Climate Action Network UK
COP30 Priorities for Adaptation

Strong outcomes on adaptation at COP30 are critical to ensure action matches the scale and urgency of climate change. Despite the notable progress under the UAE-Belém Work Programme, significant **gaps persist in implementation, financing, and accountability**.

COP30 must deliver for all communities across the world by moving the UNFCCC process into a **high-gear implementation phase with equitable and sustainable adaptation outcomes**.

CAN-UK key priorities for the adaptation outcomes at COP30 to deliver just, inclusive and effective adaptation for those most affected by climate change are:

1. **Global Goal on Adaptation:** Adopt the full set of indicators as an integrated framework with strong gender, inclusion, and finance components.
2. **Adaptation finance:** Secure a post-2025 adaptation finance commitment that meets the scale of global needs.
3. **National Adaptation Plans:** Advance National Adaptation Plans to enable locally-led and inclusive implementation of adaptation.
4. **Baku Adaptation Roadmap:** Agree the scope, purpose, and duration to guide coherent, collaborative, and transparent progress tracking.

Global Goal on Adaptation

Significant progress has been made under the UAE–Belém Work Programme over the last two years on the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA). The indicators package developed by experts reflects the interconnections across themes and dimensions that relate to adaptation. For example, more than half the 90 indicators outside Target 9a reference water and sanitation, while also linking to food and agriculture, health, ecosystems, infrastructure, and livelihoods. This **cross-sectoral integration** is one of the strengths of the current indicator set and should be preserved. Specific regional or ecosystem-based indicators, such as those addressing mountain ecosystems, glaciers, and drought, must also remain, as these are critical adaptation priorities for different countries.

However, there are also notable gaps. The current indicator set lacks sufficient references to **locally-led adaptation**, despite its broader relevance across themes. The lack of concrete references to adaptation of education services and infrastructure is another critical omission. Terms such as "climate resilient agriculture" lack globally accepted definitions and could be replaced with **agroecology**, which has 13 established principles and metrics (TAPE). Stronger links to other Rio Conventions would further enhance coherence and facilitate national-level reporting.

Means of Implementation (MoI) indicators must **track separately public finance provided to developing countries and private finance mobilised**. Private finance not linked to public mobilisation does not fall under the GGA's MoI mandate and could be captured as an **enabling factor** to help build a clearer picture of the role of private finance in adaptation. Domestic finance from national budgets may be monitored separately but should not overlap with the provision of public finance.

The framework must maintain focus on **cross-cutting and systemic elements**, including **gender equality, age, people with disabilities, Indigenous Peoples' rights, locally-led adaptation, ecosystem-based adaptation, disaster risk reduction and early warning systems, and transboundary risks**. A balance must also be maintained between outcome-level indicators and process-oriented indicators.

Adopting the entire indicator package as a **single, integrated framework** is critical. Experts have emphasised that the strength of the current package lies in how the indicators complement and reinforce one another across themes and dimensions. Fragmenting or removing elements would weaken that coherence. At COP30, Parties should therefore adopt the full package and preserve its cross-sectoral structure to enable consistent global tracking of adaptation progress.

Adaptation finance

The COP30 Presidency's eighth letter highlights that "despite successive commitments, adaptation finance still represents less than one-third of total climate finance, far below needs" and that "finance must be scaled up beyond doubling, potentially tripling, to meet urgent needs."[i] The **adaptation finance gap continues to grow** despite the Paris Agreement's commitment to a balance between mitigation and adaptation finance under Article 9, that was reaffirmed in the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) last year. **Developing countries' needs** are estimated at around **USD 320bn per year,** compared to only **USD 28bn in international public finance flows for adaptation** in 2022.[ii] Closing this gap requires political will and concrete and trackable provision of public grant finance.

While private finance has a role to play in adaptation, its contribution is limited. Private finance currently accounts for just 3% of total adaptation funding, and while research suggests this could potentially rise to 15-20% (around USD 50-60bn per year), this would be mostly limited to middle-income countries and specific sectors such as agriculture.[iii] In more vulnerable contexts, private adaptation investments rarely generate financial returns. Blended finance has also underperformed, with each one dollar of public investment mobilising only 51 cents of private capital. This underscores that a scale up of **public grant finance is required as the foundation for implementing adaptation.**

The UK has played a significant role in advancing adaptation, promoting locally-led adaptation, providing a balance of adaptation and mitigation finance in UK International Climate Finance (ICF), and securing at COP26 the global agreement to double adaptation finance by 2025. These steps delivered progress, but the importance of adaptation on the political agenda has not yet been secured, and progress risks reversing as current commitments expire this year, meaning the UK's legacy might be lost.

The **High Ambition Coalition statement** – supported by the UK - recognises the need to "create an ambitious adaptation package in Belem, that addresses the adaptation finance gap through drastically and urgently scaled up quality funding streams, the means for developing countries to quickly formulate and implement National Adaptation Plans, and arrangements for tracking our progress."[iv] We urge the UK to prioritise achieving this ambitious package at COP30 including the much needed new adaptation finance commitment after the doubling ends this year.

National Adaptation Plans and local implementation

Negotiations on National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) have remained stalled over the past four Subsidiary Body (SB) sessions, underscoring the need for urgent progress on this agenda item at COP30. The slow pace of negotiations is hindering the ability of many developing countries to access and channel resources towards effective adaptation planning. Parties that have not yet formulated, developed, or updated their

NAPs should be encouraged and supported to do so. COP30 should move this agenda item beyond procedural discussions towards concrete outcomes to enable implementation on the ground.

For many developing countries, having **investable, actionable, and well-resourced adaptation plans** is critical. COP30 must provide clarity on how international financial flows will support developing countries in the formulation, development, and implementation of their NAPs. This includes ensuring that finance is accessible, predictable, and responsive to countries' diverse contexts and needs. A clear understanding of how adaptation finance can respond to national adaptation priorities would help bridge the persistent gap between planning and implementation.

Equally important is acknowledging the **central role of local governance, local communities, and Indigenous Peoples** in effective adaptation. NAPs should not be top-down, but **integrate bottom-up, locally-led approaches**. Embedding community knowledge, local priorities, and gender-responsive considerations strengthens the legitimacy and effectiveness of adaptation planning. Strong alignment between local realities and national strategies can enhance resilience across scales, improve equity in the distribution of resources, and ensure that adaptation efforts are grounded in the lived experiences of those most affected by climate change impacts.

By advancing progress on NAPs at COP30, Parties can help transform adaptation planning from a procedural requirement into a meaningful instrument for delivering equitable and sustainable outcomes.

Baku Adaptation Roadmap

The Baku Adaptation Roadmap (BAR) should be established under the GGA standing agenda item, providing a structured process to track the implementation of the indicators across themes, dimensions, and cross-cutting considerations.

The High-Level Dialogues proposed as part of the BAR must go beyond knowledge exchange and **drive tangible progress**. Dialogues should focus on **identifying gaps** and **mobilising support** to advance adaptation implementation. The BAR should include clearly defined roles for the Constituted Bodies, such as the Adaptation Committee and the Least Developed Countries Expert Group. This is essential to ensure that countries can access technical guidance and support to systematically report on adaptation implementation, including successes, gaps, and challenges.

To strengthen coherence across the adaptation agenda, the BAR should have a process in place to help align key actors and national policy instruments with the GGA indicators, such as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), NAPs, Biennial Transparency Report (BTRs), and the monitoring frameworks of the climate funds under the UNFCCC Financial Mechanism.

At COP30, Parties should establish a clear roadmap for adaptation implementation under BAR, outlining milestones as well as institutional roles and responsibilities in the lead up to the next Global Stocktake (GST) and beyond. This will ensure that BAR can act as the platform that enables the GGA framework to be actioned in a coherent, transparent, and accessible manner.

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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