

GREENPEACE POLITICAL DEMANDS FOR COP30

COP30 must meet the moment - with ambition, courage and climate justice

COP30 comes at a critical moment. It comes 10 years after the Paris Agreement was reached, but is also the first COP since global average temperatures breached 1.5°C in 2024 - an alarming indicator of the accelerating climate crisis. Countries are also submitting their 2035 climate targets (Nationally Determined Contributions - NDCs), which will shape the course of global action for the next decisive decade. This year, the International Court of Justice issued a landmark opinion clarifying States' obligations for climate action. This included a warning that the continued expansion of fossil fuels may violate international law and human rights - raising the stakes for governments backing fossil fuel development. The Court also reaffirmed 1.5°C as the primary goal of the Paris Agreement, setting a clear benchmark against which the outcomes of COP30 must be judged.

Mitigation efforts in developing countries, coupled with escalating climate impacts, call for a significant scale-up of international climate finance - for loss and damage, adaptation, and emissions reduction as part of a just transition. And in Brazil, home to much of the Amazon, COP30 must deliver a breakthrough on halting and reversing deforestation and forest degradation, alongside scaled-up, direct access to finance for Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

COP30 must meet the moment - with ambition, courage, and climate justice.

In summary, at COP30 Greenpeace is calling for:

1. **A Global Response Plan to address the 1.5°C ambition gap** and accelerate emissions reductions in this critical decade, especially in key sectors such as energy (including transitioning away from fossil fuels), and agriculture, forests and land use - aligned with principles of fairness, equity and just transition.
2. **A new, dedicated 5-year Forest Action Plan** for implementation to address fragmentation of forest action under the Paris Agreement and ensure implementation of the GST1 target of halting and reversing deforestation and forest degradation by 2030.
3. **The establishment of a new standing UNFCCC agenda item to drive NCQG delivery**, particularly scaling-up public finance from developed countries (as per Article 9.1), and advance **polluter-pays taxation to unlock scaled-up public finance** for developing countries.

Urgent action to address the 1.5°C ambition gap

The trajectory of new 2035 emissions targets is dangerously off track. And implementation of the sector specific commitments of the First Global Stocktake (GST1) is seriously lagging, including the crucial commitment to transition away from fossil fuels which are responsible for around 70% of global GHG emissions. A key driver of this failure is the persistent lack of ambition from most developed countries, whose weak commitments continue to undermine global progress. At the same time, some major developing country emitters have also set targets that fall well short of what is needed, further widening the global ambition gap.

Without a serious shift in gear, the world will soar past 1.5°C with devastating consequences. Countries cannot close the ambition gap in isolation; they must work together to coordinate global action grounded in equity, and shared responsibility to deliver much deeper emissions cuts - particularly in the energy, forests, agriculture and land use sectors. The world cannot wait for the next Global Stocktake to agree and advance the collective action needed. COP30 must be a turning point where global leaders commit to a credible Global Response Plan to keep 1.5 alive.

What COP30 must deliver on the 1.5°C ambition gap

To catalyze momentum, the Leaders' Summit must recognise the 1.5°C ambition gap and commit to a Global Response Plan at COP30 to close it. Leaders must also send a strong political signal that the energy transition is underway - alongside an unwavering commitment to transition away from fossil fuels.

At COP30, countries must agree a Global Response Plan to address the 1.5°C ambition gap, which includes the following actions:

- **Recognition of the collective shortfall in emissions reduction commitments** needed to keep 1.5°C within reach, as highlighted in the NDC Synthesis Report.
- **A declaration of a shared intent to peak global GHG emissions in 2025** and rapidly decline thereafter on a path to 60% global reduction by 2035 (compared to 2019 levels) as identified by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.
- **Launch global sectoral initiatives** to accelerate action in the following critical areas:
 - **The adoption of a dedicated work programme on just energy transition** to drive coordinated, equitable and inclusive action globally to triple renewable energy, double energy efficiency and phase out fossil fuel production and consumption.
 - **The adoption of a Forest Action Plan** (see below) and measures to address the emissions caused by the agriculture and land-use sector by 2030.
- **Progress on climate finance** to ensure enhanced ambition in developing countries is supported by means of implementation (see below).

- **A commitment to revise and strengthen 2035 NDCs by COP31** - informed by the outcomes of the Global Stocktake - especially G20 countries, with developed countries expected to go furthest and fastest. Revised NDCs must:
 - Include clear national plans and timelines to transition away from fossil fuels, aligned with equity and each country's fair share; targets to contribute to the global goals on renewable energy and energy efficiency; measures to halt forest destruction by 2030; and to reduce emissions from agriculture and associated land-use change.
- **Agreement on a regular annual (existing or new) process where countries can discuss progress in action to tackle the mitigation ambition gap**, as well as action to implement the outcomes of the first Global Stocktake.
- **Expand the mandate of the annual NDC Synthesis Report** to track and assess collective progress towards the goals in the first Global Stocktake relevant to emission reductions - based on information from NDCs and Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs) - including those related to energy transition (paragraph 28), ending deforestation and forest degradation (paragraph 33).

Halting and reversing deforestation and forest degradation by 2030

COP28 took a landmark decision when the first Global Stocktake secured an outcome which recognises the importance of enhanced efforts towards halting and reversing deforestation and forest degradation by 2030. It builds on high-level initiatives and pledges, including the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017 – 2030, the 2014 New York Declaration on Forests (NYDF) and the 2021 Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use (GLD). For the first time it included a clear target to halt deforestation and forest degradation in a COP decision - and GST decisions are meant to be implemented.

The protection of forests and other ecosystems is a key feature of the Paris Agreement to keep 1.5°C within reach, yet implementation remains seriously inadequate. We found forest action scattered across many different work streams that aren't necessarily even connected to each other, making it hard to see the full picture of how each delivers (or should deliver) critical contributions to the implementation of the UNFCCC's forest goal. There is a need for a serious shift in the way things are being done and a far greater emphasis placed on urgent pre 2030 action and the need to move beyond voluntary initiatives, within the UNFCCC and across the Rio Conventions.

What COP30 must deliver on forests

- **The 5-year Forest Action Plan (API4F)** would be mandated by the CMA¹ and established through a COP30 decision request to the SBI (Subsidiary Body for Implementation) to increase efficiency across relevant existing work streams (such as the MWP, the GGA, the UAED, art. 6.8, ...) and ensure well-coordinated technical implementation-oriented work.
- If not a full SBI mandate, COP30 would need to ensure at least **a process is established to progress sectoral approaches for the implementation of GST1** including a round table on forests and land use, recognising the special role that high-integrity forests and other ecosystems play in climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience, and enhancing high-integrity forest finance solutions.
- A COP30 decision laying out a clear vision on how **synergies** can be maximised and negative trade offs avoided to attain more effective implementation of the obligations under the Rio Conventions, and maintain a sense of urgency for pre 2030 action.

Key documents

1. COP30 Forest Action Plan - [full proposal](#)
2. COP30 Forest Action Plan - [updated summary](#)
3. COP30 [Forests briefing](#)

Climate finance and making polluters pay

The NCQG outcome fell short on both the quality and quantity of climate finance, and there is currently no clear agenda item or process to advance its implementation beyond COP30. A dedicated space is urgently needed to deliver on the \$300 billion commitment and chart a path to upscale it to \$1.3 trillion. There must be a strong emphasis on highly concessional, grant-based public finance, with loss and damage within scope, alongside mitigation and adaptation finance. This space must enable effective tracking, address persistent gaps and uncertainties around transparency and quality, and establish a robust framework for increasing ambition. Ensuring accountability for the provision of public finance by developed countries - as mandated under Article 9.1 of the Paris Agreement - is critical to achieving this. Equally important is ensuring finance reaches those who need it most, which requires the operationalisation of direct access finance mechanisms that allow Indigenous Peoples and local communities to access funds transparently and equitably.

¹ Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement. The CMA is the supreme body that oversees the implementation and decisions related to the Paris Agreement, meeting annually during the COP.

Fair, progressive tax reforms and action to make polluters pay are not just central to climate justice, they are key to unlocking public finance urgently needed for climate action in developing countries under the NCQG. This funding is critical to help communities recover from climate disasters and invest in climate solutions. The fossil fuel industry and other major polluters driving the climate crisis must be held financially accountable for harm caused. COP30 must send a clear signal: it's time to make polluters pay.

What COP30 must deliver on finance and making polluters pay

- **Establish a new standing agenda item to serve as an accountability and delivery mechanism for the NCQG**, including holding developed countries accountable for the provision of public climate finance (Article 9.1), and promoting direct access finance mechanisms to ensure funds reach Indigenous Peoples and local communities directly.
- **Support as part of the Baku to Belém Roadmap or any other negotiated climate finance outcome progressive environmental taxation rooted in the polluter pays principle and CBDR-RC** - such as taxes on fossil fuel corporations; and space under the new NCQG agenda item to advance these mechanisms.
- Outside of the formal COP outcome, we also wish to see the **Global Solidarity Levies Taskforce final COP30 declaration publicly endorse bold global fossil fuel profit taxation** for international climate finance under the UN Tax Convention, alongside bolder **fossil fuel profit taxes and extraction levies at the national and regional levels** to help communities at home and around the world rebuild from climate disasters and invest in climate solutions.

Key documents

1. [Greenpeace briefing](#) on making polluters pay for climate damages
2. Polluters Pay Pact - [website](#)

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