TABLE 1
Summary of social plausibility assessments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Social drivers</th>
<th>If the driver continues its current trajectory, will it support or undermine social dynamics toward deep decarbonization?</th>
<th>Do currently observable enabling or constraining conditions support or undermine driver dynamics toward deep decarbonization?</th>
<th>In relation to the 2021 Outlook assessment, are there signs that the direction of this driver is or will be changing?</th>
<th>Under which conditions (e.g., changes in enabling conditions, interaction with other drivers) would a change in direction toward deep decarbonization be expected?</th>
<th>Does this driver provide global resources that are visible and accessible to other social actors or drivers, and how are those resources changing or showing signs of changing?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Supports decarbonization by 2050</td>
<td>Russia’s invasion of Ukraine—opportunities for quicker decarbonization, but risks of “washing out” climate policy and locking in new fossil-fuel dependencies.</td>
<td>Signs of change in direction toward or away from deep decarbonization</td>
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<td>No signs of change in the direction of the driver</td>
<td>Glasgow COP was an important milestone in the run-up to Paris, but NDC ambition levels and implementation efforts are still far from Paris Agreement goals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supports decarbonization, insufficient for deep decarbonization by 2050</td>
<td>COVID-19 recovery programs in most countries did not end fossil-fuel lock-in.</td>
<td>Climate policies regulating momentum through CO2P3 after many COVID-19-related restrictions were lifted.</td>
<td>No signs of change in the direction of the driver</td>
<td>No signs of change in the direction of the driver</td>
<td>A major change in direction can be expected as a result of new geopolitical developments. (i) new international cooperation following an end of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, or (ii) breakdowns of UN multilateralism as a consequence of rising US-China tensions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ambivalent with regard to deep decarbonization by 2050</td>
<td>Pro-climate legislation in the USA, EU, climate-friendly governments e.g., in Australia, Brazil.</td>
<td>The past three years saw substantial increase in the number of transnational initiatives and progress in upgrading of ambitions to align with the 1.5°C temperature goal. Since 2020, the Race to Zero campaign has mobilized thousands of non-state and subnational actors operating in multiple sectors for the adoption of net-zero pledges at the level entity. Transnational initiatives facilitate a strategic shift toward the implementation of net-zero pledges via standard-setting and advisory activities.</td>
<td>No signs of change in the direction of the driver</td>
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<td>Transnational initiatives will support deep decarbonization, provided that they attract new members from high-emitting sectors and countries in the future. They can also improve transparency on greenhouse gas emissions. If they diffuse ambitious reporting standards and data gaps to establish credible carbon benchmarks. Broader participation in decision-making will be key to establish stringent environmental criteria while protecting human rights, nature, and equity. Finally, effective accountability will not happen without favorable regulations and policy incentives.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inhibits decarbonization</td>
<td>Supports decarbonization, but not sufficient for deep decarbonization by 2050.</td>
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6.1.1 UN climate governance

6.1.2 Transnational initiatives

6.1.3 Climate-related regulation

6.1.4 Climate protests and social movements

HAMBURG CLIMATE FUTURES OUTLOOK 2023, Cluster of Excellence Climate, Climatic Change, and Society (CLICCS), Universität Hamburg
Social drivers

If the driver continues its current trajectory, will it support or undermine social dynamics toward deep decarbonization?

Do currently observable enabling or constraining conditions support or undermine driver dynamics toward deep decarbonization?

- enabbling conditions
- constraining conditions
- effect uncertain

- Market-based developments need to be closely tied to investor relations and consumption patterns, which often underpin decarbonization strategies.
- Non-market developments include many transnational initiatives supportive of corporate decarbonization, among them the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) and the Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures.

- There is a growing market for green or fossil-free financial products.
- Long-term expectations are slowly building up (but not yet widespread) that fossil fuels will eventually become "unattractive" and turn into stranded assets.
- The profitability of fossil fuels is expected to remain high, at least in the short term.
- Subsidies for fossil fuels are continually guaranteed in many countries.

- Implementation of climate-friendly infrastructure, increased energy efficiency, replacement of fossil fuels by renewable energy sources, and public awareness and support for action are expected to be further largely bolstered by the current social gains in the demand and production of (new) carbon-intensive goods and services.

- Both supports and inhibits deep decarbonization (depending on level).
- Jusiticentric attention to climate change remains viable because it is seen as more immediate and evidence-based, a focus on conflict can still allow for climate denial to enter media coverage.
- The juristic framing of the topic is likely to remain inconsistent with any regulatory or legislative response.

- Supports decarbonization, but not sufficient for deep decarbonization by 2050.
- Fossil-fuel divestment is growing in number and volume, but these are insufficient to prevent investments in fossil fuel projects and activities that increase the demand for fossil fuels.

- Supports decarbonization, but not sufficient for deep decarbonization by 2050.
- Climate litigation supports decarbonization in close interaction with climate-related regulation, knowledge production, climate projects and social movements, fossil fuel divestment, corporate responses, and media.
- It is clear that climate litigation will increasingly target more companies of the fossil-fuel industry and beyond, and expand geographically—within the exception of the US where recent developments in the US Supreme Court might have a damping effect.

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