

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR A JUST SOCIO-ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION 2025-2035

“During our administration, we have worked to place environmental protection and sustainable development at the core of the State’s decisions... In this regard, we have approved the National Strategy for a Just Socio-Ecological Transition”

Gabriel Boric Font

President of the Republic of Chile

State of the Nation address

June 1, 2025

1. BACKGROUND

The National Strategy for a Just Socio-Ecological Transition, hereinafter the “Strategy,” is an **intersectoral policy** that combines a set of public instruments, constitutes the Social Pillar of the 2025 Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), and fosters synergies between international climate commitments, their implementation at the national level, and the challenges faced by territories undergoing transition in pursuit of a more sustainable future.

Mandated by the Interministerial Committee for a Just Socio-Ecological Transition (CITSEJ)¹ and led by the Ministry of the Environment (MMA), this Strategy began being developed in January 2024 with the technical assistance of the United Nations Development Programme. It involved **broad citizen participation**, engaging more than 700 people in various activities carried out across the country’s 16 regions, and bringing together the private sector, trade unions, academia, environmental organizations, international bodies, and citizens interested in the subject. For the first time within the MMA, this public policy **incorporated a Strategic**

Environmental Assessment (SEA) process, which was successfully completed, strengthening the environmental standards of the policy, as well as its commitment to sustainable development and transparent and participatory public governance.

Its purpose is to support the processes of industrial closure or conversion, preventing new impacts in territories that have been historically affected, and to ensure that these transformations are carried out with a **focus on social and environmental justice**, turning them into opportunities for the country’s sustainable development.

It should be noted that the specific impacts of the triple crisis in our country have deepened problems that have directly affected the well-being of the population and ecosystems for decades. Their underlying causes are linked to the intensive use of fossil fuels; the extraction and use of natural resources in industrialized economic activities; greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions; and the use and distribution of water.²

¹ CITSEJ is composed of the Ministries of the Environment; Social Development and Family; Labor and Social Welfare; Health; Women and Gender Equality; Education; Economy, Development and Tourism; Mining; and Energy. It is complemented by the Interministerial Committee for a Just Water Transition, which includes the Ministries of the Environment; Public Works; Energy; Agriculture; Mining; and Science,

Technology, Knowledge and Innovation. Since their establishment, both committees have been chaired by the Minister of the Environment, and as of October 2025, they have been merged into a single Committee.

² Ministry of the Environment. (2024). 2024 Environmental Status Report. Visit <https://iema.mma.gob.cl/fuerzas-motrices/antecedentes>.

CHART 1: JUST SOCIO-ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION: FOR PEOPLE, ECOSYSTEMS AND TERRITORIES

The Just Socio-Ecological Transition (TSEJ) is defined as the process of transformation and/or adaptation of sociocultural systems toward ecosystem balance, human well-being, and sustainable production models, within the context of the triple crisis of biodiversity loss, climate change, and pollution. It ensures a human rights, gender equality, and decent work-based approach.³

In technical terms, the TSEJ is based in the Just Transition framework,⁴ which recognizes, among other aspects, the need to address change through social dialogue and the participation of workers. In greater depth, it seeks to highlight the **interrelation between social and ecological systems in the**

transformation processes of different productive sectors. This approach takes into account international climate commitments established under instruments such as the Paris Agreement⁵ and the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,⁶ while it adapts to the specific circumstances and opportunities of each country and territory. The Strategy places social and environmental justice at the core of decision-making to ensure that, throughout these transformation processes, **no one is left behind** and to avoid negative externalities on the well-being of communities, workers, and ecosystems.

2. STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK 2035

“The State now has a roadmap to comprehensively address the productive, environmental, and territorial challenges involved in the productive transition processes the country will face through 2035.”

Maisa Rojas Corradi

Minister of the Environment of Chile

August 2025

In line with Chile’s climate commitments, the Strategy’s **objective** is to safeguard social and environmental justice within the framework of the transition toward a low-carbon and climate-resilient economy, providing strategic guidelines to address historical socio-environmental inequalities and to enhance opportunities for social well-being, quality employment, and ecosystem protection.

Its strategic framework is based on **five guiding principles**, which aim to ensure that transformations are properly implemented and are both socio-ecological and just, safeguarding against the creation of new social and environmental inequalities. These principles are: Sustainable Productive Development, Decent Work, Ecosystem Approach, Gender Equality, and Human Rights. Additionally,

³ MMA. (2023). Interministerial Committee for a Just Socio-Ecological Transition. Session of 15 November 2023.

⁴ United Nations Development Programme and Ministry of the Environment. (2025). Just Socio-Ecological Transition: Bases, progress, and challenges in Chile. Santiago, Chile. <https://www.undp.org/es/chile/publicaciones/transition-socioecologica-justa-fundamentos-avances-y-desafios>

⁵ UNFCCC. (2021). Decision 1/CP.21 Adoption of the Paris Agreement. <https://unfccc.int/documents/9097>

⁶ Convention on Biological Diversity. (2022). CBD/COP/15/L.25. Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Available at: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/2c37/244c/133052cdb1ff4d5556ffac94/cop-15-l-25-es.pdf>

it defines **4 strategic axes, 18 guidelines, and 76 targets** (Figure 1), with a timeframe extending to 2035.

The first axis, **Opportunities for Decent Work**, aims at taking preventive actions in the promotion of decent work and the creation of jobs in sectors of the economy that contribute, in particular, to climate neutrality and water security. It identifies groups of workers potentially affected by productive transformations, initiating processes of tripartite dialogue, safeguarding their rights, and generating new employment opportunities.

The second axis, **Ecosystem Restoration and Protection**, seeks to increase actions for the protection and restoration of ecosystems affected by the concentration of high-emission activities that could cause negative externalities, and to strengthen the regulatory framework focusing on environmental conservation and recovery, paying partic-

ular attention to the sources, use, and management of water resources.

The third axis, **Social Well-being and Gender Equality**, aims to improve the quality of life of communities through public policies with a gender perspective, for the protection and promotion of rights, capacity building, and the creation of opportunities, based on productive transformations for climate neutrality and territorial development.

The fourth axis, **Innovation and Technology for Sustainable Productive Development**, is focused on promoting knowledge generation, innovation, and the adoption of clean technologies to accelerate the transition toward sustainable, low-emission production models that contribute to the country's water security, fostering collaboration between the State, the private sector, social organizations, and academia.

FIGURE 1. STRATEGIC AXES OF THE NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR A JUST SOCIO-ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION



3. 2030 ACTION PLAN

In Chile, the triple crisis exacerbates environmental and social problems, particularly among vulnerable groups. Throughout the 20th century, the country increased its extractive, productive, and energy capacities, which led to the concentration of industrial activities in certain territories. This is the case in Tocopilla, Mejillones, Huasco, Quintero, Puchuncaví, and Coronel. All of these communes hosted coal fired power plants; some of these industries are still operating, while others have entered into voluntary closure and/or conversion agreements. These communes, referred to as **Territories in Transition**, require coordinated measures to promote labor reconversion and the creation of quality jobs, as well as the protection and restoration of ecosystems affected by pollution and the improvement of residents' quality of life.

The Strategy includes a 2030 Action Plan built with **101 measures**, with a priority focus on the aforementioned territories. To reinforce the sense of urgency and opportunity, 91% of these measures will begin implementation between 2025 and 2026, reflecting the State's commitment to advancing environmental and social justice in these territories.

Regarding labor, the Strategy proposes employment placement programs, social dialogue mechanisms, prospective labor studies, training on capacity building, competency certification, and university quotas to support workers in reconversion processes and strengthen local employability. It also includes regulatory and environmental management measures, such as laws, policies, and regulations addressing potentially polluted sites, air, water, and noise quality, as well as guidelines for good practices in industrial closure or conversion that contemplate ecosystem restoration. Additionally, studies on how pollution affects people's health will be conducted alongside the promotion of investment initiatives in sanitation

infrastructure in the Territories in Transition. The 2030 Action Plan also promotes productive diversification through technology innovation funds and competitions, as well as applied techniques in the water, energy, and infrastructure sectors, among others. Partnerships between the State, academia, businesses and communities are designed to generate sustainable territorial value chains.

The committed measures are aligned with the Escazú Agreement to guarantee access to information, participation, and environmental justice, promoting spaces for social dialogue, thinking, and training focused on environmental defenders, women, children, and adolescents. Moreover, a gender perspective has been mainstreamed into preventive actions against violence toward women in contexts of productive conversion, along with initiatives to reduce wage, employment and skills gaps in these territories.

Among the committed actions, some are particularly relevant due to their alignment with the issues addressed by the TSEJ: in **Quintero-Puchuncaví**, a project for the removal and utilization of slag will be carried out as part of the closure plan for Codelco's Fundición Ventanas (copper smelter and refinery); and in **Coronel**, an odor emission standard will be developed for the fisheries sector.

CHART 2: STATE SUPPORT FOR THE PROGRESS OF A JUST SOCIO-ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION IN CHILE

To ensure the proper implementation of the Strategy, the Ministry of the Environment will carry out follow-up and monitoring of progress through quarterly partial reports and an annual report, considering both the compliance with the measures of the 2030 Action Plan and the achievement of the 2035 targets. Additionally, an evaluation of the instrument will be conducted one

year prior to its update, specifically in years four (2029) and nine (2034), taking into account that the National Strategy for a Just Socio-Ecological Transition (ENTSEJ) will be updated every five years, as deemed appropriate by the Interministerial Committee for a Just Socio-Ecological Transition, and in coordination with the update of the NDC.

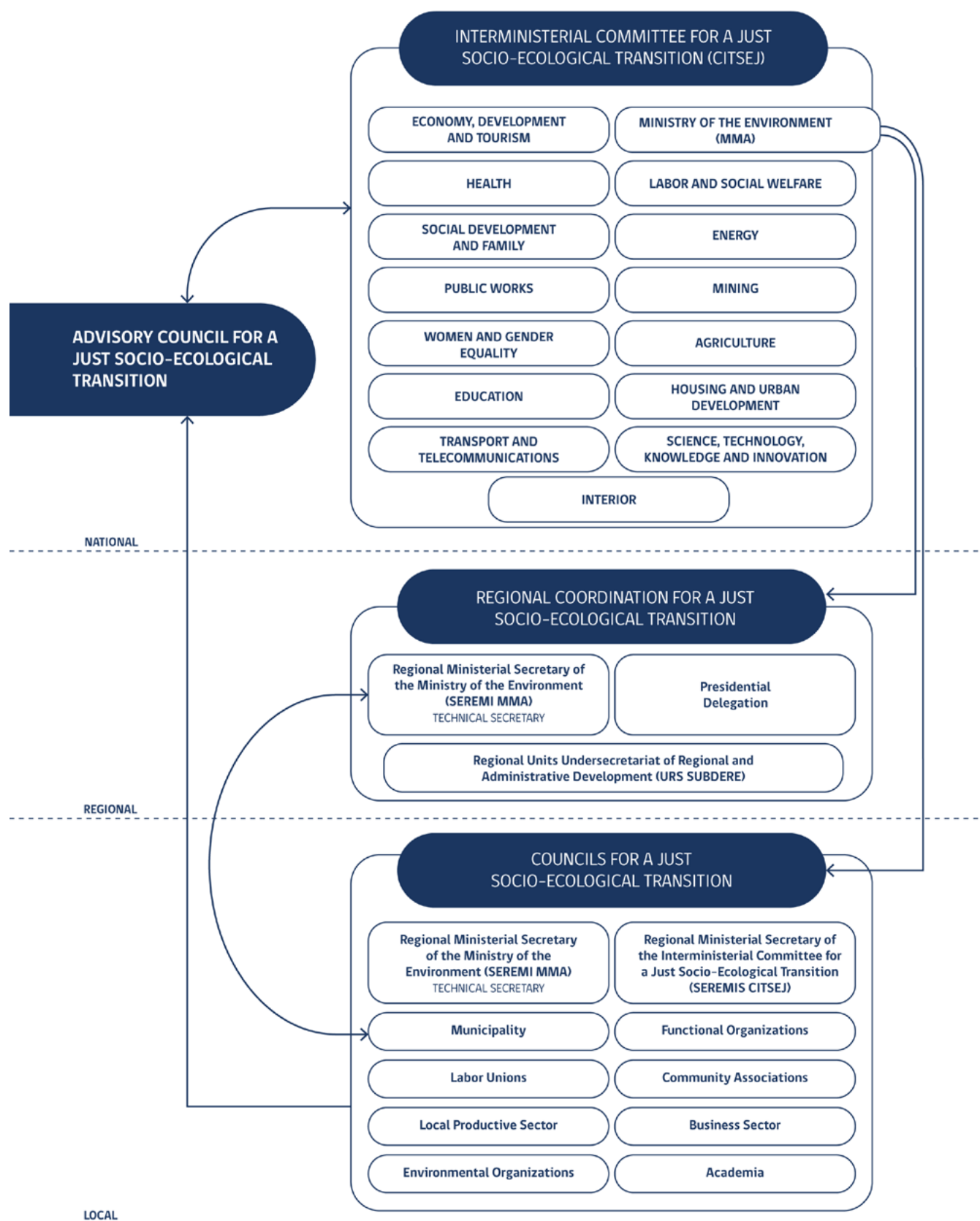
4. GOVERNANCE AND FINANCING

To ensure clarity, transparency, and legitimacy in the implementation of this instrument, a **collaborative and multilevel governance model** is being contemplated. At the national level, the Interministerial Committee and the Advisory Council for a Just Socio-ecological Transition will operate. Additionally, there will be a Regional Coordination level, and also a local level that will work directly within the affected territories, where Just Socio-Ecological Transition Councils will be established, including representatives from the productive sector, businesses, civil society, labor unions, and municipal, regional, and relevant Regional Ministerial Secretariats (Figure 2). The design of local governance structures has taken into account lessons learned from the experiences of the Councils for Environmental and Social Recovery.

Regarding financing, four types of funding sources are proposed, divided according to the origin of the resources: public, private, mixed, and international. This distinction is relevant, as increasing both international and national financing flows is necessary to support a just socio-ecological transition.

In this regard, Chile has made institutional and regulatory progress that enables the mobilization of resources and the coordination of instruments such as public budgets, sustainable bonds, emissions offsetting systems, competitive grants, international cooperation, and multilateral banking. Notwithstanding the above, a significant portion of the measures committed by various public agencies will currently be financed through public budgets requested by each ministry responsible for their implementation.

FIGURE 2. GOVERNANCE GENERAL STRUCTURE



5. CONCLUSIONS

“Chile is now facing a key opportunity to redefine its development model, moving toward a more diversified and sophisticated economy with lower environmental burdens that may be distributed fairly... This instrument seeks to prepare the country to rise to future challenges with greater capacity, resilience and equity”

Maximiliano Proaño Ugalde

Environment Undersecretary of Chile
2025

The productive transformations in Chile are ongoing and diverse. In 2024 alone, major industrial plant closures were recorded, such as the shutdown of *Compañía Siderúrgica Huachipato* (Huachipato Steel Company) in the Biobío Region, and the cessation of coal-fired electricity generation in Tocopilla, Antofagasta Region. At the same time, and for several years now, new low greenhouse gas emission industries have been developing, mainly associated with low-carbon energy generation. Additionally, an industry of critical and strategic minerals, such as lithium, is expanding under a new standard of environmental and social sustainability. Meanwhile, investments are being made in infrastructure to ensure water availability for the operation of national industry, through seawater desalination.

These rapid transformations require timely multi-sectoral responses, whose implementation must be coordinated among multiple actors at the national, regional, and local levels. The State's response to manage these changes, which are simultaneously productive, environmental, and social, is expressed through a set of public policies, including the Strategy for a Just Socio-Ecological Transition itself, as well as other instruments such as the National Lithium Strategy, the Biobío Industrial

Strengthening Plan, the Green Hydrogen Action Plan, the Sustainable Productive Development Program, among others. All of this operates under Chile's Climate Change Framework Law, which aims to “achieve and maintain greenhouse gas emissions neutrality by 2050.”

The Strategy provides the country with a clear pathway to advance in meeting its national and international environmental commitments, establishing the just socio-ecological transition as one of its core pillars. It is the principal instrument to shape up this national vision, consolidating a shared path toward more just and sustainable development. The next steps will pivot on ensuring its feasibility and the effective implementation of its Action Plan, guaranteeing concrete results for communities and the country as a whole.

The National Strategy for a Just Socio-Ecological Transition 2025–2035 can be accessed at the official website of the Ministry of the Environment: <https://mma.gob.cl/transicion-socioecologica-justa/estrategia-nacional/>