

COP30: A MORAL AND STRUCTURAL TURNING POINT FOR OUR COMMON HOME

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The [UN Climate Change Conference](#) (COP30) in Belém marks a defining moral moment for humanity and our common home. While the [Paris Agreement](#) has steered us away from the most catastrophic warming paths, our collective ambition still falls gravely short. Inspired by the [Laudato Si' encyclical](#), “we urgently need to move forward in a bold cultural revolution.” COP30 needs to deliver a fair response plan to close the global NDC (national-determined contributions) ambition gap, end reliance on fossil fuels, provide equitable climate finance, and ensure that the Just Transition is inclusive for all. In the spirit of solidarity and justice, this is a sacred call to protect our common home and restore harmony between people and the planet.

1. THE GLOBAL RESPONSE TO THE COLLECTIVE NDC AMBITION GAP

COP30 stands as a defining moment for humanity and our common home. The progress of the Paris Agreement – guiding the global community from a 3-4°C to a 2.1-2.6°C pathway – should be acknowledged. However, the newly submitted NDCs this year remain dangerously inadequate. The profound suffering, displacement, and loss that a world with 2.1-2.6°C will bring to the poor and vulnerable is not only a policy gap but a moral failure. Further delays will deepen injustice. The recent [advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice](#) reinforces that aiming to limit global temperature rise to 1.5°C is both a legal obligation and a moral imperative.

COP30 must deliver a **credible global response plan grounded in justice and solidarity** to the inadequate collective NDCs, a plan that unites ambition with implementation, founded on the principles of the common good, care for creation, and the preferential option for the poor. This plan should include:

- **Acknowledging Progress and Gaps:** Recognise the achievements of the Paris framework while confronting the persistent shortfall in ambition that continues to endanger affected communities.
- **Enhanced NDCs:** All nations, particularly rich countries and major emitters, must submit enhanced NDCs before COP31 that reflect their fair share of responsibility and capacity.
- **First Global Stocktake:** All countries, particularly rich countries and major emitters, must integrate the agreements from the first Global Stocktake into the enhanced NDCs, including how to advance renewable energy, phase out fossil fuels, end deforestation by 2030, and ensure equitable, grants-based support for developing countries.

- **Fossil Fuel Transition:** COP30 shall commit to a process that results in a timeline for a transparent and equitable phase-out of fossil fuels, with major polluters showing leadership in committing themselves to the path of transitioning away from fossil fuels and actively supporting pioneers from the Global South in their efforts to do the same, respecting differentiated responsibilities.
- **Strengthen Implementation:** Rich and G20 nations are called to strengthen their climate laws and policies in line with equity, shared responsibility, and human rights, acting swiftly beyond current pledges to serve the care of our common home.
- **Climate Finance:** Establish a clear pathway to scale up accessible and predictable quality climate finance to enable all nations to act with integrity and urgency (see *Section 2 below*).
- **Just Transition:** Embed fairness and inclusion at the heart of the transition, through mechanisms such as the [Belém Action Mechanism](#), ensuring that no one is left behind (see *Section 3 below*).
- **Restoring Trust:** The [COP30 Leaders' Summit](#) and the final outcome of COP30 must reflect this renewed global process, strengthening multilateral cooperation as a pathway to peace and sustainability.
- **Process:** COP30 must provide the necessary process for the global response plan to be agreed upon. This includes the Leaders' Summit on 6-7 November.
- **Second Global Stocktake:** Countries should include a systematic citizen-led participation process in the political process of the second Global Stocktake.

2. CLIMATE FINANCE AND DEBT

The Global North owes the Global South an enormous ecological debt. Because they grew their economies by burning coal, oil and gas, the poorest countries in the world have been left vulnerable to climate catastrophe. It is therefore not a matter of charity but of justice that they provide sufficient grant-based, new and additional finance, which they promised in both the Paris Agreement and the [New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance](#) last year in Baku.

What is more, many countries are still spending huge sums of public money on fossil fuel projects and are taking very limited action in regulating private financial flows to environmentally harmful business activities; fossil fuel companies are being allowed to benefit from the climate crisis.

Without the money they're owed, developing countries simply will not have the resources for their mitigation, adaptation and loss and damage needs. They will instead be forced into inaction or taking on more debt - especially in this Jubilee Year.

- Developed countries must provide their fair share of grant-based, new and additional, and accessible climate finance to the **New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance** (NCQG), including through reversing their Official Development Assistance cuts, and COP30 should establish a dedicated negotiation space on implementing the NCQG.
- Within the implementation of the [Baku to Belém Roadmap to \\$1.3T](#) and a renewed mandate for the **Paris Agreement's Article 2.1(c)** process, all countries should commit to stopping harmful private investments, connecting the UNFCCC discussions with other important global processes, and overcoming systemic barriers to public finance for climate action. This includes:

- **Introducing polluter-pays taxes:** from fossil fuel profits levies to wealth and aviation taxes, those who are disproportionately causing the climate crisis must be made to pay their fair share towards its solutions. Additionally, global tax governance must be made fairer – countries should support the proposed [UN Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation](#) and maintain a focus on environmental taxation.
- **Balanced international financial systems:** multilateral development banks must unlock more grant-based climate finance through measures like proportionately reducing their capital buffers, and countries should redirect more of their IMF-allocated Special Drawing Rights assets to developing countries.
- **A fair debt architecture:** developing countries in debt distress will only be able to finance climate action if they are supported with debt cancellation, fair financing, and a mechanism to work out debt in the UN. A UN Framework Convention on Sovereign Debt is necessary to come to a global, binding consensus on the rules, principles, and structures necessary for an equitable and effective international debt architecture.
- **Stopping fossil fuel subsidies and unregulated private finance:** developed nations (and other rich Parties) must take the lead in phasing out fossil fuel and other climate harmful subsidies from government budgets and take market-shaping regulatory approaches to private finance by prohibiting lending and investments in new fossil fuel projects and the companies developing them.
- Both the Baku to Belém Roadmap and Article 2.1(c) spaces have been overly private sector-focused, leaving no significant negotiation tracks to discuss provision of public finance from developed to developing countries (Article 9.1). We therefore call on countries to engage constructively in **creating agenda space** to address this, which will enable proper accountability.

3. JUST TRANSITION

The **failure to plan for addressing the social and ecological transition** beyond fossil-fuel dependency is undoubtedly one of the impediments to rising climate ambition and correcting unresolved historic injustices and preventing new ones from emerging. [UNCTAD estimates](#) that commodity dependence, which can stifle economic growth and perpetuate inequality and vulnerabilities, impacts 66% of small island developing states, 83% of LDCs, and 84% of landlocked developing countries. Though steady progress has been made since the inception of the Just Transition Work Programme (JTWP) at COP27, many countries still lack concrete action. About 72 out of 193 countries (39%) explicitly made references to just transition in their NDCs, but **more still needs to be done**.

In Belém, Parties face a critical opportunity to transform Just Transition dialogues into action for the common good, fostering fair trade and finance systems, managing transition minerals responsibly, and embedding justice at the heart of international climate policy. The proposed **Belém Action Mechanism (BAM)** can empower civil society, local and indigenous communities, foster trust, and operationalise the JTWP beyond 2026. COP30 **must deliver a decisive decision on Just Transition** that turns principles into practice, uniting climate ambition, equity and social justice as called for in [Laudato Si'](#) and [Laudate Deum](#). For the Just Transition Work Programme to be transformative and effective, Parties should:

- **Adopt a comprehensive whole-of-society approach:** countries must uphold a holistic just transition approach that encompasses international cooperation, national

development priorities, enhanced adaptation and climate resilience and human development ensuring that the economic, structural and ecological shifts in society align with the principles of solidarity and the common good.

- **Safeguard communities and nature:** Incorporate just transition plans in the implementation of new and updated NDCs to ensure that social protection and safeguarding of local and indigenous communities, and workers' rights address the consequences of climate change and the energy transition on the poorest and marginalised.
- **Support international coordination and justice mechanism:** wealthy countries should fulfil their financial commitments and support transparent, inclusive mechanisms like the proposed Belém Action Mechanism (BAM) to ensure policy coherence, transparency, meaningful engagement and inclusive participation and shared moral responsibility leading to concrete action for people and the planet.
- **Centre human rights – including gender justice:** governments must place all human rights at the core of all mineral value chains to ensure fair financing, transparent and equitable value chains, and equitable access to renewable energy technology, resources, and capacity building, echoing the moral imperative that no one be left behind.
- **Endorse the [UN Secretary General Panel on transition minerals' roadmap](#):** we call on all Parties to support the UNSG panel's next steps guided by just and equitable principles including policies that prioritise sufficiency, circular economies, wellbeing to avoid the perpetuation of historical injustices and new ones tied to the extraction of critical transition minerals.

CONCLUSION

COP30 should not merely be about negotiations but a test of conscience and call to climate justice and systems transformation which will turn plans into bold, concrete climate actions of solidarity. As [Pope Leo XIV urged](#), *"It is my hope that the upcoming international summits of the United Nations – the 2025 Climate Change Conference (COP 30), ... – will listen to the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor, families, indigenous peoples, involuntary migrants and believers throughout the world"*.

CONTACT

Lydia Machaka, Climate justice & Energy Officer ([machaka\(at\)cidse.org](mailto:machaka(at)cidse.org))
CIDSE, Rue Stévin 16, B-1000 Brussels
www.cidse.org – [LinkedIn](#) – [Facebook](#) – [Bluesky](#) – [X](#)