



## Climate Action Network

### Briefing: G20 Leader Summit

September 2023

*Climate Action Network (CAN) is a global network of more than 1,900 civil society organisations in over 130 countries driving collective and sustainable action to fight the climate crisis and to achieve social and racial justice.*

***G20 Leaders will meet in New Delhi, India on the 9-10 September, right before the 78th UN General Assembly (12-30 September). With the opportunity for the G20 to set an ambitious tone ahead of COP28 later this year, countries are still wrangling over key - and basic - commitments on climate action.***

The climate crisis as it intensifies in pace and scale is exacerbating other crises such as poverty and inequality, food and water insecurity and driving ecological and biodiversity loss. It adversely impacts human rights, as well as non-human life, through extreme weather such as heatwaves, floods, droughts, and slow onset events such as sea-level rise.

Besides the common threat posed by climate change, the world continues to reel under the aftershocks of the COVID pandemic. Further, the ongoing war in Ukraine by Russia threatens the complete breakdown of multilateralism and rule-based order in the world. The right to health is adversely impacted as people are exposed to an increasing risk of infectious and non-communicable diseases, as well as through fundamental changes to the climate system, water supplies and food systems.

At the G20 New Delhi Summit, agreements will need to be reached on ambitious climate, nature, energy and climate finance outcomes that fully respect human rights. These agreements should aim to bridge the gaps toward achieving a 1.5°C pathway through emissions reduction, providing greater support to action for adaptation and to address loss and damage, protecting and restoring nature and reforming food systems, and mobilizing trillions of dollars of finance for a just and equitable transition.

More specifically, leaders should demonstrate consensus on key commitments for the climate agenda, of keeping 1.5°C within reach, fast, fair and permanent phase-out of all fossil fuels and associated subsidies, accelerating green transitions – including human rights compliant protection and restoration of forests and other ecosystems and the reform of food systems – at home and globally by putting forward revised 2030 Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), aligned with the 1.5°C limit, ahead of COP28. The collective NDCs must include pathways for just and equitable phase-out of all fossil fuels, coal, oil and gas in line with 1.5°C before 2050, with significant reductions to be achieved to reduce emissions by at least 43% by 2030 compared to 2019.

It is under these circumstances that the group of the world's largest economic powers—both wealthier and emerging economies under the umbrella of G20 countries—must send a

strong political signal in 2023 and commit to act decisively against the common and most urgent threat facing humanity.

We at CAN South Asia (part of the wider CAN International Network) uphold the principles of just and equitable transitions, and we demand the following of the G20 presidency and participating countries to get the world back on track to limit global warming below 1.5°C as promised by countries under the Paris Agreement.

In this regard, G20 countries must:

1. In accordance with Article 4.4 of the Paris Agreement, wealthier countries must commit to their highest possible ambition in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and economy-wide targets covering all sectors and all gases including non-CO2 gases and methane. **G20 leaders must commit to an equitable phase-out of all fossil fuels and set a target year for ending all fossil fuel subsidies by 2030 and along with an agreement on raising ambition towards tripling RE installed power capacity per annum by 2030 while reducing total final energy demand by at least a quarter by 2050 compared to today. While promoting new and innovative technologies is crucial for accelerated energy transition, G20 countries must avoid false technologies like carbon capture utilization and storage (CCUS) and nuclear energy.**
2. **Wealthier countries of the G20 must fully deliver on their commitment of USD 100 billion per year till 2025 and collectively contribute to a doubling of the GCF second replenishment and a transformational new Climate Finance goal under NCQG negotiations..** The G20 leaders must commit themselves to addressing the debt vulnerabilities of low and middle-income countries in an effective, comprehensive and systematic manner, including by supporting efforts to strengthen initiatives like the Global Sovereign Debt Roundtable (GSDR) and paving the way for effective implementation of the Common Framework for Debt Treatment and the vulnerability assessment framework in a timely manner. **The G20 must recognize the need for accelerated and affordable access to transition finance to the global south and therefore must commit itself to making International Financing Institutions (IFIs) and Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) fit for purpose by supporting timely reform of the international financial architecture and enabling the implementation of frameworks like the “Roadmap for Implementation of Recommendations of the G20 Independent Review of MDBs’ Capital Adequacy Frameworks (CAF)”.** Based on the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities, G20 countries must also commit to providing adaptation finance on par with mitigation finance and operationalize the new Loss and Damage Fund urgently and meaningfully at COP28.
3. **All G20 countries must fully deliver on their collective commitments towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs), the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the Paris Agreement.** Commit to ending deforestation (and the conversion of other intact ecosystems) by 2030 and restoring nature in line with the targets of the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity (KMGB) Framework, while fully respecting the rights of Indigenous Peoples and affected local communities. **G20 leaders must champion human-rights-compliant reforms to food systems that achieve global goals for nutrition, climate and nature, including promoting more sustainable patterns of consumption; investing in ecologically beneficial**

**farming and crop diversification, and supporting the contribution of small-holder farmers towards food security and sustainability.**

We would like to further elaborate some of the asks:

**A. Just Transition- ‘Leaving no-one behind while ensuring Energy Justice’**

The path to decarbonisation, particularly in high-carbon sectors, will impact communities and workers. This would typically result in the loss of jobs, leading to an increase in vulnerability of the communities that are involved. Given the diversity of jobs, livelihood opportunities and their interconnectedness with environmental issues, the path to a just and human rights-compliant transition is more complicated for most emerging economies among G20.

Therefore, along with rapid decarbonisation, a just transition pathway should focus on providing basic amenities, adequate social protection, reducing vulnerabilities and building long-term resilience. This transition must be carried out in a manner that incorporates region/state-specific concerns and needs along the process, while fully respecting human rights. This would ensure minimal disruption for impacted communities and economies. It is therefore necessary that the energy transition strategies should take into account and address human rights issues such as loss of livelihoods, income and food security of poor and marginalized communities. There must be efforts to mitigate any direct or indirect economic impacts with alternative economic models in areas regressively impacted by the energy transition.

Access to energy i.e. affordable, secure and reliable energy is vital for development. Sustainable Development Goal no. 7 (SDG 7) also reminds us that access to energy is a fundamental requirement, without which the rights for all to life, health, adequate housing, food, and education, among others, cannot be realised. However, most low to middle-income households in developing economies are still forced to live at one-fifth or even lower levels of energy consumption compared to world averages.; It is therefore necessary that the phase-out of fossil fuels should be done in an equitable manner that ensures that access to reliable, accessible and affordable sources of energy especially for people with low incomes and the most marginalized is not jeopardized.

**B. Fuels for future “CLEAN ENERGY AND GREEN TRANSITIONS”**

The G20 should move beyond technology transfer and collaborate to create models of technology co-development, wherein stakeholders across countries jointly develop and own technologies that can accelerate an equitable and just energy transition.

There needs to be better integration of energy transition pathways and solutions, human rights and the Sustainable Development Goals to identify overlaps, address trade-offs and synergise interconnections between SDGs, the rights that underpin them, and climate action.

**C. Catalysing climate finance “REFORMS, TRANSPARENCY AND BLENDING OF SOURCES ENSURING ACCESS TO TRANSITION FINANCE”**

Ensuring access to climate finance will ensure rapid, transparent and catalytic commitments on climate; it is estimated that developing and emerging economies, except China, will require up to US\$2 trillion annually from now on until 2030 (about 2 percent of global GDP today) to achieve their climate action targets and excluding adaptation needs. This will require reorienting and increasing public investment towards climate action, mobilising greater private finance, reforming Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs), and expanding the scope of concessional finance. Therefore, the G20 must meet their obligation to provide international cooperation and assistance by urgently and dramatically scaling up finance for climate and nature investments in developing countries and wealthier countries should provide public, grant-based financing for less wealthy countries, while looking into generating new and additional financial resources via " wealth taxes for the super-rich, taxing multinational corporations, levies on fossil fuel extraction along with an agreement on global tax reform.

The G20 Leaders' Summit should also undertake a necessary reality check on how to ensure advance coordination on how the finance gap will be closed, and how to accelerate the reform of the international financial architecture and institutions so they are better fitted to support countries in their transitions. The G20 should also establish mechanisms for tracking global financial flows across countries to ensure the accountability of developed nations in meeting their climate finance obligations and commitments.

**D. Addressing Vulnerability “PRIORITIZING ADAPTATION, PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLES WHILE ENSURING GREEN, INCLUSIVE AND RESILIENT SYSTEMS AND CITIES”**

Climate-induced stresses are both local and regional, and their impacts are felt disproportionately by less wealthy and more marginalized sections of the community. The recent IPCC findings highlight a steep increase in rates of climate-induced migration towards cities and urban centres in the last two decades. The high rate of urbanization, mostly driven by the growth of cities in the global south, highlights a complete absence of justice or rights-driven planning towards climate-induced migration. Therefore, urban planning for adaptation that requires giving due consideration towards an increase in green spaces, climate-resilient infrastructure (in building/public infrastructure design, construction & operation), and efficient water and waste management systems should be prioritized by G20 countries.

Health and environmental impacts of pesticides and fertilizers have been largely missing in policy-level discussions. Apart from contributing towards GHG emissions that accelerate climate change, agrochemicals contribute to pollution in both terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, contaminating food resources with toxins, and diminishing biodiversity. They also cause deleterious public health impacts, affect environmental sustainability and reduce resilience. Therefore, a paradigm shift, at a significantly larger scale, is needed to reduce and gradually eliminate the use of agrochemicals. The G20 should prioritize the prevention of natural ecosystem degradation by supporting agroecology, by significantly reducing, rejecting and discouraging the use of agrochemicals by all means- pesticides and fertilizers - as a key strategy to reduce GHG emissions and advance resilience and mitigation.

“Operationalizing the Mission Life through the Individual Green Footprint (IGF) approach” Tackling the environmental, economic, and social impact of climate change requires a huge transformation across all sectors. While governments and civic bodies are doing their duties, the general public can play a pivotal role.

Achieving real zero global emissions and sustainable energy supplies will require unprecedented quantities of rare earth minerals over the coming decades. Over half of the world's resource base for these critical minerals for the energy transition are located on or near land of Indigenous Peoples. This is concerning as industrialisation and mining on Indigenous Peoples' land has already led to large-scale deforestation, pollution of local water and food supplies, and displacement. To address this problem, the rights of Indigenous Peoples, including free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC), must be respected in any new ventures and current operations impacting Indigenous Peoples' lands. It is crucial for the G20 to fully commit to Indigenous Peoples' rights and protect their lands while working towards a sustainable energy future. Therefore, the G20 should develop comprehensive legal frameworks that recognize and protect Indigenous Peoples' rights to FPIC, land, and self-determination. This includes the ratification and implementation of relevant international conventions, such as the UN Declaration on the rights of Indigenous Peoples and ILO Convention No. 169.