



CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK SOUTH ASIA (CANSA)

DEMANDS TO THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

AT THE 30TH UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE (COP30)

Belém, Brazil, from 10 to 21 November 2025

South Asia faces disproportionate and escalating climate impacts, including intensified floods, extreme heatwaves, water scarcity, and ecosystem degradation, that threaten millions of lives and livelihoods. The latest iterations of **nationally determined contributions (NDCs)** after the **Global Stocktake (GST)** reveal a devastating ambition gap placing the world on a trajectory for catastrophic levels of warming.

In its 2025 [Advisory Opinion, the International Court of Justice](#) affirmed that 1.5°C is the consensus goal of the Paris Agreement and that states must base their climate action on the best available science, reflecting the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities (CBDR-RC), and the historical responsibility of developed countries. The International Court of Justice also made it clear that only submitting an NDC is not enough to comply with the obligations under the Paris Agreement. The content of the NDC is equally relevant to determine compliance and must be capable of making an “adequate contribution” to the achievement of the 1.5°C objective. To determine this contribution, States have limited discretion and must take into account the fairness principles of the Paris Agreement; nevertheless, the NDCs put forward must reflect the highest possible ambition.

Ten years after the adoption of the Paris Agreement, developed countries must act decisively on the outcomes of the Global Stocktake by committing to a rapid, equitable phase-out of fossil fuels, and by aligning their **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)** with a 1.5°C pathway. This requires the **full operationalisation of the principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC)**, acknowledging the **historical and ongoing responsibilities of developed nations** to lead in reducing emissions.



1. Agree on Belém Action Mechanism (BAM) for Just Transition

At COP30, Circular Economy and Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) must be recognised as a critical driver of a Just Transition that advances equity, resilience, and low-emission development pathways. The Conference must formalise an **international Just Transition Mechanism** grounded on the principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC), prioritising social equity and inclusion in South Asia's transition away from fossil fuels. This mechanism should ensure grant-based, predictable financing to strengthen social protection, skills development, decent work, and alternative livelihoods, especially for workers, women, Indigenous Peoples, youth, and marginalised groups. Circular Economy approaches that promote resource efficiency, waste minimisation, and green jobs can serve as key enablers of equitable transformation across energy, agriculture, and industrial sectors.

Just Transition policies must be participatory, rights-based, gender-responsive, and environmentally sound, ensuring that no one is left behind. All Parties should integrate comprehensive Just Transition strategies rooted in Circular Economy and SCP principles into Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), thereby supporting long-term resilience, equity, ecosystem restoration, and sustainable development. The financing of Just Transition actions must be acknowledged as a core priority, with dedicated eligibility under climate finance mechanisms. All climate finance should adhere to the agreed principles and safeguards of Just Transition, ensuring accountability and social justice.

Climate Action Network South Asia further calls on Parties at COP30 to endorse a global energy transition roadmap grounded in CBDR-RC that **enables an equitable and just phase-out of fossil fuels, coupled with accelerated renewable energy deployment and universal energy access**. Such a roadmap must be backed by transparent, grant-based international finance to facilitate technology transfer, capacity building, and to prevent new fossil fuel infrastructure investments. The extraction of transition minerals should comply with human rights and environmental standards, ensuring meaningful participation and benefit-sharing with local and Indigenous communities.

2. Focus on Adaptation and Loss & Damage

A COP30 agreement, potentially early on in the session, on the United Arab Emirates–Belém work programme, on the full and final list of 100 indicators, which includes balanced and well-represented Means of Implementation (MoI) is essential for measuring progress achieved towards the targets under the **Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA)**.

Parties must agree to establish a new, predictable public-grant-based adaptation finance commitment under the GGA decision at COP30 **that responds to the needs of developing countries, estimated to be over US\$ 300 billion per year**. Developed countries must, at a minimum, be urged to increase provision of adaptation finance by at least six times by 2030 compared to 2019 levels (this amounts to a tripling of the commitment under the Glasgow Pact to double adaptation finance by 2025).



The urgency of this challenge is underscored by the fact that in both 2023 and 2024, developed countries fell far short of the **Adaptation Fund's (AF) resource mobilisation** targets, leaving the Fund unable to meet even its modest annual goals. For 2025, the AF Board has therefore moved from setting an annual target to adopting a minimum resource mobilisation floor of USD 300 million — the bare minimum to keep the Fund operational, but still far below what is required to deliver a meaningful scale-up.

Developed country parties should scale up finance to address loss and damage. A substantial portion of this financing can be channelled through **new pledges to the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD)**. The resource mobilisation strategy of the new Fund should encompass contributions from developed countries, other Parties in a position to do so, and a share of proceeds from new polluter-pays taxes and levies. **Scaled-up resources for loss and damage should also be delivered through the newly operationalised Barbados Implementation Modalities (BIM)** with an initial amount of US\$ 250 million.

The COP30 Presidency and all Parties must make filling the Fund a priority. COP30 should deliver a clear political signal to the Board of the FRLD that the resource mobilisation strategy, to be finalised in 2026, will be commensurate with the scale of loss and damage needs — at least USD 400 billion per year — and provide clarity on the pathways to achieve this scale. Climate Action Network South Asia (CANSA) demands an ambitious scaling up of climate finance through new and additional public grant-based resources that reflect the principles of equity and CBDR-RC. This includes at least a **tripling of adaptation finance by 2030 and dedicated, predictable funding for loss and damage** to address irreversible harms already faced by the region. Developed countries, particularly the EU and G20, must fulfil their Paris Agreement Article 9 obligations by scaling up finance without resorting to loans or market mechanisms that heighten vulnerabilities. Climate finance must be accessible, gender-responsive, and aligned with national priorities to foster resilience and sustainable development.

3. Scale-up up Climate Finance for 1.5°C Alignment

Developed countries must increase their **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) with the highest possible ambition** supported by **increased, predictable, and accessible grant-based climate finance** that enables South Asia to undertake transformative mitigation and adaptation without exacerbating debt burdens.

Climate Action Network South Asia (CANSA) calls on COP30 to firmly **embed the polluter pays principle** within the international climate finance architecture, including through fossil fuel extraction and carbon pricing, in line with the principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC). Revenues from such measures should be channelled as grant-based finance to vulnerable regions to support mitigation, adaptation, loss and damage, and transition costs. **New international tax frameworks and levies** must be developed cooperatively to



resource climate action equitably and transparently, reducing the financing burden on developing countries.

Recognising the heterogeneity and vulnerability of South Asia's urban and rural landscapes, COP30 should **prioritise support for subnational actors through grant-based finance aligned with CBDR-RC**. Cities and local governments need resources and capacity to implement climate adaptation and resilience measures focused on urban heat management, water security, sustainable infrastructure, and nature-based solutions. This decentralised action is critical for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and addressing climate impacts that disproportionately affect the region's poorest and most exposed populations.

COP30 must commit to **scaling up gender-responsive, socially just, and intersectional climate finance**, predominantly as grants, that support climate resilience, and sexual and reproductive health rights for women, youth, and Indigenous Peoples in South Asia. The Gender Action Plan should be strongly supported and fully integrated in all finance streams to ensure consistency with CBDR-RC and human rights obligations. Financing mechanisms must prioritise capacity building, data collection, and safeguard against gender-based violence and exclusion in climate policies and programmes. Climate finance must support capacity building for meaningful and inclusive participation at all levels while ensuring transparency, accountability, and combating fossil fuel industry capture.

COP30 is also an important moment to redirect public finance and investments towards agroecology and resilient food systems, with a focus on ensuring access to finance for smallholder food producers. The **Green Climate Fund** is a key mechanism that could play a greater role in supporting agroecology policies and projects. For a Just Transition, ensuring access to land is crucial – through **agrarian reforms** that emphasise recognition, restitution, redistribution, and restoration.

Grant-based funding should **empower marginalised voices and foster democratic climate policymaking aligned with human rights norms**.

4. Protect Forests, Biodiversity, and Ecosystem Integrity

COP30 must advance ecosystem-based adaptation and implement robust global mandates under Rio Conventions, emphasising the intrinsic link between biodiversity conservation and climate resilience in South Asia. Financing for forest and wetland protection should be through grant-based mechanisms that recognise Indigenous Peoples' land rights, traditional ecological knowledge, and community stewardship. Actions must reflect Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC) by supporting developing countries in managing ecosystems sustainably, preventing ecosystem collapse, and halting biodiversity loss while delivering social and health co-benefits. Protecting forests, wetlands and other natural GHG sinks and reservoirs – and preventing ecosystem collapse – will be critical to the success of COP30.



The momentum from the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) COP16 decisions on biodiversity–climate synergies, as well as the July 2025 Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice affirming obligations under the CBD to protect the climate system, must be reflected in the COP30 outcomes. This could include a joint Rio Convention mandate, actions to implement the GST1 outcome and robust indicators under the Global Goals on Adaptation to capture ecological integrity, while recognising the benefits of ecosystem-based adaptation and the risks of ecosystem collapse.

Urgent measures are needed to meet the collective goal of halting the destruction of forest, wetlands and other natural ecosystems by 2030, and to tackle the primary drivers of ecosystem loss by addressing the current fragmentation of ecosystem-related action across multiple workstreams.

5. Embrace Sustainable Production, Consumption, and Circular Economy for Localised and Subnational Climate Action

COP30 should prioritise sustainable production and consumption patterns as central pillars of climate action, emphasising material efficiency, waste reduction, and circular economy approaches. This includes establishing international cooperation frameworks that provide grant-based technical and financial support for resource-efficient technologies, sustainable agriculture and industry practices, and reduction of non-essential consumption. Aligning with Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC), developed countries must lead in transforming unsustainable global consumption patterns while supporting South Asia’s transition to low-carbon, resource-efficient development pathways that foster circularity and ecological sustainability.

For South Asia, just transition, adaptation and resilience are no longer secondary concerns, but top priorities. The 30th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP30) must catalyse enhanced global ambition to close the emissions gap and **safeguard the 1.5°C threshold**. Failure in Belém to deliver a response that is perceived as just and effective will further erode trust, undermining the very foundations of multilateralism and discrediting the process in the eyes of the world.