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A collection of black silhouettes of people of various shapes and sizes, some holding rectangular signs on poles. They are arranged in a vertical column on the left side of the page, with some overlapping. The silhouettes are set against a light blue background.

# ESTABLISHMENT OF NORTHERN IRELAND'S JUST TRANSITION COMMISSION

Consultation Response  
Caitlin McIlhennon

**1. Do you agree with the proposal that the Commission should be established as an Advisory Non-Departmental Public Body with the chair and its members recruited in line with the guidance issued by the Commissioner for Public Appointments.**

Yes.

Provide reasons.

It is important that Northern Ireland's Just Transition Commission is established as an **independent** advisory and non-departmental public body in order to effectively assess, support and challenge executive plans and policies. Similar to the Scottish Just Transition Commission and its whole of government approach, the nature of the body should help guide government departments to mitigate risks related to regional cohesion, inequality and poverty (including energy poverty) to maximise economic and social opportunities of the net-zero transition by 2050. As part of the advisory role the Commission should provide the Government and all departments with impartial, strategic and evidence-based advice.

The chair and members of the Commission should be recruited in line with the code of practice issued by the Commissioner of Public Appointments. This provides guidance for an open and equitable process which assures applicants and the public that the process will be fair, transparent and will include an independent assessor on the selection panel. However, it is imperative that the results from the responses to this consultation directly inform the drafting of the criteria and skills required of the chair and the members to sit on the Commission in advance of the appointment process, especially with regard to the expansion of the mandatory membership.

The roles and duties of the Chair and members of the Commission should be made transparent to the public, in addition to the production of a supplementary explanatory memorandum as to how the work programme was devised and how the key initial priorities were decided. This is important because of the absence of prescribed functions for the Commission in NI's Climate Act. Similar to the Terms of Reference of Ireland's Just Transition Commission, NI's Just Transition Commission should detail the nature of its independence i.e. agreement to perform its duties in an objective, neutral and fully independent manner, free of any expressed ideology or political position. In addition, the Commission should develop a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government outlining the operational relationship between the Commission and the Government. Ultimately, the mandate of NI's Just Transition Commission must be implemented promptly to empower and prepare communities and households for the opportunities of a net-zero transition and to address specific just transition challenges by providing potential solutions to mitigate these challenges. In addition, analysis provided to the government must be made available to the public including the provision of secretariat, financial and operational resources.

**2. Do you agree the Commission membership should be between 7-20 members?**

Yes.

Provide reasons.

As highlighted in the supporting documents for this consultation, it is imperative that the Commission contains a membership of sectoral representatives represents a broad spectrum of society. The draft regulations require that the Commission must contain a maximum of 20 members. The maximum capacity should be met to ensure the membership is as diverse and inclusive as possible, and that it goes beyond the sectors listed in the Act (see below). This must include having due regard for the benefits of diversity, including on the basis of age, race, religion, disability, family status, marital/civil status, sexual orientation, gender and socio-economic status. In addition, in line with the ever-evolving definition of just transition, the Commission should allow for flexibility for representatives from other sectoral and societal stakeholders and experts, to give presentations and submissions, and to form working groups in response to ad-hoc issues. The Commission should frequently consult with other organisations Equality

Commission, Commissioner for Children and Young People, Human Rights Commission etc. on relevant issues. In addition, article 30(1)(a) of NI's Climate Act proposes that NI: *"have regard to the desirability of co-coordinating those proposals and policies with corresponding proposals and policies in other parts of the United Kingdom, in the Republic of Ireland (recognising that the Island of Ireland is a single biogeographic unit) or elsewhere"*. Therefore, it is important that the NI Just Transition Commission cooperate with the recently established JT Commission across the border to gain knowledge and expertise on how to tackle shared issues, for e.g., Northern Ireland has an emissions profile similar to that of Ireland such as Agriculture being the biggest emitter and that it holds a similar socio-economic and cultural place in Northern Ireland. Similarly, NI is the only devolved administration where LULUCF is a source of emissions rather than a sink.

The Regulations should specify representation for Ireland's Just Transition Commission on the committee to ensure coordination between Northern Ireland and Ireland on just transition issues, as well as Ireland's Climate Change Advisory Council, the UK Climate Change Committee and the Northern Ireland Northern Ireland Climate Commissioner.

To avoid diverse representation being merely "tokenistic":

- Regulations should clearly set out the right of all participants in the committee to have a say in the committees' proceedings and conclusions.
- The regulations should make it clear that where volunteer/lay participants are recruited to the committee they should be appropriately compensated for their time and expenses for participation.
- Regulations should specify capacity building training should be provided to non-expert/lay/community committee members to ensure they are fully empowered to make their voices heard in a committee environment. Regulations should mandate the creation of a complaint's procedure, and they should create the role of designated person to liaise with and support lay/non-expert committee members participation in the committee, who may have capacity to address issues surrounding respect for different cultural or demographic requirements of lay committee members, the balance of power and decision making with the full committee if necessary.
- The Regulations should require the Committee Terms of Reference/Standing Orders should clearly outline routes to ensure that all committee members voices are recognised, supported and heard in committee deliberations, including allowing all committee members to table matters on the agenda of the committee, the requirement to allow specified floor time to all members who table committee items, and the entitlement of every committee member to call for a vote on any item on the committee agenda.

### **3. Do you agree the Commission membership should meet on average 15 days per year?**

Yes, however the Commission should allow for flexibility to form working groups for ad-hoc issues during the implementation phase of climate plans and policies to effectively tackle rising challenges and avail of specialist advice. This is strongly recommended considering the NI Climate Act requires that departments ensure that the principle of "just transition" is applied to the development of **all** proposals, policies, strategies and plans. In addition, the timetable of meetings should align with the drafting of key plans and policies such as the production of NI's Climate Action Plan.

### **4. Do you agree that the Commission should be similar to the Scottish model and supported by a small team to provide a secretariat function to allow the Commission to function effectively?**

Yes. It is imperative to adequately resource the secretariat with staff, budget etc. Important lessons can be learned from across the border concerning the under-resourcing of key institutions in their climate architecture such as the Climate Change Advisory Council, especially when compared to the resourcing of the UK's Climate Change Committee.

**5. Do you agree that members appointed to the Commission should serve a term of 5 years?**

Yes, in line with Northern Ireland's 5-yearly Climate Action Plans (CAP).

*The oversight function of the Commission is a very broad power. Section 37(2)(a) of the Act simply states that it is the role of the Commission is to "oversee the implementation of the just transition elements of this Act". It is when read with other sections of the Act that the oversight function is further defined.*

**6. Do you agree that the Commission would fulfil the oversight function required of it in the Act by reviewing and reporting on the development and implementation of: (a) any sectoral plan published under sections 13 to 21 of the Act; (b) any climate action plan published under section 29 or 51 of the Act; and (c) any scheme established by Regulations under section 31 of the Act.**

Yes. However, there should be clarity about what happens in the event of departments failing to implement the JT principles enshrined in the act or failure to implement sectoral plans and policies. This needs to be clearly defined, whether this makes up part of the functions of the Commission or if not, the oversight and accountability mechanisms should be made clear. The Commission should also devise clear and substantive time-bound JT indicators should also be created to assess the delivery of plans and policies and to help with continuous evaluation and assessment of whether the just transition elements of the Act have or will be met. In addition, these metrics should be made publicly available. It is not clear from the supplementary information provided by the department for the purposes of this consultation whether the Commission is required to provide an oversight function for reviewing the "Just Transition Fund for Agriculture". It is imperative that this is included within the oversight function reviewing and reporting on the development and implementation of the JTFA especially considering Agriculture is the largest emitter (29%) and NI's agriculture emissions are nearly three times that of the UK as a whole and therefore one of the biggest sectors that will be impacted by the move to a low-carbon economy. It is imperative that the Regulations create an obligation for the relevant government departments and public bodies to take into account feedback from the Commission on their statutory plans, in order to ensure that the work of the Commission is real and effective, and connected to the policy cycle. These departments/bodies should be required by Regulations to report back on how they used this input in their work or why they didn't if not. There should be annual review of these reports by an appropriate government committee set out in the Regulations, and annual recommendations issued for statutory or policy reform to support the effectiveness of the committees work where this is evidently necessary from the consideration of said reporting. There should be a statutory or policy requirement for Government to consider the recommendations of the relevant Government committee making such report.

The Regulations should require the Committee to formulate a broad set of guiding criteria influencing how the concept of just transition is defined. The Regulations should require that the concept of just transition is broader than only economic impact resulting from transition from fossil fuels and encompasses both the input and output contributions of social and environmental inequality and injustice to climate change and the need to ameliorate the disproportionate impact of climate change, climate mitigation and climate adaptation on marginalised communities, as well as ensuring equal access to clean and healthy environment. This should be recognised as having all island implications for communities on the whole island of Ireland and requiring consideration in this context.

**7. Do you agree that the Commission would be fulfilling its advice function by: (a) Responding to a Northern Ireland department's request for advice within agreed timeframes. (b) Issuing research and guidance documents for department's to review and consider when developing emission reduction policies.**

There should be a clear statutory requirement in the Regulations for Government departments and public bodies to implement the recommendations of the Commission. There should also be a clear statutory in the Regulations for a requirement for departments to provide a reporting in written format acknowledging that they have considered and/or incorporated the research and guidance documents in the development of their emission reduction policies and where/how exactly they have incorporated or used the responses, guidance or feedback from the Commission in developing their policies or other actions, or if not, detailed reasons why this has not been done. These reports should be submitted annually for review to the PAC or appropriate committee of the NI Assembly, and should inform future policy recommendations of those committees

**8. Should the Commission include representation from the Transport sector?**

Yes.

The energy sector has often been the jumping off point for the just transition, but evidence proves that it will require a whole-economy/ society exercise covering industry, transport, agriculture, land-use and housing. Transport has a significant role to play in reaching net zero especially considering the transport sector is the second largest emitting sector (18%) in Northern Ireland. Transport emissions continue to grow and as of 2022 are up an estimated 21.5% since 1990 baseline figures. This will be a major challenge in meeting climate targets set out in NI's Climate Act, especially considering NI's car dependency (70% of journeys made by car with just 5% made by public transport). Other jurisdictions have acknowledged the close link between the transport sector and the just transition whereas NI has reduced its transport emissions the least out of the four UK nations. A just transition for the consumption and accessibility of transport in Northern Ireland must address rural isolation and regional imbalance, and embrace healthier, more efficient, and more equitable transport systems.

A report in 2022 on Decarbonising Northern Ireland's Road transport found that the Regional Transportation Strategy is outdated and needs to be replaced by a green transport policy that reflects that aim of a carbon neutral transport system in NI. The report importantly raised questions around whether the department has the expertise resource to deliver such plans. Therefore, the Commission must include representation from the transport sector that would be able to provide such expertise and monitor the implementation of existing initiatives and strategies such as Translink's 2030 strategy to reduce emissions by 50% by 2030 and the promotion of zero emissions transport across NI and policies laid out in NI's Climate Action Plans. It also important that the Commission recognises that the decarbonising of NI's transport system will require more than policies on active travel, public transport and electric vehicles. It will require a just transition lens to be applied to the design of net-zero transport strategies ensuring a transportation system that is accessible, affordable and sustainable to enhance social well-being as well as reducing GHG emissions. The shift away from car dependency in particular will require both systemic and behavioural transformation. Changing systems of transport and unsustainable transport habits are an important example of the imperative to advance energy efficiency and conservation, as of March 2019 there were 1 million vehicles registered in Northern Ireland as private cars (Mapping a Just Energy Transition in Northern Ireland, 2021). Existing strategies based on Belfast-centric public transport enhancement and current levels of cost and accessibility for the public are not working to promote and expand the use of public transport as passenger journeys per head of population have remained virtually unchanged. The establishment of a Just Transition Commission can ensure that the principle of a just transition is applied in the transport sector that opens opportunities for the widespread adoption of new forms of transport that are efficient, inclusive, improve human health and wellbeing while also exploring

economic opportunities. It is equally important the representative(s) from the transport sector provide a voice for tackling the systemic isolation of rural communities from modes of clean, affordable and accessible public transport. Green technologies such as low-emission hybrid 'glider' buses have so far been confined to the greater Belfast area.

*The energy sector is a major contributor to GHG emissions in NI. Energy supply contributed to 14% of the total emissions in NI in 2022. However, this is not the full impact as this only includes the generation of energy, mainly electricity.*

*Emissions are measured at source, therefore, there will be energy emissions within the residential and business sector. For example, Building and Product Uses contributes 15% of total emissions and this will include emissions from oil and gas boilers and other forms of fossil fuel heating.*

*The CCC's March 2023 Report assessed that energy emissions will need to fall 51% from 2019 to 2030. This will require changes to the type of heating we use in our homes as well as an increase in energy efficiency measures such as insulation, glazing and more efficient heating systems.*

*Notably one of the barriers to behaviour change in NI is the high percentage of reliance on home heating oil and the standard of housing. It will be important therefore to consider the impact of decisions on the public and the fuel poverty situation in Northern Ireland coupled with a low-income society.*

## **9. Should the Commission include representation from the Energy sector?**

The much-needed acceleration of renewable energy will bring a net boost to job creation across NI however this will require careful planning so that skills are in place, decent work provisions are applied and communities share in the value that's created.

Energy poverty is central to the challenge of achieving a just transition. Rates of energy poverty are consistently high in NI, fluctuating between 20% and 40% depending on a range of factors including low income, energy inefficient homes and high energy prices. In Ireland, strategies and initiatives have been produced to tackle this issue of energy poverty (similar to NI has a high rate of energy poverty (29%)) including the Energy Poverty Action Plan, National Climate Action Plan and the National Energy and Climate Plans. However, they have received backlash for lack of focused, attainable, and time-bound objectives for reducing energy poverty, lack of long-term measures, and insufficient methodologies for measuring energy poverty.

It is imperative that the representative of the energy sector prioritises this issue of energy poverty and can look to other jurisdictions such as Ireland who is years ahead in policy and institutional development to see what has worked and what has not, for example, the representative can provide specialist advice to ensure the Commission has captured the multi-dimensional nature of energy poverty. Improving people's homes tackles energy poverty as well as improving human health and wellbeing. The Northern Ireland Fuel Poverty Coalition (FPC) found that the savings to society from wasted fossil fuels would be in the region of 265million if energy poverty was mitigated, with 14.9million of these savings accruing to the NHS alone. An energy representative in the JT Commission could monitor existing initiatives such as the Affordable Warmth Scheme and the NI Sustainable Energy Programme (NISEP) to identify gaps for improvement. For e.g., 80% of the NISEP funding is targeted at those in energy vulnerability and on low incomes. However, the FPC cite that fact that there is 'huge demand' for the NISEP that is currently unmet for those who are most at risk or endure energy poverty. The Commission should also identify opportunities to develop additional initiatives to effectively tackle energy poverty in line with just transition principles, addressing the structural issues of high rates of energy poverty which previous policy mechanisms have failed to tackle in a meaningful way such as nationwide retrofitting programmes, also ensuring new builds are of the highest energy efficiency standards is also essential to future proof just transition policies.

Faced with the statutory objective to rapidly decarbonise our economy, the immediate issue of phasing out fossil fuels will have impacts on, for example, the 300 workers and agency staff that rely on three major fossil fuel-based power plants across Northern Ireland for incomes and livelihoods. A representative from

the energy sector can ensure that NI's climate plans and policies adhere to JT principles to protect the well-being and material interests of workers and communities of those whose jobs will be dramatically affected by our international and national obligation to decarbonise our energy system.

*Future emissions reduction policies and proposals will require substantial private and public investment and different and innovative funding models and solutions.*

*Whilst the Commission members representing their particular sector may have some financial experience, it may be prudent to have a member that represents the economic or financial sector, as they have in Scotland, given the importance of green investment.*

## **10. Should the Commission include representation from the Financial/Green Finance sector?**

Yes. Financial flows are needed for the just transition at company, regional, national and international levels. Finance needs to come from both public and private sources and the uptake of just transition principles is being encouraged within the financial system.

Just transition emerged as a labour-oriented concept and the financial policy and practice have been at the heart of the Just Transition. The international labour organisation's original Just Transition Guidelines from 2015 highlighted a range of public finance priorities for governments. They also reiterated that Just Transition principles must be integrated throughout every country's climate plans. Equally, long-term public finance is needed to make the just transition a reality for workers, vulnerable communities and consumers in key sectors of the economy. The IPCC's latest report underscored that "*climate finance in support of a just transition is likely to be a key to successful low-carbon transition globally*".

Finance is one key lever to deliver the Just Transition to a sustainable economy, the task now is to convert high-level recognition into the reallocation of public and private finance for sustainability reforms that deliver positive outcomes for peoples in terms of decent work, social inclusion and poverty eradication.

Therefore, Northern Ireland's Just Transition Commission should include representation from the finance sector to help guide and inform exactly how NI's just transition will be funded and provide strategic guidance that rethinks finance in order to make the transition fair and just. Ultimately, strategies that deliver a just transition for workers and communities will inevitably involve changes across the financial system, so to fulfil the Commission's key oversight role a financial representative from the finance/ green finance sector will be imperative to assessing economic implications of financial policies on people as well as identifying opportunities for workers and communities. Ensuring the just transition is hard-wired into macroeconomic and fiscal policies so that the distributional dimensions of climate action are addressed in advance with a whole of society approach. Effective financing of just transitions needs to start with the assessment of the social implications of climate policies and provide costings for the associated investments in human and social capital. Research indicates that institutional mechanisms such as national just transition commissions can help ensure credible governance is provided for financing just transitions that are rooted in clear standards, fundamental labour standards and human rights agreements.

A representative of the finance sector is vital considering the requirement in NI Climate Act to establish a Just Transition Fund for Agriculture. This aims to provide advice and financial assistance to the agricultural sector to help deliver its contribution under policies and proposals within the Climate Action Plan. However, the Act does not state when this must be set up and functioning by. NI's agriculture emissions are nearly three times that of the UK as a whole, and due to this, employment in the agri-food sector could be majorly impacted by the move to a low-carbon economy. Therefore, a representative from the finance sector would be crucial in providing strategic advice on how to mobilise the significant investment needed to achieve decarbonisation in the agricultural sector and more specifically under the Just Transition Fund for Agriculture and how exactly this should be funded and where funding is needed and what for, in line with just transition principles. In Ireland, the European Commission adopted Ireland's Territorial Just

Transition Plan (see below), which incorporated €84.5 million of funding from the EU Just Transition Fund for 2021 - 2027. Match funding from the Irish Government brings the total to €169 million to 2027. This also gives access to EU Investment Bank loans. The Commission should strongly consider the questions and concerns raised in the research paper for the Assembly "Just Transition: Background and Examples". For example, concerns around how the NI Transition Fund will be set up without access to EU funding and with a lack of access to loans/ grants to supplement the fund. In addition, Ireland must produce a Territorial Just Transition Plan to gain access to the EU Just Transition Fund, this should be explored in NI's JT Commission, to assess the benefit of producing plans that set out the impacts of JTF for Agriculture and to identify the development needs and priorities for the sector. Finally, the Commission should engage with Northern Ireland's Fiscal Council regarding the financing of the just transition. Recently, Ireland's Fiscal Council found that the state faces a 20bn euro fine if it fails to reduce emissions by 2030 due to failure to implement measures. The Fiscal Council called for realistic plans to take tackle infrastructure deficits, ageing pressures and climate needs, while also protecting growth. Therefore, representation from the finance/ green finance sector is imperative to avoid future fines due to implementation failure.

The London School of Economics has identified seven priorities for effectively financing just transitions as a strategy for speeding implementation in line with JT principles such as creating decent work for all, reducing inequality and eradicating poverty:

[https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/LSE\\_SCFForum2023\\_JTprioritiesemerging\\_NR.pdf](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/LSE_SCFForum2023_JTprioritiesemerging_NR.pdf)

**11. Are there any other sectors in addition to the Transport, Energy, Finance and those listed in 37(4) of the Act that should be represented on the Commission - and if so, please provide reasons for your answer?**

The proposal states that Commission membership must include those 7 sectors specified in the Act - agricultural, fisheries, academia, trade unions, youth groups, civic society and environmental groups. However, in line with the evolving understanding of what a just transition will entail, it is imperative that social justice groups are also included, as a just transition cannot be fully realised without enabling participation of marginalised communities and addressing structural causes which result in unequal participation. Climate justice is a compound form of injustice, in that it adds additional layers to the injustices already experienced by people who may be economically, socially and politically marginalised. We have arguably evolved past the leading principle of the JT (leave no-one behind) and have already left the most vulnerable behind. It is these organisations on the frontline of the social impacts of the transition towards net-zero so those voices matter that can speak for those most vulnerable/ the most vulnerable communities. Including representatives from the social justice sector can ensure that NI's climate plans and policies are attuned to the inequalities and injustices of marginalised communities, and they could encourage an approach that incorporates social justice and vulnerable groups as well as integrating social policies into climate policies. Those who are already vulnerable in societies throughout NI will be the most impacted by the climate crisis, and eliminating those vulnerabilities needs to be incorporated into all just transition assessments and responses.

In their 2023 Climate Change Assessment, Ireland's Environmental Protection Agency emphasised that:

*"Equity, social inclusion and just transition are crucial considerations in climate policy. Fairer and more equal societies are more resilient to impacts and are more likely to adopt progressive transformative policies. Prioritisation of wellbeing and equity in development and climate policy could bolster the democratic social contract in support of transformation, including improved quality of life, decent work and the value of care. A focus on enhancing equity when designing emissions reduction supports can contribute to securing just transition."*

The principles of "just transition" that must be considered in the development of plans is detailed in s.30 (3) of NI's Climate Act and include:

- Supporting persons who are most affected by climate change, particularly those who may have done the least to cause it or may be the least equipped to adapt to its effects,
- Reducing, with a view to eliminating, poverty, inequality and social deprivation,
- Eliminating gender inequality and advancing equality of opportunity between men and women,
- Supporting the social and economic needs of people in rural areas, and
- Taking into account the future generations principle (to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs).

These principles are designed to ensure that existing inequalities are not exacerbated, including (but not limited to) unequal access to clean and affordable energy, transport, green finance and a sustainable and healthy diet. The just transition addresses various dimensions of inequality, vulnerability and opportunity. It is important to frame the transition with a human rights lens with the aim of eliminating existing inequalities, enabling social inclusion and promoting different forms of equity. Therefore, a representative that can promote these human rights aspects within the Commission and can connect NI's climate goals with human rights obligations. This also aids in overcoming the siloed approach to environmental action on the one hand and social action on the other and make the process of change truly inclusive. With this in mind, DAERA should **extend the mandatory membership** to transport, energy, green finance and social justice organisations. In addition to the extension of mandatory membership the Commission should also engage consistently with the Human Rights Commission.

During the revision of the Climate Act in Ireland, some advocated for environmental law expertise to be represented on the Climate Change Advisory Council. This did not come to fruition. However, DAERA can learn from this by including such representation in its Just Transition Commission as environmental law brings important and relatively unique expertise, around legal concepts like duties, compliance, enforcement, and about how various legal obligations and institutions interact.

*There will be occasions, whereby the Commission may need specialist advice on a particular issue or to set up a separate ad-hoc committee or working group that have subject experts who are not Commission members and who specialise in a particular area.*

*The Commission may also need to establish a means to gather advice from the public, specialists and/or to commission research. The Commission will also have a role in engaging with and listening to impacted groups and organisations in order to be able to advise Government on ensuring fairness and a just approach to policies and programmes.*

**12. Do you agree the Commission should have a power to establish Ad-Hoc Committees or working groups to secure additional knowledge or expertise that may not be available with the Commission:**

Yes. It is important for the Commission to be able to react to and address unforeseen specific acute or long-term challenges arising from the transition and identify targeted supports which may be helpful to tackle the challenges being faced by that community, sector or region. These committees/working groups should have the flexibility to take input from a wide variety of sectoral/societal stakeholders, groups and experts, but this should be done in a transparent manner and all contributions reported publicly, including lists of participants and written or recorded statements provided.

*The Commission as an independent body will provide expert advice and provide input into the policymaking process. The Commission once established will determine its own objectives, priorities and workplan.*

### 13. What do you think the key initial priorities should be for the Commission?

Northern Ireland's Just Transition Commission should:

i) Identify initial opportunities and challenges for Northern Ireland and recommend practical steps and recommendations to achieving a just transition. ii) Ensure that there is coordination between Northern Ireland and Ireland on approaches to just transition.

ii) Have a legal mandate to advise governments on Just Transition planning across all departments to ensure progressive improvement and realisation of just transition objectives/principles. Its initial priorities should be to:

a) Monitor and gather evidence on the social and economic impacts of existing and forthcoming plans and policies on just transition and NI's Climate Action Plan, considering the most vulnerable communities.

i) Enable meaningful and inclusive stakeholder engagement and social dialogues, especially with impacted groups and organisations to ensure a fair and just approach is being applied to policies and programmes. This also would promote consensus and help avoid backlash if these policies and programmes are co-designed and co-delivered by communities, businesses, unions and workers, and all society.

ii) Ensure close collaboration and formal agreements on how to deliver this collaboration with other advisory bodies, in particular parallel bodies in Ireland regarding all-island issues.

iii) Devise and promote public awareness campaigns across a broad range of just transition issues for example, on issues of energy efficiency, energy poverty and the societal benefits of just transition plans and policies. This should demonstrate the ability and capacity of government to manage the necessary process of decarbonising economic activity in a way that builds trust and credibility among wider society.

iv) Examine NI's climate and environmental policy from the perspective of women and marginalised groups, and the most vulnerable communities.

v) Assess the potential impacts, risks and opportunities of sectoral transitions.

vi) Prepare and analyse strategic evidence-based research in relation to just transition, this evidence-based research should anticipate and inform long-term climate policy and investment planning in addition to identifying gaps that shape future research. For e.g. the Commission should investigate devising a National Just Transition Planning Framework (NJTPF) similar to Scotland along with a set of just transition plans. Based on NI's just transition principles the NJTPF would provide a more consistent approach under which more specific sectoral and specific industry Just Transition Plans will be produced. A report by the Nevin Economic Research Institute **Supporting People and Place: Planning for a Just Transition in Northern Ireland** stated that a just transition framework "*provides a structure for stakeholders and government to assess sectoral vulnerabilities and collaborate in the design of carbon reduction policies which support vulnerable workers and communities.*"

vii) Detailed policy analysis for every sector affected, including i) economic, ii) geographical, iii) distributional and iv) identity-based analysis of the transition to highlight differentiated impacts of climate change, climate mitigation and adaptation measures.

vi) Devise recommendations on a set of just transition indicators to support measurement of progress, short-term and long-term, in achieving a just transition - this would make up a key part of the oversight role. j) Establish clear interim just transition targets up to 2045.