal Protocol (Ortúzar & Tornel, 2016).

All these components have three common aspects. First, they do not remain in the air for a long time, that is why their climate effects are regional and their changes are linked to emission source modifications (AIDA, 2021). Second, they are very intense for climate, which means that they have a warming potential higher than CO2, which is why they cause between 30 % and 45 % of the earth's warming. Lastly, these components also pollute the air and have a negative effect on our health.

Due to their important climate role and their effect on air quality, the Sixth Evaluation Inform from the Intergovernmental Group of Climate Change Experts (IPCC in Spanish) dedicates, for the first time, an entire chapter to SLCPs (IPCC, 2021). In this chapter, they highlighted their integral management, which is crucial to mitigate the climate crisis and the improvement of our life quality. In that sense, the emphasis made by the IPCC on these pollutants reaffirms the intrinsic relation between climate and air, as well as the urgent need to implement effective and integrated measures for its protection.

## How to act against SLCP?

The IPCC highlighted that the emission reduction of GHG[1] drives to improve air quality. Even though these improvements are not enough, for a lot of polluted regions, to reach air quality guidelines specified by the World Health Organization. It is expected to have more coordinated actions for climate and air from 2040, and the benefits will vary depending on each country's efforts (IPCC, 2021).

For this, it is necessary to count on transversal public policies that understand the connection between climate, and air, and the great opportunity to handle these two problems, which are sides of the same coin.

1. Three of the most common SLCP are also GHG.

According to the above, the energy transition scenario implies debating about current factors that are deteriorating public health in different territories. Despite the way that energy transition is carried out, it is still being argued (in spite of the urgency from different crises), to relate the transition with air quality; which reminds us that any fossil fuel in the transition or as an alternative energy source, will allow us to reach the climate commitments, not even the air pollution goal, due to the emission generated from the burning.

In this way, with proposals about the transition that talk about the climate and air impacts and also health, it is expected to see immediate improvements in air quality, to have positive and fair climate results for the region in 20-30 years (AIDA, 2021).

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3

# The sovereign and democratic energy transition that is taking place behind the government's back


**By: Santiago Aldana Rivera**

Environmental Manager, Specialist in natural resources and environmental right management. During the last few years, he has worked as a consultant and researcher for different NPO about environmental, climate and human rights. Advisor of socio-environmental, mining and energy, and climate issues in the Republic of Colombia Senate. He has been selected in different occasions as a delegate to join international debates about climate crisis.

**By: Ana Malagón Llano**

Biologist and microbiologist from Andes University. She is concluding a Master's in the Interdisciplinary Center of Studies at the same university. She has worked in different organizations, focusing her efforts to implement initiatives that support sustainable development for rural zones in the country. She is currently a researcher of the Climate Justice of the Association Environment and Society where she currently traces and characterizes comunitary initiatives of renewable energies.


During the COP26, ex-president Iván Duque announced Colombia's commitment to reduce 51% of the emissions of greenhouse gases by 2030. This commitment defended the origin of multiple policies decreed for 4 years[1], to show the international community the country's leadership in environmental and climate actions. A part of his pledges was to increase exponentially the energy transition index. According to his government balance sheet, he multiplied 30 times the installed

1. Among the different policies, decrees, and expedited laws, the following stand out: the strategy E2050, The Integral Plan of Management for Territorial Climate Change of the mineral energy area, (PIGCCT), The National Plan of Development 2018-2022, the Mission of Energy Transformation (MTE) which was a proposal from the Minister of Mines and Energy in 2019, the Fifth version of the National Energy Plan (PEN) 2020-2050, The Integral Plan of Climate Change Management 2050 (PIGCCME) and in 2021 linked to the Law 1931 of 2018, CONSPES 4075; a transition legal framework through the Law 697 of 2001, the 3683 Decree of 2003, the Law 1715 of 2014, the articles 221 and 222 the Law 1819 of 2016, the resolution 41286 of 2016, the Law 1844 of 2017, the Bill 365 of 2020, the Law 2099 of 2021 and the Law 2169 of 2021, among others.

capacity to generate energy through renewable energy sources: in 2018 there were 28 MWp and it was to reach 880 MWp in 2022[2].

However, despite the consequences of these indexes in the global narrative transition, different organizations have expressed their fears about the orientation of the energy transition; and how this pledge, regardless of the claims that haunt our territories, involved extractive patterns that stress the reasons that force us to make the transition.

This statement was proven with the Law 2099 of 2021, wrongly called the "Law of the energy transition", which was promptly approved behind the back of communities and civil society organizations. This law confirms marketing signals that guide the transition through an undemocratic, non-sovereign, and unfair scenario.

Firstly, some technologies were included without taking into account the impact and real contribution to climate action (Hydrogen is an example); secondly, the government deteriorated some tools and citizen participation means, aimed to organize the territory, to defend the "public" interest of energy oligopolies instead; common funds and different incentives were established, creating a rivalry between renewable energy and other technologies that still depends on fossil fuels; and lastly, legal and administrative benefits were granted to continue the centralization of energy through the provision of renewable energies to the Interconnected National System - SIN (Voces por el Clima, 2021).

Additionally, some CONPES*, decrees, and laws that support the corporative energy transition were expedited, strengthening unfair power relations in regard to who the energy is for and what is it for, without a clear plan about how to leave the fossil fuel underground[3].

In spite of the powers that facilitate this type of policies, communities have started to organize themselves to resist violent results, such as forced displacement and life or means of subsistence threats, seeking to guarantee the right to access energy and avoiding the socio-environmental conflicts related to the massification of renewable energy projects in departments that historically have been exploited for energy, as it is the case of Cesar, La Guajira, Putumayo, Meta and Atlantic. For this reason, major organizations have been able to manage by their means, funds aimed at the investment of technologies that generate renewable energy to satisfy their need. In the same way, they have managed to have their resources through self-loan methods, and destinate them to the sustainability of their energy projects; in the case of system failure or to extend the opportunity for other families to have access to energy.

The organization of these communities has allowed them to have standardized procedures and capacity for these systems installation, being the communities themselves in charge of managing panels, and taking advantage of the force of

2. This was achieved thanks to the installation of 24 solar farms, 2 wind farms, 10 big scale projects for self production and more than 3000 small scale-self-production photovoltaic solar projects aimed to the development of wind energy offshore and hidrogen green and white (Gas Guide, 2022).

3. The most important renewable energy projects are Ecopetrol Castilla III and San Fernando, and others. These projects are aimed to use renewable energy to extract more hydrocarbon (Ecopetrol, 2021). In the same way, fuel fossils are projected to be a fundamental pillar for the energy matrix in policies such as the Long Term Colombian Climate Strategy E2050, without a clear strategy of the infrastructure de-escalation for exploitation and consumerism (Colombian Government, 2021).

*Translator's note: CONPES are public policies documents created to resolved transversal problematics that involved different actors and are created for the National Council of Economic and Social Policy (CONPES).

the water through turbines or biomass to develop their own activities. Besides having a collateral effect that strengthens the alimentary sovereignty, women's leadership is highlighted in the management of funds and the social network, to guarantee the interexchange and good performance of the project's capacity.

These kinds of proposals have been observed in the department of Cauca, in spite of the acute armed conflict of the territory; organizations such as Colectivo Semillas de Agua and the Association Atucsara, support diverse peasants communities in the installation of solar panels to provide energy for their production projects. Among these projects, they have irrigation systems aimed at food production within the community market garden, and incubation systems for hens, fish, and guinea pigs. In most of these projects, there is an energy surplus that is taken for these communities for their daily needs, food conservation, leisure time and entertainment[4].

The synergy created from this type of action enables to guide the transition to a sovereign, democratic and fair model in all the territories; it allows the communities to resist armed conflict and promote alternatives to the traditional and new proposals of extractivism. In the same way, self-management of these actions strengthens the collective vision of a territory, its own expectations, and limits; this boosts care concepts within the community, leads toward the creation of a transforming transition, and strengthens the warranty of rights such as nutrition matters, self-determination, participation, and the right to a dignified life. This self management shows the absence of Government, and it could be an opportunity to improve statal and independent governments of communities to show a proper reaction during higher critical times and socio-environmental and climate conflicts.

4. Some families have the opportunity to be connected to the SIN*, and they have reduced more than 90 % of the total payment amount for energy, which is intermittent and works under pre-payment methods.

*Translator's note: Interconnected National System (SIN), entity in charge of distribute energy in the whole country.

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# The peasant's position within a fair energy transition in Colombia: municipality of Solano (Caquetá) case of study


**By: Julián Vásquez Sotelo**

Peasant leader borned in the municipality of Solano (Caquetá). He currently lives in the rural zone, leads the peasant's autorithy in the territory and is a second semester student in public management oriented to land approach at the Superior School of Public Management. He lived 20 years in Bogotá and since 8 years ago he returned to the rural life, where he carries out activities with Local Community Groups (JAC).

**By: Yesenia Parrado Rodríguez**

Economist and Management and Rural Development Master's student at the National University of Colombia. She has worked as researcher and professional supporter in rural projects and consulting matters with the National University of Colombia and civil society organizations.


The climate crisis is on the world's agenda and has been prioritized for Gustavo Petro and Francia Márquez's government, which is described as a government of changes and transitions. Among these changes the energy transition is found; this process is not only a simple change of energy sources but implies an approach to an integral vision, to understand what is the energy for, and who are the key actors in this transition.

A fair energy transition in Latin America proposes two main challenges: first, build energy as a collective right which includes diminishing energy poverty, creating an integral conversion while maintaining the energy provision, changing the energy matrix to resignify the technologies from local communities and its problematics, assuring the autonomy of energy at a local level, starting with the democratization process of the energy (Velarde, 2022). Secondly, in the Colombian case, a peasant's active participation in this transition requires three minimum conditions: legal, economic, and energy security.

In regards to legal security, is fundamental to ensure the Peace Agreement of 2016, especially two points "1- Integral Rural Reform" and "4- Solution to illicit drugs issue"; as well as recognizing the legitimacy of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working

in Rural Areas (approved in 2018), and include it in the constitutional body of law.

In relation to economic security, it is necessary to strengthen, foster, and protect the local and peasant economies, as well as provide access to a land that respects the Agricultural Family Unit, in a way that supplies a means of dignified life and enjoyment.

Finally, for energy security, it is essential to ensure basic conditions to allow the whole country's population access to energy, which requires to reach the 3,7 % of Colombians who still don't have access to electricity. This percentage equals 498,000 families located in departments of the Pacific region and Amazonian-Orinoquia (DANE, 2018).

In the municipality of Solano (Caquetá) advances in energy security have not been the best ones. In July 2020 resources of 81,349 million pesos were allocated for the installation of solar panels in six municipalities of this Department (Semana Magazine, 2020), of which more than 5,000 million pesos were destinated to the installation of the photovoltaic solar energy systems for 286 families of 14 districts of Solano (IPSE, 2021). Based on this experience there are some aspects to review and take action on.

In the first place, the technical specifications of the installed systems in homes are not coherent with the basic needs of the peasant families. For example, the power inverter of the photovoltaic system doesn't support providing energy to some of the most important elements for daily work, such as a fodder grinder (basic for a sustainable ranching transition). Furthermore, electrical appliances for refrigeration could only be used on the best summer days, which represents a complex situation due to the relative humidity of the municipality, which is higher than 80 %. These projects are designed in offices of the capital's country by people who are not aware of the spacial and intercultural conditions of the territory. This results in the malfunction of more than half of the installed system in less than one year, this is also aggravated by the lack of technical support of the contractor in charge. In conclusion, this is just the fact of the installation of the energy system but indeed it doesn't really cover the needs of the community.

Currently, there is some information expressing that the new photovoltaic solar energy systems will have a chip, "an electricity meter" to block the system in case of delayed payments. Despite the fact that any charge has been established for these monthly payments, the Resolution 166 of 2020, from the Minister of Mining and Energy, indicates that it could not exceed 24,000 Colombian pesos.

This charge is not coherent, taking into account the economic conditions of the rural population of Solano; due to the monetary poverty in Caqueta that in 2021 reached 44,8 % (DANE 2022). It means that 9 out of 20 people had incomes under 354,031 monthly Colombian pesos and the rest 9,2 % of the population, were in extreme poverty (with incomes under 161,099 monthly Colombian pesos).

Additionally, these charges do not consider the energy poverty concept expressed in the Constitutional Court in the C-565 appeal of 2017, understood as a condition in which a person or familiar core does not have the capacity to pay a minimum amount of electricity to satisfy its domestic needs, or on the contrary, has access to electricity but it is obligated to destinate a huge part of its incomes to the electricity bill. Due to the above, families asked the Minister to establish a monthly installment that does not exceed 10,000 Colombian pesos.

The peasant community is a political, economic, social, and environmental key factor in building fair energy transition bases, even though it is required that justice institutions reaffirm peasants as individuals with political, economic, social, environmental, alimentary sanitary, and now energy rights.

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# Patriarchy and climate crisis

**By: Sandra Rátiva Gaona**

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The patriarchy is a term used by groups of women and feminists to refer to the structure of domain built historically and violently, and that converts the sexual difference (physical and biological) into social inequity between women and men[1], and it is expressed under different fields and social production as the sexual division of labor, the exclusion in languages, misogynist religion, machismo institutions, norms, laws, desire, love and feeling structure, and some others.

In that sense, the patriarchy is mainly a logic, a way to organize the materialized world from at least four millennia ago, and that determines the major part of social and current ecosystem relations, legitimizing the inequity between masculine bodies/values (as a superior nucleus of this social order) and the rest of life planets. Feminine bodies, feminized, and the rest of the species and ecosistems[2], are considered passive individuals to be dominated and used for power accumulation and material and energetic resources, including the labor force of animals, humans and nature.

The patriarchy, mixed with the accumulation of capital, started in the S.XIV and with the colony modernity that reorganized geopolitically the whole world in the S.XVII, these are three reasons for the long period of crisis we encounter today in our civilization. Regarding that, it is interesting to make

1. See: Federici, Silvia (2015) Caliban and the Witch. Mujeres, cuerpo y acumulación originaria. Editorial Tinta Limón, Pez en el árbol, Puebla-Oaxaca, Mexico; Mies, María. (2019). Patriarchy and accumulation on a global scale. Editorial Traficantes de sueños, Madrid; Sendón de León, Victoria. (2002). Marcar las diferencias: Discursos feministas ante un nuevo siglo. Editorial Más madera 35 and Editorial Icaria, Barcelona.

2. To go deeper into this process, I recommend reading "Patriarcado y acumulación a escala global" by María Mies, "The fantasy of individuality: on the socio-historical construction of the modern subject" by Almudena Hernando Hernando and Volume I of "En la espiral de la energía. Historia de la humanidad desde el papel de la energía (pero no solo)" de Ramón Fernández Durán y Luis Gonzáles Reyes.

zoom on the climate crisis, and comprehend it as actions of planetary climate system transformations, and subsequent effects on other systems of interdependent ecosystems, that sustain human and non-human life; provoked by the patriarchal colonialist capitalism, in particular the excessive consumerism of hydrocarbon, for the destruction of the strategic ecosystem and for the rapidly colossal of the metabolic process of the agro-industrial urban model. The manifestations of this crisis are widely known and are not going to be detailed here.

Instead, a reflection of how the climate crisis is an additional and specific threat to women's lives will be explained, in particular in southern countries since women are exposed to i) known vulnerable scenarios during catastrophic situations (forced displacement, excessive labors of care, additional labors of restoration, among others), ii) losing rights gained before (sexual and reproductive health, economic autonomy) and iii) new risks unknown before the climate uncertainty. Some of the aspects where vulnerability is evident will be mentioned.

One of the major risks that the climate crisis exposes people to, is the difficulty to access food and water. This risk is aggravated for women due to the pre-existed gaps compared to men (who have more access, sooner and with major job possibilities, access to land, higher income levels, education, or statal provision of aids or scholarship). The above scenario represents the inequity encountering the main risk of the climate crisis. In Colombia, as an example, in regard to land and alimentary production in the peasant's community, 48,1% of the rural population is compound by women but 64% of unique owners of lands in this zones are men[3].

It is estimated that only 7,3% of productive women have received technical assistance in comparison to 10,3 % of men. In the same way, rural women of common-urban fields and poverty conditions, are at higher levels of risk before environmental damages are caused for extreme meteorological events. The catastrophes destroyed homes and subsistence means, which means more difficulties to warranty women's and children's well-being, as well as a higher risk to lose their jobs, incomes, and often, their basic substance basic conditions. 80% of displaced people due to climate-related issues are women (UNO Women, 2021). The details about climate crisis risks for women are abundant, which haven't implicated adopted policies that have a responsibility regarding this matter.

From a different angle and thinking about associated political decisions related to energy transition as a mitigation initiative to the climate crisis, we have a different scenario that in spite of showing the severe inequity between women and men, does not mention decisions that benefit the population; the transport, that is the economical sector that a planetary scale consumes more energy.

A report by Ramboll Smart Mobility (2021) about the relationship between mobility and women in European countries and India[4], shows that women walk more and use public transport along with boys, girls, and people in charge of women; among other reasons, because women have less access to have possession of an individual vehicle. In the case of family cars' usability, women have less access to these vehicles because it is harder to have a driver's license or have all the expenses related to their use. This data, of course, is stressed in the south of the globe in countries like Colombia where there is no automotive industry and where the vehicle is not necessarily a mass property/good compared to other societies of the north or industrialized countries like Mexico, Brazil, or Argentina.

3. See: https://www.javerianacali.edu.co/intercultural/propiedad-de-la-tierra-y-mujer-rural

4. The IDB, in its document "Female participation in the transport labor market", confirms that there are no detailed or comparative data on women and their preferences in the use of transport for Latin America.

Before this differential scenario in terms of public transport (the one that uses more energy on a national scale) less or nothing defines the public policy to improve massive and contingently the public transport and the human traction modalities such as the bicycle, short distances, or the urban infrastructure to walk. The attempts to eliminate violence or street aggression in public transport to girls, yours, teenagers, and women are worse than anything; an improvement would be significant for women's lives as a whole.

From a critical antipatriarchy outlook, it is clear that the current climate and energy policy is not based on reaching higher well-being grades for majorities (that means women, boys, girls, and other people women take care of) nor the achievement of climate or environmental restoration scales. The interest is still the illusional increase, of an economic index like GDP or macroeconomic growth, which are limited to monetary dimensions of life[5]. This type of social and political behavior is clearly patriarchal, not only because affects women but also because they are far from life care, well-being, or happiness and blind cooperation practices, solidarity, and substantial out-of-market circuits.

The economy is a system of deep patriarchal beliefs, not only because it is compounded in major by men, but also because it is a threat to life itself and subordinates the basic conditions of existence and social reproduction to capital reproductive conditions. There is a deep patriarchal issue in this climate crisis.

5. I develop these ideas deeper in Rátiva-Gaona, Sandra (2021). Interdependence as an analytic key to plan the energy transition. In T. Roa (Ed.), *Energies for transition. Reflections and narratives* (pp. 167-85). Censat Agua Viva; Henrich Böll Foundation.

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# A fair energy transition in La Guajira: Afro-Caribbean women´s outlook

**By: Ati Gunnawi Viviam Villafaña Izquierdo***

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*Special appreciation to María José Pinto Arregocés AND Greilys Pinto, for sharing their valuable perspectives which contribute to this dialogue before a fair energy transition in La Guajira.*

Considering justice in the energy transition process leads us to think about historical injustices that took part in deeply poverty territories, as is the case of La Guajira. Are the pledges for a Fair Energy Transition (in this article referred as FET) the opportunity to restore these communalong ities? What should be considered when searching justice during the energy transition process?

The International Labour Organization - ILO, refers to the term "greening economies", which means guiding a transition towards economies and societies environmentally sustainable; based on principles such as the social agreement about sustainability goals, and the way to achieve them. It is essential to have a dialogue and review with the involved parties any policymaking and also consider gender dimensions. (ILO, 2015).

The FET is within this framework and according to Yanguas et al. (2021), it should propose a broad-based transition that accounts for a socioeconomic transformation, it should be a democratic and sustainable transition, based on a new social agreement that pursues a dignified life and respects global limits, respectively.

Nevertheless, contrary to what is expected of a FET process supported through a legal framework; the Energy Transition Law approved by the Congress of the Republic in 2021, encourages the diversification of the country's energy offer, toward resources that are not necessarily renewable (as is the case of the blue Hydrogen which comes from methane sources). It does not provide a repairing framework for the historical damages in the communities, which have suffered devastating consequences for the extract mining projects in La Guajira, adding the aggravating fact that, under a public utility status, it difficulties the socialization with communities and the right to a previous exercise of dialogue.

These and other inquiries were formulated by en-

vironmental organizations from civil society in 2021, when the law was still a legal ongoing project. These organizations identified the absence of an effective action to counteract the climate crisis since the diversification of the energy offer generates an addition to energy, but delays transition processes that imply decarbonizing the energetic matrix; on the contrary, it perpetuates an extractive economy of carbon and gas.

One of the warnings, from the Afro-Caribean women of La Guajira, is a claim related precisely to the urgency of socialization, which impedes a wide conversation and dialogue, preventing the democratic nature that the FET demands.

## FET in La Guajira?

La Guajira is one of the six districts whose main activity is the extraction of natural resources, (including high-quality wood, pearls, salt, gas, petroleum, and carbon) it represents more than 40 % of the district's GDP. In regards to the type of extraction performed there, there is a high volume and high intensity mining, being its last commercial destination the export market. Yanguas et al. (2021) established that an extractivist economy is one of the major obstacles to a broad, sustainable, and democratic transition.

In La Guajira, an investment of 2,525 million dollars is projected for the construction of 16 wind parks in Uribia, Maicao, and Riohacha. The construction of these parks will allow a quantum leap (from 0,5% to 12%) in the installed capacity of this type of source, increasing the energy consumption of 4,1 million users. But still, it does not cover the 987,781 people that live in the district[1]. Even though Indepaz (2022) warns about a green extractivism modality that privileges multinationals in the construction of wind parks, as is the case of one of the first parks, Guajira I, located in the Media Luna zone in the village of Cabo de la Vela. In the beginning, was a Wayuu[2] property, even though the management of the project (formed by a small group of Engineering companies) lose the war against the 8 multinationals that head the project today.

Additionally, the communities reported violations of the right to free, prior and informed consent. Through a letter written by Denys Velásquez in January of 2022, along with 856 identified communities, they demanded, the president of the Republic at that moment, Iván Duque Márquez, a broad socialization of the projects with a translation to Spanish and Wayuunaiki (Indepaz, 2022).

An Afro-Caribbean woman, from the Chancleta resettlement, who makes part of the investigation group Negras Hoscas expressed her outlook on the consequences suffered by her territory and her community:

*'The main consequences of this energy transition process in context, are arguments between tribes of the Wayuu community, breaking of social network, and health afflictions due to the denial of dialogues and agreements. They just arrive and impose on the communities."* (A. Roa. Personal Outlook, 18th of August, 2022).

In Hatonuevo, another women leader, member of the organization Chef of Ancestral Dreams "Cocinera de Sueños Ancestrales", shares her expectations regarding the energy transition of the region:

*"Another form of the energy transition is to stop using carbon to create energy. Here in La Guajira is something that no one uses; even though, we see in other countries*

1. According to DANE, cutoff day June 30th 2021. https://www.comfaguajira.co/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Perfil-Territorial-GUAJIRA.pdf

2. "Formed by the municipalities of Uribia, Manaure, the indigenous resguard of the medium and High Guajira (Manaure) and five private shareholders. The Waya Wayuu Association and the ONIC made part of the creation of this project since 2002". (Indepaz, 2022).

*that carbon is used to create energy. The idea is to stop using carbon to start producing clean energy sources."* (A. Roa. Personal outlook, 18th of August, 2022).

To conclude, the centralization in the production and distribution of energy is extremely worrying, since it puts the communitie's energy sovereignty at risk. Camilo González from Indepaz (2022) exposed the case of the Wayuu company Esp, formed by municipalities of Uribia, Manaure, the indigenous resguard of the medium and High Guajira (Manaure) and five private shareholders, created and boosted the project "Jouktai", which has been planned since 2002 under a participative model. According to the founders, this project became property of the Canadian multinational Isagen without prior discussion and compensation protocols, among others. This example reinforces the absence of statal support for the "Communitary Energy" model.

The lack of intention to repair and recover the historical injustices in this district is alarming. Furthemore, the gender, ethnic focus and wide democratic participation are essential to have a fair energy transition process.

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# Principles and proposals around transitions and climate justice in Colombia for COP27

**Edited by: Leidy Jhoanna Cifuentes**

In the current situation, where climate imbalance and the proximity of fossil energy scarcity are evident, the Colombian government's interest in positioning topics considered still taboo, such as degrowth or leaving fossil fuels in the ground, is presented as an unprecedented opportunity, but also as a great risk: we can take on this challenge by changing the form but not the substance. That is, changing to an energy matrix that continues to depend indirectly on fossil fuels and, even worse, implementing ideas identified as "green", "renewable", and "zero neutrality" but whose systems are deeply destructive for the communities and ecosystems where they are installed.

Taking into account this outlook, from the Voces por el Clima group we promoted the "Meeting on transitions and climate justice in Colombia: visions towards COP27"[1], with the participation of civil society organizations[2] from different parts of the country and the national government, represented by the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development and the Ministry of Mines and Energy.

As one of the relevant results of the meeting, collectively constructed principles and proposals emerged, which seek to bring us closer to a joint narrative for a fair transition and climate justice in Colombia and serve as input to the government and organizations to be considered and included in their positions. In this way, we seek to build the path to move towards horizons that do not enhance climate crisis and that respond effectively to the needs of the different communities and territories, especially the most vulnerable.

## Principles

We consider that the energy transition based on climate justice must take into account the following principles:

### *Democratization:*

» The active and effective participation of communities around the production and management of energy and their territories from the point of view of governance, along with policies that support these community initiatives, is key to achieving transitions and advancing climate justice.

» The sun, air, and water, as sources of energy and as part of nature, should be freely accessible and usable, so they cannot be limited to state management.

1. Carried on October 13th 14th, 2022 in Bogota (Colombia) thanks to the financial support of Transición Justa en Latinoamérica (TJLA) and the German Embassy.

2. Climalab, Environment and Society Asociation, Censat Agua Viva, Heinrich Boell Foundation-Colombia, Ecolectiva Asociation, Interamerican Association for Environmental Defense - AIDA, Semillas Group, National Environment Movement, Pacto x el Clima, Paocos Group, Kankuamo Village from La Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, Granja Agroecológica Mutualitos y Mutualitas, Global Forest Coalition and Cambium.

## *Equity:*

» Initiatives to solve problems of inequity regarding the distribution of the costs and benefits of the climate crisis are a priority and should seek to provide clean, accessible, and reliable energy for all people, as well as promote the redistribution of wealth resulting from the transition, as a way to reduce and avoid energy poverty.

» New dynamics of injustice generated by the impacts of renewable energy projects and the extraction of inputs needed for their infrastructure must be avoided. It is essential to ensure that these projects benefit the territories where they are installed in terms of generation, supply, and access to jobs.

## *Decarbonization and de-fossilization:*

» Decarbonization must be accompanied by a process of de-fossilization of our entire productive matrix, in such a way that allows us to stop relying on sources such as natural gas, oil and carbon.

» Emissions caused by fossil fuels extracted from our territory and burned outside of it are not accounted for, so it is essential to consider them and generate strategies to limit them.

## *Dialogue of knowledges:*

» Understanding the breadth of visions and definitions around transitions and climate justice, the actions proposed around these issues should reflect the diversity of priorities, interests, and responsibilities, so different knowledge systems, practices, and actions should be integrated: from the use of the sun, water and the very energy of ecosystems, including creole seeds, visions that promote conservation, protection and governance of the territory.

## *Historical debt and reparations:*

» Socio-environmental conflicts must be recognized and addressed, generating initiatives to repair the damages historically caused by the extractive industry in the territories, so that they are not repeated in the implementation of projects (new and/or ongoing) of renewable energies.

## *Popular transition:*

» Fair transition must prioritize popular transition, which integrates a social dialogue and collective construction among diverse actors (especially with the groups affected or most vulnerable to the climate crisis), beyond the implementation of renewable energies, technological development, and a corporate vision of transition.

## *Cross-cutting approaches:*

» Gender, ethnic and intergenerational approaches, are key factors to achieve progress in a transition and climate justice, having to be the basis of public policies in all sectors.

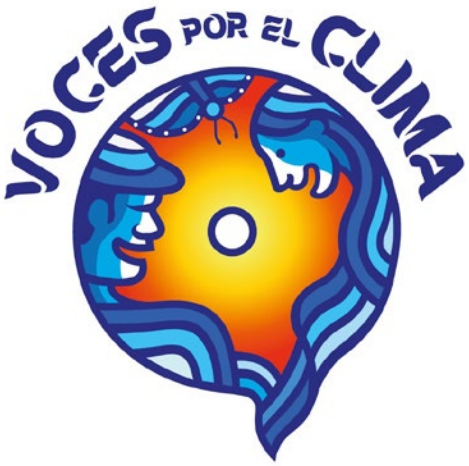
## *Social will + political will:*

» From organized civil society we have experiences and knowledge that we have built over many years, as well as the will to articulate joint actions with the National Government. Therefore, we call for the generation of conditions that allow us to support the just transition and thus achieve progress in climate justice in the country.

# Proposals

We recognize that the challenge is not easy, that are many pressures and that changes in habits are not easy. However, from the experiences of the communities in the territories we propose some paths:

- Regulate approaches to the rights of nature and define the people in charge of materializing them.
- Generate strategies that encourage research for the production of renewable energy technologies at the local level, involving the dialogue of knowledge and capacity building in alliance with the Ministry of Science and Technology.
- Promote technological and technical support so that communities can access, implement and maintain renewable technologies within their reach.
- Create and strengthen public-community partnerships and community-based solidarity enterprises for the transition, which receive funding to promote development at the local level.
- Prioritize renewable energies that benefit productive community self-consumption projects (Ministry of Mines and Energy).
- Include an animal-friendly approach in the development of public policies, both in the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development and the Ministry of Agriculture.
- Generate terms of reference so that within the visits of the National Environmental Licensing Agency, the formal accompaniment of communities and civil society is guaranteed.
- Strengthen the SINA and SISCLIMA work team to generate timely proposals and improve implementation follow-up.
- Enable oversight and control of each ministry's climate commitments vis-à-vis the NDCs and Climate Action Law 2169.
- Reform Law 2099 and the public utilities policy for the promotion of community energy sovereignty, with a view to creating incentives to facilitate access to energy by organized communities (Ministry of Mines and Energy).
- Provide political support to the Environmental Democracy Law Project built by the National Environmental Movement (Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development).
- Create chairs of good living, animal, and food ethics, which promote changes in the educational model in favor of environmental, ecological, and food improvement and human development.




**Voces por el Clima is a collective borned in 2019 in Colombia, bringing together youth, women, indigenous, Afro-Colombian, academic, social and environmental organizations voices that joined together to express their concerns, their analysis and their proposals in the face of the climate crisis.**

**This second issue of the collective's magazine takes a journey through various positions on the energy transition, exposing cases on the institutional and citizen response to achieve it. Finally, it presents messages, key proposals and approaches that should guide the energy transition in spaces of national discussion and international negotiation, including COP27.**

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