

Climate Action Network UK

COP30 Briefing



What is COP30?

COP30 is the 30th Conference of Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) taking place in **Belém, Brazil from 10th to 21st November 2025**. It takes place not only in the context of increasing frequency and severity of climate change impacts in the UK and around the world - and **the urgent need to act** - but also in the context of the US withdrawal from the Paris Agreement, a global weakening of multilateralism, cuts to the provision of international finance, and a need to respond to the betrayal at COP29 on climate finance for developing countries.ⁱ At the same time, it will be the first COP in the Amazon, a return to a context with a free and vibrant civil society, and is being led by a Presidency team intent on building trust and increasing ambition.

What is at stake at COP30?

COP30 faces **an ambition gap, an implementation gap, and a finance gap** to keep 1.5°C alive and deliver what is required in the Paris Agreement. Countries should have published their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for 2035 earlier this year, but the synthesis report to be published on 28th October is expected to show that collectively NDCs fall short of what is needed.ⁱⁱ COP30 must provide the high-level political response necessary to get the world on track. But this cannot be a technocratic solution, instead a focus on **better lives for everyone** must be at the heart of the global transition. This requires **scaling up public finance and progress on just transition** to deliver fair and inclusive global action that benefits communities, including those most often left behind, both in the UK and around the world.

This is a crucial moment for **this multilateral process that impacts on all our lives**. COP30 must balance taking urgent action where the process is falling short, with recognising how much has been achieved over the last 30 years when the world was risking 4-6°C of global heating. There can be no complacency until global temperature rise is limited to 1.5°C, and we must also guard against bad faith weakening and undermining of this process that has got us this far, while supporting calls for positive reform that strengthen the process and its ability to continue to deliver multilateral action to keep us all safe.

Finance and fairness underpin the global action needed, and both are needed at COP30 to raise ambition and deliver action. This must be demonstrated through delivering public finance and agreeing concrete next steps on key elements of that delivery, including the commitment to double adaptation finance by 2025, the commitment to at least triple finance to the UN Climate Funds by 2030 at the latest, operationalising and filling the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD) agreed at COP27, and implementing the new collective quantified goal for climate finance (NCQG) agreed at COP29. Justice and fairness must also be demonstrated through a COP30 outcome for a global action-oriented mechanism under the UNFCCC to advance Just Transition across the whole economy within and between countries (a Belém Action Mechanism), a robust new Gender Action Plan that prioritises rights and inclusion, Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) outcomes that bring the adaptation priorities and needs of developing countries to the political fore, and deeper and more effective integration of nature into climate action.

Where is the UK?

The UK 2035 NDC target was announced at COP29 and published in January in support of efforts to build NDC momentum, and follows the Climate Change Committee's independent expert advice.ⁱⁱⁱ The UK has been **vocal on 1.5°C and the transition away from fossil fuels**, and this government has committed to end new oil and gas licences in the UK. The UK has **championed adaptation** by providing a balance of finance in UK International Climate Finance (ICF), endorsing the locally-led adaptation principles^{iv}, and establishing the Climate & Development Ministerial process to focus on the challenges and priorities for climate-vulnerable countries. The UK's COP26 Presidency initiative established the Forest and Climate Leaders' Partnership,^v and in July the UK published a groundbreaking report on actions to jointly address climate change and biodiversity, demonstrating how **greater nature-climate synergies** can be concretely implemented.^{vi} The UK affirms support for **inclusion and human rights** across international fora and in the UK's International Women and Girls' Strategy^{vii} and FCDO's Disability Inclusion and Rights Strategy.^{viii}

However earlier this year, the UK government **cut Official Development Assistance (ODA)** once again, bringing it to a **25 year low at just 0.3% GNI**, despite 0.7% GNI enshrined in UK law, and continues to triple count ODA, climate finance, and nature finance, **rather than providing the new and additional finance** promised to meet these global challenges and the urgent needs of the majority world. In this context, the UK is increasingly promoting a private-finance first approach and seeks to use precious and increasingly limited public finance to leverage and de-risk for-profit investment. UK support for **fairer international governance** - including for **finance, debt, tax, and trade** - that would provide the majority world with greater voice in international institutions that dictate their ability to thrive and would increase fiscal headroom, has been mixed at best. This is demonstrated by a lack of support for the reforms the majority world has been calling for in the recent Financing for Development Conference, negotiations of the UN Tax Convention, and proposals for a UN Debt Workout Mechanism.^{ix}

We are yet to see a clear stance from the UK on progressing the Just Transition Work Programme to deliver concrete and fair outcomes, but the concept of just transition aligns well with the UK government's domestic agenda for climate and nature action to **deliver better lives for everyone**.

What is CAN-UK calling for at COP30?

- 1. 1.5°C Alive:** A Heads of State statement recognising and committing to close the ambition gap to limit global temperature rise to 1.5°C, and a COP30 global response plan to address this based on equity, urgency, and science.
- 2. Just Transition:** A Belém Action Mechanism for Just Transition to coordinate, learn, and implement just transitions nationally, regionally, and globally, that are inclusive of everyone.
- 3. Adaptation:** An ambitious Global Goal for Adaptation outcome alongside a new global adaptation finance commitment building on the doubling commitment ending this year.
- 4. Nature:** Concrete outcomes to progress the commitment to halt and reverse deforestation and degradation by 2030, and to enhance synergies across the Rio Conventions.
- 5. Gender and Inclusion:** Agreement of a robust new Gender Action Plan that will deliver gender-just, gender-transformative, and inclusive climate action, to ensure no one is left behind.
- 6. Finance:** Demonstration of increasing provision of climate finance including new commitments from the UK and other countries with commitments coming to an end, concrete progress on new sources of finance from polluter pays measures, new contributions to UN Climate Funds, a new adaptation finance goal, and support for wider justice-based reform of the financial architecture.

Overview of COP30 policy asks

Just Transition Work Programme

Justice, equity, and inclusion must be at the heart of the global transition for workers and communities:

- Establish a Belém Action Mechanism.
- Agree principles to underpin Just Transition that are rights-based and inclusive.
- Incorporate comprehensive Just Transition plans into NDCs and other relevant plans.

Closing the ambition and implementation gap

Action and ambition must be raised to keep 1.5°C alive through 2035 NDCs and beyond:

- Heads of State Summit response to close the ambition and implementation gap, based on science, 1.5°C, and equity.
- All NDCs integrate COP28 Global Stocktake energy and nature outcomes.
- Developed countries go further and faster.
- Agree a global response plan to address the 1.5°C ambition gap.

Climate finance and alignment of finance

Rebuild trust that developed countries will deliver public finance at the scale required:

- New and additional grant-based public finance commitments from the UK and other countries with expiring commitments.
- New commitments to the UN Climate Funds - including the new FRLD - in line with the NCQG commitment to triple by 2030.
- Concrete next steps on new sources of public finance from polluter pays measures.
- New agenda item on implementation of the NCQG, including provision of public climate finance (9.1) and accountability for it.
- Endorse the Baku to Belém Roadmap to \$1.3tn only if it identifies gaps and unclarity in climate finance architecture and ways to address these, and it connects UNFCCC and external processes.
- Continue work on alignment of financial flows (2.1c) beyond COP30 with a more action-oriented approach.
- End fossil fuel harm in finance, including ending subsidies and redirecting finance to climate action, and hold MDBs to account for continued fossil fuel finance.

Adaptation

Adaptation is urgent but remains under-funded and under-prioritised. We need:

- Conclusion of the GGA with robust and inclusive indicators adopted as a package, including indicators to track public climate finance to developing countries.
- A new global adaptation finance commitment to build on the doubling commitment coming to an end in 2025.
- A clear roadmap for implementation of the GGA indicators clarified in the Baku Adaptation Roadmap.
- Heads of State level commitment to greater prioritisation of adaptation.
- New Adaptation Fund commitments.
- Progress on National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) negotiations, with clear provisions for support for developing countries to formulate and implement NAPs.

Nature

The climate and biodiversity crises must be tackled together and ecosystems protected:

- Maximise synergies and opportunities between the Rio Conventions with a dedicated negotiating track supported by a new expert group.
- Phase-out deforestation and ecosystem conversion this decade.
- Secure protection and restoration commitments for forests and other ecosystems and avoid unsustainable bioenergy in the mitigation work programme.
- Include nature-climate synergies and sustainable food systems in NDCs, NAPs, and Heads of State NDC synthesis response.
- Fund international action for nature without double and triple-counting.
- End financial drivers of deforestation, including harmful agricultural, forestry and unsustainable bioenergy subsidies.

Gender

The new Gender Action Plan is needed to ensure climate change and climate action do not reinforce inequities and injustices, but recognise and actively redress them. It must:

- Be progressive, transformative, inclusive, and rights-based.
- Scale up finance for gender-responsive action and remove barriers to access.
- Explicitly reference the impacts, needs, and experiences of climate change, and the intersecting forms of discrimination people face, based on their intersecting identities.
- Acknowledge and seek to address structural barriers to gender equality.
- Improve coherence on inclusion across national and international climate policy.
- Collect disaggregated data - at a minimum sex, age, and disability - that tracks progress and identifies gaps.

Loss & Damage (L&D)

Urgent action is needed to address L&D for countries and communities on the frontline:

- New and additional finance commitments made to the FRLD.
- Funding for community-led initiatives included in the FRLD start-up phase, and a community access window established to reach communities and marginalised groups on the frontline.
- Substantive guidance to the FRLD from COP30 including on ambitious resource mobilisation and human rights-based L&D implementation.
- Establishment of a global L&D status report.
- A standing agenda item on L&D.

Civic space, human rights and UNFCCC reform

The rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly - essential for effective climate action - are being eroded by shrinking civic space globally and at UNFCCC COPs and SBs:

- Respect, protect, and guarantee the rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association without discrimination for all people who wish to express their views at COP30 including outside the Blue Zone.
- Ensure the meaningful participation at COP30 of civil society organisations, Indigenous Peoples, frontline communities, people with disabilities, children, and other groups facing logistical and financial challenges, by removing barriers such as delayed visas, high accommodation costs, and other accessibility challenges.
- Institute a comprehensive conflict of interest policy to kick polluters out and ensure integrity of host country COP Presidencies.

Global governance reform

Power imbalances that favour the Global North in institutions governing trade, tax, debt, and finance, limit climate action and justice. COP30 must signal pathways for action on:

- Polluter pays taxes to raise revenues for public climate finance, tax avoidance and evasion, and wider tax justice.
- Ensuring climate finance does not exacerbate debt, debt cancellation, and reform via a UN Framework Convention on Sovereign Debt.
- Wider trade discussions, ending Investor-State Dispute Settlement mechanisms exploited by fossil fuel investors, and ensuring efforts to attract investment does not expose countries to harmful practices.
- Democratising economic decision-making through increased voice and participation of the majority world in the Bretton Woods Institutions.

CAN-UK asks of the UK government

1. 1.5°C Alive

Underscore the high-level importance of **keeping 1.5°C alive** and the multilateral process through the **Prime Minister's attendance** at the COP30 Heads of State Summit and **UK endorsement of a global response plan**, and publish a new carbon budget and growth delivery plan ahead of COP30 that sets out a credible pathway to implement the UK NDC in ways that deliver benefits for people and nature.

2. Just Transition

Building on the UK's new green jobs initiative,^x **demonstrate the UK's commitment** to such initiatives globally by backing calls from civil society and unions to establish a **Belém Action Mechanism (BAM)** under the Just Transition Work Programme at COP30.^{xi} The BAM would help to enable plans and initiatives to deliver **better lives** in the UK and around the world through ambitious climate action that is inclusive and rights-based, **putting communities and workers first**.

3. Adaptation

Harness the momentum created by the global commitment to double adaptation finance by 2025 - secured by the UK at COP26 - and keep this important UK legacy alive by championing a **new global adaptation finance commitment** at COP30 to replace it. Globally the agreed balance of finance between mitigation and adaptation is not being achieved, and the UK must step up to address what comes next for adaptation finance with its COP26 goal ending, as well as support adoption of the **package of GGA indicators, including indicators to track public finance** for adaptation to monitor progress.

4. Nature

Work proactively with others at COP30 to build on the UK's Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use legacy and secure political commitments to **protect and restore forests, end deforestation and degradation**, and end the use of **unsustainable bioenergy**, alongside championing concrete outcomes to **enhance synergies** across the Rio Conventions. Domestically, the UK must adopt the outstanding secondary legislation ahead of COP30 to keep deforestation out of supply chains and UK supermarket shelves.

5. Gender and Inclusion

It has never been more important for Parties to stand up vocally and publicly for **human rights, gender, and multilateralism** in the UNFCCC process and beyond. The benchmark against which this will be measured at COP30 is a progressive, rights-based **Gender Action Plan** that ensures no one is left behind, and we urge the UK to be a vocal champion including at the most senior levels of government. We also call on the UK to support civil society and Indigenous Peoples calls for reforms to improve the **efficiency, accountability, and integrity** of the UNFCCC, especially the adoption of a comprehensive conflict of interest policy^{xii}; support the recognition of a **disability** caucus in the UNFCCC with a pathway to full constituency status; and champion a follow-up to the expert dialogue on **children** and climate change.

6. Finance

To rebuild trust that developed countries are serious about the obligation to provide climate finance, COP30 must be a key moment for **ambition in climate finance** as well as for ambition in NDCs. With climate finance commitments from 12 countries - including the UK - coming to an end, we call on the UK to come to COP30 with an **ambitious and high-quality fourth round of UK ICF** and encourage other countries to do as well. This must be grant finance that is genuinely **new and additional public finance** for mitigation, adaptation, and loss and damage on top of ODA commitments, that strengthens nature synergies, enables implementation of national plans, prioritises the UN Climate Funds, and includes new

UK contributions to the Adaptation Fund and the FRLD. To deliver this, the UK must introduce measures to **fairly tax the largest polluters and wealthiest in our society** - measures which have considerable public support.^{xiii} Steps towards this could include a government review of domestic options for polluter pays measures and announcing a percentage of proceeds from the Energy Profits Levy for ICF and the FRLD over and above ICF allocated from the ODA budget. Alongside, the UK must support majority world demands for **reform of tax, debt, trade, and financial governance** to enable greater meaningful participation and power for countries currently disadvantaged. The UK can take immediate action on the debt crisis by introducing a new law that would ensure private creditors participate in debt relief processes fairly.^{xiv}

About CAN-UK

Climate Action Network UK (CAN-UK) is the UK network of international development and environment NGOs working together at the nexus of poverty, nature, and climate, for climate justice and sustainable development for all. <https://can-uk.org>

CAN-UK is also the UK node of Climate Action Network (CAN), 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. <https://climatenetwork.org>

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References

ⁱ Read CAN-UK's blog reacting to the COP29 NCQG climate finance outcome here: <https://can-uk.org/blog/the-new-climate-finance-goal-agreed-at-cop29-is-a-betrayal-of-developing-countries/>

ⁱⁱ To find out more about NDC synthesis reports, go to: <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/nationally-determined-contributions-ndcs/ndc-synthesis-report/ndc-synthesis-report>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://can-uk.org/news/can-uk-reaction-to-climate-change-committee-2035-nationally-determined-contribution-ndc-advice/>

^{iv} <https://www.iied.org/principles-for-locally-led-adaptation>

^v <https://forestclimateleaders.org/>

^{vi} <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-to-jointly-address-climate-change-and-biodiversity-loss-in-england>

^{vii} <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/640a0bb1d3bf7f02f7d9db18/international-women-and-girls-strategy-2023-2030.pdf>

^{viii} <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/627a63e9e90e0712dbfd4b3b/Disability-Inclusion-and-Rights-Strategy-2022.pdf>

^{ix} Read about UK civil society reaction to FFD4 here: <https://www.bond.org.uk/news/2025/07/financing-for-development-conference-last-word-from-seville/>

^x <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/clean-energy-jobs-boom-to-bring-thousands-of-new-jobs>

^{xi} UK civil society calls for UK government to support the Belém Action Mechanism at COP30: <https://can-uk.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/COP30-Open-Letter-to-Ed-Miliband.pdf>

Cross-constituency discussion paper on the Belém Action Mechanism: <https://climatenetwork.org/resource/discussion-paper-belem-action-mechanism-october-2025/>

^{xii} <https://www.ciel.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/United-Call-to-Action-TheCOPWeNeed.pdf>

^{xiii} <https://can-uk.org/news/82-ngos-call-on-the-prime-minister/>

^{xiv} <https://debtjustice.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Supporter-Briefing-Legislative-Ask-Aug-2024-v5-Digital.pdf>