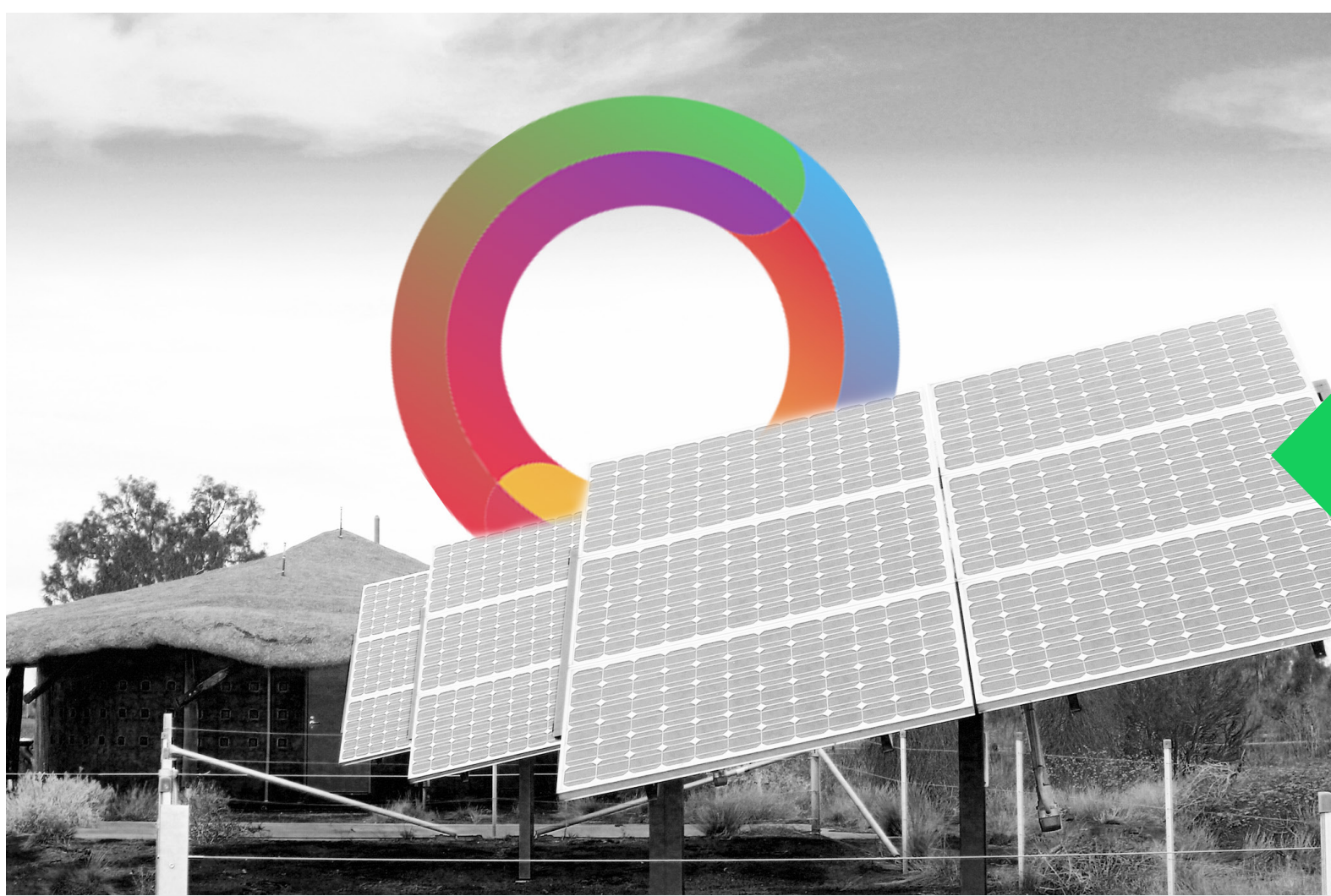




What does 'just transition' mean for Global South countries?

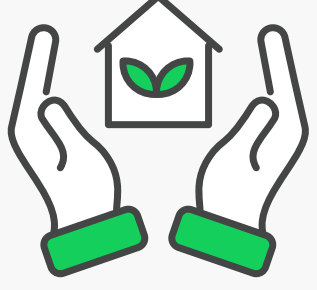





The concept of 'just transition' expands the environmental focus to include a comprehensive commitment to social and economic equity.

How can Global South nations navigate the industrialisation-sustainability trade-off?

Industrialisation is key to job creation in the Global South, but resource constraints often limit the potential for green transitions. Prioritising either one hinders collective global progress towards the SDGs. Based on a literature review and interviews, we explored what a 'just transition' could mean for nations balancing urgent economic demands with long-term environmental goals.

Findings show that:

- 1  **Investment in green technologies** can drive both economic growth and environmental sustainability – the two are not mutually exclusive.
- 2  The green industrialisation capacity of different countries is highly uneven. Many **Global South countries lack the resources** to swiftly adopt green energy technologies while driving economic growth.
- 3  Comprehensive strategies that include short-, medium-, and long-term goals create pathways towards **fairer green transitions** while ensuring that crucial development objectives are not compromised.
- 4  Prevailing development finance mechanisms fail to adequately address **historical responsibility** for the disproportionate and severe impacts endured by **climate-affected communities** in the Global South.

To foster an SDG-centred just transition in the Global South:

- **Prioritise job creation and energy efficiency in green transitions.** Global South governments should focus just transition efforts on job creation, structural transformation, and developing energy efficiency regulations.
- **Accelerate green transitions globally.** Renewable energy alone cannot meet the Global South's energy demands. Global North countries can compensate by accelerating their own transition to eco-friendly practices, technology transfer and the adoption of equitable practices.
- **Invest in sustainable local development.** Investors and funders can foster just transitions in the Global South by incentivising local employment, skills development and green technology innovation.
- **Advocate for climate justice.** Governments and civil society must advocate for climate reparations. The UN, World Bank, and development institutions should prioritise integrating differentiated responsibilities into their funding and policy frameworks.

There is an urgent need to find a **balance** between the drive to **industrialise in the Global South** on the one hand, and the need to tackle **environmental challenges** on the other.

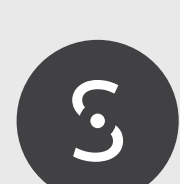


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