

# COP30 CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE IN BRAZIL

ESSENTIAL NEED-TO-KNOWS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS



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## **The next United Nations annual climate conference, COP30,**

will take place in Belém, Brazil between 10 and 21 November 2025. It will bring together 198 states and other parties (for example, the European Union) to address the global threat posed by climate change. A preparatory meeting will be held in Bonn, Germany, from 16 to 26 June 2025, where negotiations will begin on commitments to be adopted at COP30. In the context of the upcoming meeting in Bonn, this document provides an overview of Amnesty International's analysis of key human rights and climate justice issues. This document accompanies Amnesty International's pre-COP30 advocacy briefing, which provides a full set of our recommendations to the parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), to help them put human rights front and centre of all climate action and decision making at COP30 in Belém, Brazil.

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# INTRODUCTION

In 2024, for the first time, the world breached the threshold of 1.5°C of global heating above pre-industrial levels, at least temporarily. Day after day, we see the impacts of devastating new human rights harms resulting from climate change, and these are set to escalate dramatically if global heating is not kept in check. The science is clear – we urgently need to equitably phase out fossil fuels to have a chance of keeping to the 1.5°C target and avoiding the worst human rights harms.

We also know that the worsening impacts of climate change already disproportionately affect those who have contributed the least, including children, older persons, women and girls, Indigenous Peoples, racialized communities, people living under occupation, refugees and migrants, people living with disabilities and socio-economically marginalized groups, particularly in lower income countries that are least responsible for climate change. These impacts are also disproportionately affecting the fenceline communities that suffer the most from the human rights harms associated with both the production of and the transition away from fossil fuels.

In this context, climate finance is a central pillar in efforts to address global inequalities. It is crucial to support lower income countries in carrying out rapid and human rights-consistent transitions to zero carbon economies (mitigation) and to adapt to the effects of climate change in order to protect their populations from the human rights harms resulting from climate change. However, a huge gap remains between the levels of climate finance provided to lower income countries and their needs.

The **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)** has said that “[a]daptation and mitigation actions that prioritize equity, social justice, climate justice, rights-based approaches, and inclusivity, lead to more sustainable outcomes, reduce trade-offs, support transformative change and advance climate resilient development.”<sup>1</sup>

In addition, the protection of, and respect for, human rights are essential for effective climate action. However, worldwide, environmental human rights defenders working on climate justice are increasingly targeted with violence, harassment and criminalization, with Indigenous Peoples and frontline communities, especially women, being particularly targeted. The meaningful participation of a broad range of civil society actors and Indigenous Peoples at UN climate conferences and the exercise of

<sup>1</sup> IPCC, *Climate Change 2023: Synthesis Report Summary for Policymakers*, Section C.5.2, <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/syr/summary-for-policymakers>

their rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly are crucial to ensure scrutiny of governmental action and to provide diverse inputs that can shape states' climate policy making. Regrettably, attention to human rights in the Conference of the Parties (COP) of the UNFCCC discussions and decisions has remained limited and has even been opposed by some parties.<sup>2</sup>

This document presents a summary of Amnesty International's findings and recommendations for achieving **climate justice**, addressing three thematic areas for strategic engagement at COP30:

- 1** The protection of environmental human rights defenders (EHRDs) and civic space at multilateral forums discussing climate action;
- 2** The provision of new, adequate, predictable and additional climate finance; and
- 3** The urgent need for a just and equitable fossil fuel phase out.

A complete set of recommendations can be found in Amnesty International's [Pre-COP advocacy briefing](#).<sup>3</sup>

## CLIMATE JUSTICE

This term, used in different ways in different contexts by different communities, highlights the justice implications of the climate crisis and the need to design **just and fair policy responses** to climate change. Climate justice approaches focus on the **root causes of the climate crisis** and how **climate change builds on and magnifies inequalities** among countries and within countries.

Climate justice demands are based on the imperative of addressing such imbalances and injustices, starting from centering climate action in the **perspectives, knowledge and demands of groups and communities most affected by the climate crisis**. **Gender, racial, class, ethnic, disability and inter-generational justice** are essential to achieve climate justice. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), in its 6th Assessment Report, has noted that climate justice is generally considered to include three principles:

- distributive justice, which refers to the allocation of burdens and benefits among individuals, nations and generations;
- procedural justice, which refers to who decides and participates in decision-making; and
- recognition, which entails basic respect and robust engagement with, and fair consideration of, diverse cultures and perspectives.

<sup>2</sup> Amnesty International, *COP29: Finance target is a blueprint for inequalities and violations*, 25 November 2024, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2024/11/cop29-finance-target-is-a-blueprint-for-inequalities-and-violations/>

<sup>3</sup> Amnesty International, *Recommendations to parties to the UNFCCC on human rights consistent climate action in 2025* (Index: IOR 40/9271/2025), 6 May 2025, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/ior40/9271/2025/en/>

# WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

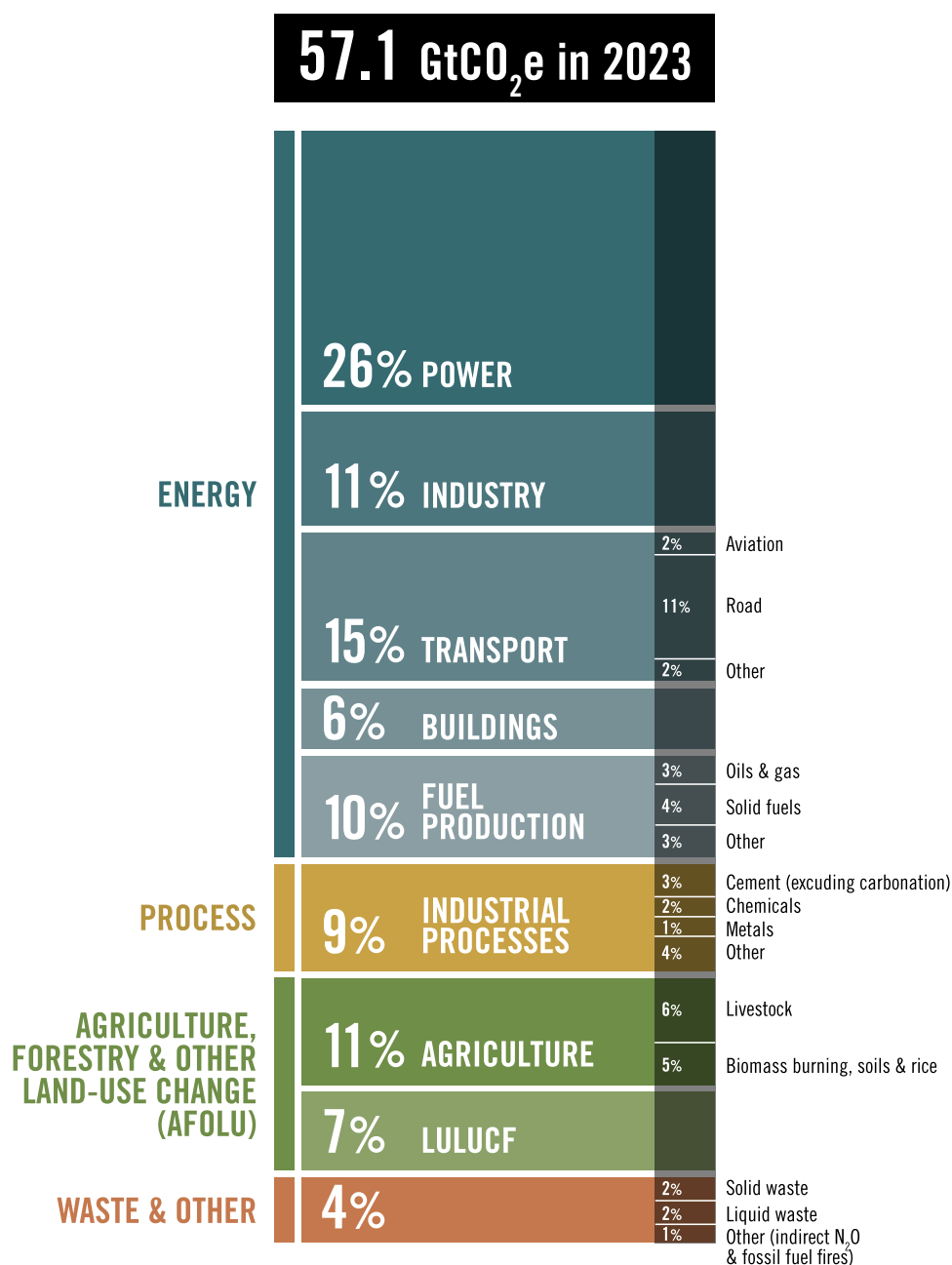
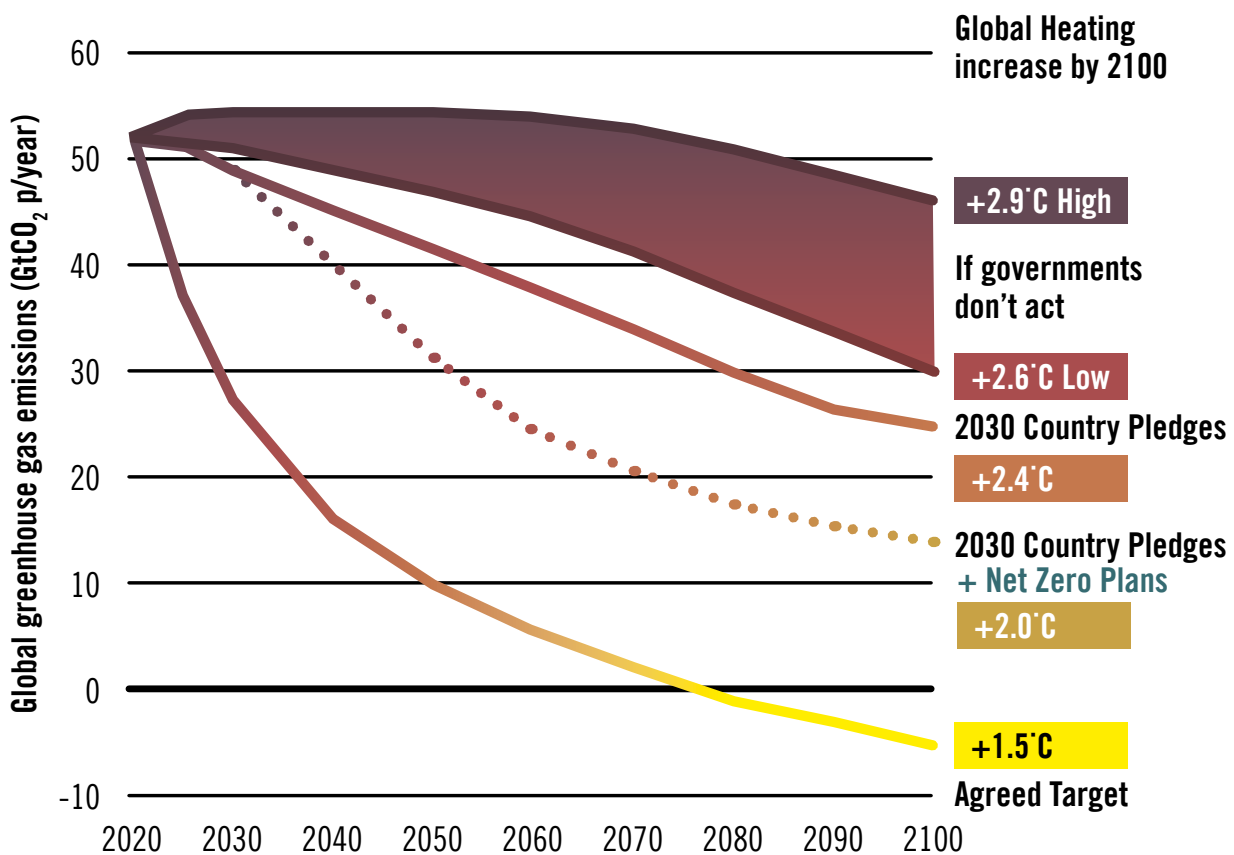


Figure 1: Total GHG emissions in 2023.\*

\*Source: United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), *Executive Summary of Emissions Gap Report 2024*, October 2024, <https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/46443>, p. XIII

Concentrations of greenhouse gases are already at record levels, including carbon dioxide and methane, which are heating the atmosphere. These are derived mainly from the production and burning of fossil fuels such as coal, oil and gas for energy use (see Figure 1). Between 2022 and 2023, they increased by [1.3%](#), a higher rate of increase than in the decade before the Covid-19 pandemic.<sup>4</sup> Yet instead of phasing out fossil fuels, we are burning ever more, and fossil fuel companies are set to expand production even further. 2024 was the first year in which the [global average temperature](#) was 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. Without urgent action to stabilize and reduce emissions, the world's climate is on course to be at least 2.8°C warmer by 2100, according to the [IPCC climate science advisory panel](#) (see Figure 2). This has catastrophic implications for billions of people and ecosystems.



**Figure 2: Global warming and projected greenhouse gas emissions under various scenarios.** We are currently on course for a potentially catastrophic rise of almost 3°C in global temperatures this century.\*

\*Source: Adapted from UNEP, Emissions Gap Report 2023, <https://www.unep.org/resources/emissions-gap-report-2023>

<sup>4</sup> UNEP, Emissions Gap Report 2024: No more hot air ... please! With a massive gap between rhetoric and reality, countries draft new climate commitments, October 2024, <https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/46404>

## CLIMATE CHANGE IS HERE AND NOW:

### CLIMATE DISASTERS IN PAKISTAN

Pakistan contributes less than 1% of global emissions, but its population – particularly very young children and older adults – are suffering some of the most severe harms from climate change. Pakistan is one of the countries most vulnerable to climate disasters.<sup>5</sup>

In 2022, Pakistan experienced record heatwaves, with much of the country reaching 50°C. These above-average temperatures fuelled greater rainfall during the monsoon season. In August 2022, some parts of Pakistan received more than 700% of their average monthly rainfall. The Indus River, which runs the length of the country, quickly burst its banks, flooding communities over a 75,000km<sup>2</sup> area. Thirty-three million people were affected, and eight million displaced. In 2024, the same pattern occurred, with abnormal heat driving heavy rains. As demonstrated in Amnesty International's recently published report *Uncounted: Invisible deaths of older people and children during climate disasters in Pakistan*,<sup>6</sup> the longer that countries around the world continue to burn fossil fuels, the more children and older people in Pakistan will prematurely lose their lives to extreme heat or flooding. Communities are torn apart by high death rates fueled by climate driven 'unnatural disasters'. Doctors and other health professionals interviewed as part of the report described feeling frustrated and powerless with their inability to protect their patients.

Such events demonstrate the acute climate vulnerability that Pakistan faces, as well as the lack of preparedness for communities and populations most at risk. Other countries have not done enough to support Pakistan to respond to climate change. Pakistan requires about USD 16 billion to recover from the losses and damages of the 2022 floods; almost all the money it has received is in the form of loans, most of it restructured from previous commitments, rather than grants. The situation in Pakistan illustrates the urgency which the UNFCCC's Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD) must be fully operationalized and adequately funded.

5 European Commission Disaster Risk Management Knowledge Centre, "INFORM Risk Profile: Pakistan", 2nd edition, 2025, <https://drmkc.jrc.ec.europa.eu/inform-index/INFORM-Risk/Country-Risk-Profile>

6 Amnesty International, *Uncounted: Invisible deaths of older people and children during climate disasters in Pakistan* (Index: ASA 33/9007/2025), 5 May 2025, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa33/9007/2025/en/>



# WHAT CAN BE ACHIEVED AT COP?

In 2015, at COP21 in Paris, governments agreed to try to limit global warming this century to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, to stave off the worst effects of climate change. They would do this by reducing greenhouse gas emissions (known as **mitigation**), putting in place measures to prevent harm to people and the environment (known as **adaptation**), and to help people and communities recover from harm already suffered (known as **loss and damage**). Under the Paris Agreement, the states with the largest responsibility for historical emissions and thus for causing climate harms (see Figure 3) must cut carbon emissions further and faster. In addition, under international human rights law, as part of the obligation to provide international cooperation and assistance, all states in a position to do so must provide finance for lower income countries to be able to do their fair share of cutting emissions and to help their populations adapt to the climate change that is already occurring. High income high emitting states must also provide [remedy for loss and damage](#) in lower income states.<sup>7</sup>

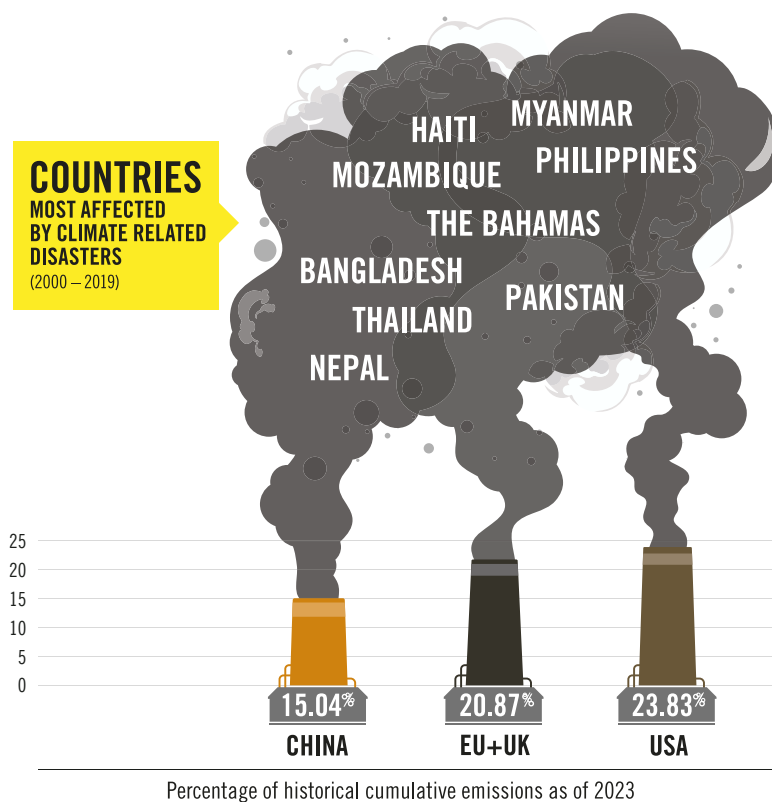


Figure 3: Percentage of historical emissions vs States most affected by climate related disasters.  
© Amnesty International\*

\*Source: Germanwatch, Global Climate Risk Index 2021 <https://www.germanwatch.org/en/19777> and “Our World in Data, CO2 and Greenhouse Gas emissions” <https://ourworldindata.org/co2-emissions>

<sup>7</sup> Amnesty International and Center for International Environmental Law, *Climate-related human rights harm and the right to effective remedy*, (Index: IOR 40/7717/2024), 13 February 2024, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/ior40/7717/2024/en/>

But progress has been slow, as commitments must be made by consensus, which means that just one country can block ambitious decisions. Despite the deepening climate crisis, governments' action to limit fossil fuels has been wholly inadequate. Governments continue to provide [subsidies to fossil fuel companies](#),<sup>8</sup> which have the effect of incentivizing the continuation of the fossil fuel industry (see Figure 4). It took over three decades for governments to agree at COP28 in 2023 to a limited commitment to [“transition away” from fossil fuels in energy systems](#).<sup>9</sup> This weak wording is undermined by caveats and loopholes that allow the fossil fuel industry – responsible for [75% of global greenhouse gas \(GHG\) emissions](#)<sup>10</sup> – to continue business as usual. Such slow progress on the reduction of fossil fuels is partly due to the [significant ability of the fossil fuel industry to influence](#) the outcomes of [climate negotiations](#).<sup>11</sup>

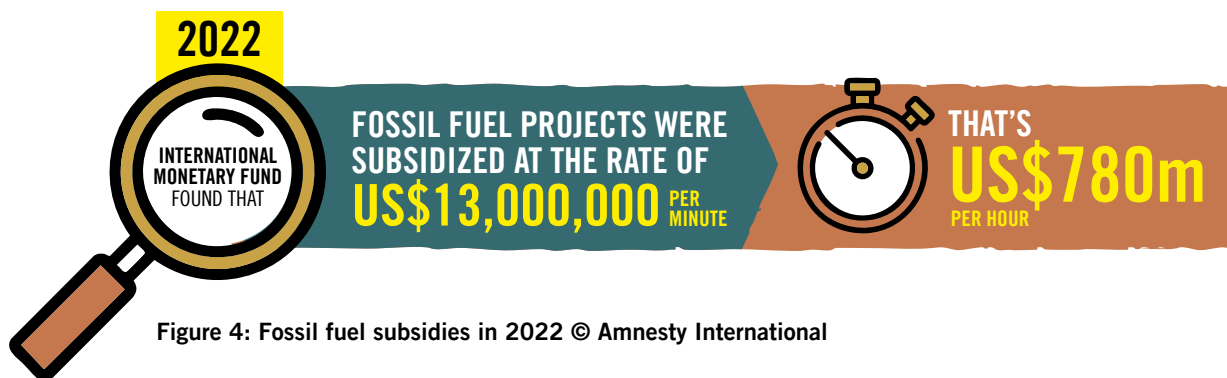


Figure 4: Fossil fuel subsidies in 2022 © Amnesty International

It is also important to remember that states and other parties are discussing climate in many forums outside of COP. There are several other international processes underway in 2025 that are important in relation to climate action and climate finance, such as the G7, G20 and BRICS meetings, the Fourth UN Financing for Development Summit, and proposals for and negotiations around new conventions on tax, debt and international development cooperation.

8 International Energy Agency, “Tracking the impact of government support: Fossil fuel subsidies”, <https://www.iea.org/topics/fossil-fuel-subsidies>

9 Amnesty International, “What happened at COP28? Essential need-to-knows”, 14 December 2023, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2023/12/global-what-happened-at-cop28-essential-need-to-knows/>

10 Global Solidarity Levies Task Force, “For People and the Planet”, <https://solidaritylevies.org/for-people-and-the-planet/>

11 Transparency International, “COP Co-opted? How corruption and undue influence threaten multilateral climate action”, 31 October 2023, <https://www.transparency.org/en/publications/cop-co-opted-how-corruption-and-undue-influence-threaten-multilateral-climate-action>; Amnesty International, “Record number of fossil fuel lobbyists at COP undermines critical climate talks”, 5 December 2023, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2023/12/global-record-number-of-fossil-fuel-lobbyists-at-cop-undermines-critical-climate-talks/>

# WHAT HAS CLIMATE CHANGE GOT TO DO WITH HUMAN RIGHTS?

Everyone has the right to live in a [clean, healthy and sustainable environment](#).<sup>12</sup> As the climate crisis intensifies, this right, and others, are under growing threat. Climate change worsens droughts, damages harvests and leads to food scarcity and rising food costs, and after decades of steady decline, [world hunger has risen again](#).<sup>13</sup> This scarcity increases resource competition and can cause displacement, migration and conflict, leading to other human rights harms. It is often already vulnerable communities, those who use fossil fuels the least, such as subsistence farmers, Indigenous Peoples, and those living in low lying island states faced with rising sea levels and more powerful storms, who bear the brunt of climate change and whose rights to health, life, food and education are most often compromised.

## THE AMAZON IS BURNING, THE FUTURE IS BURNING!

In **Ecuador**, a group of nine girls and young women called “*Guerreras por la Amazonía*”<sup>14</sup> (**The Amazon warriors**) successfully sued the government in a case challenging the impacts of gas flaring, despite experiencing stigmatization and intimidation for their activism.<sup>15</sup> With the Union of People Affected by Chevron-Texaco (UDAPT) and the collective “Eliminate the Flares, Ignite Life”, the defenders obtained a ruling against the government from the Provincial Court of Justice of Sucumbíos, which ordered full reparation for damages, the gradual and progressive elimination of the gas flares, studies on their health impacts, and the establishment of hospital cancer care centres.

**Gas flaring is directly linked to global warming** through the emission of super pollutants such as methane, thus threatening the enjoyment and guarantee of human rights now and in the future. Flaring can be avoided in fossil fuel extraction. In general, both state-owned and private fossil fuel companies use flaring to reduce costs in socially and environmentally vulnerable areas known as “sacrifice zones”, where marginalization and poverty are compounded by the environmental degradation caused by oil extraction.

Ecuador’s economy has historically been based on oil extraction, and the country therefore has an important responsibility and opportunity to reduce GHG emissions from the sector and **pave the way for a rapid and just energy transition** that avoids further damage to the global climate system.

12 Amnesty International, “Campaign for the right to a healthy environment, including Amnesty International, wins prestigious human rights prize”, 20 July 2023, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2023/07/campaign-for-the-right-to-a-healthy-environment-including-amnesty-international-wins-prestigious-human-rights-prize/>

13 World Food Programme, “A global food crisis”, <https://www.wfp.org/global-hunger-crisis>

14 Amnesty International, *Ecuador: The Amazon is burning, the future is burning!* (Index: AMR 28/8280/2024), 12 August 2024, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/amr28/8280/2024/en/> - “Guerreras por la Amazonía”: Amnesty International, “Ecuador: Gas flares in the Amazon threatens human rights in the present and future”, 12 August 2024, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2024/08/ecuador-gas-flares-amazon-threatens-human-rights-present-and-future/>

15 Amnesty International, “Ecuador: Child Climate Justice activist intimidated in her home” (Index: AMR 28/7775/2024), 4 March 2024, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/amr28/7775/2024/en/>

Global warming affects many other rights in countries at all levels of income, for example by significantly [worsening air pollution](#).<sup>16</sup> It also means that disease-carrying mosquitoes are spreading to new areas. [Extreme heat](#) causes deaths among outdoor workers – who often have no choice but to work in the extreme heat outside – and increases mortality rates in care homes and health facilities.<sup>17</sup> In higher income countries, the damage caused by fossil fuel extraction and processing and climate change often falls disproportionately in so-called “sacrifice zones” where often already marginalized communities are subjected to [harmful pollution](#), and disinvestment means public infrastructure is ill-equipped to survive extreme weather events.<sup>18</sup>

The rights to public participation, and to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly are also crucial in climate decision making. The voices, views and knowledge of Indigenous Peoples, **frontline and fenceline communities** and human rights defenders must be incorporated into climate policies, plans and actions.<sup>19</sup> Yet around the world, we see environmental human rights defenders being harassed, stigmatized, attacked and criminalized.

Human rights law can also be an important tool for climate change accountability. As noted, both international human rights law and the Paris Agreement specify government obligations, including those relating to regulating industry, such as fossil fuel companies. These laws are important bases for advocacy – including the advocacy that Amnesty International undertakes – as well as for litigation in diverse jurisdictions. Finally, respecting and protecting human rights in climate action is not only a [binding obligation](#) on states,<sup>20</sup> but is essential for effective climate action. But sadly, all too often at COPs, a few states block the inclusion of references to human rights in outcomes and decisions. Amnesty International is calling for states and other parties to put human rights front and centre of COP30 negotiations in order to help achieve climate justice.

**“Fenceline” communities:** communities of people who live near industrial infrastructure producing or transforming fossil fuels. Fenceline communities directly experience the adverse impacts of pollution and environmental degradation emanating from extractive projects and tend to live in so-called “sacrifice zones”.

**“Frontline” communities:** people who bear the brunt of direct and indirect impacts of the climate crisis (for example, communities who are most affected by climate-induced rapid and slow onset weather events), many of whom are marginalized and experience intersecting forms of cultural, economic, social and racial discrimination.

16 Amnesty International, “Heatwaves are worsening air pollution, underscoring the urgent need to phase out fossil fuels”, 6 September 2023, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2023/09/global-heatwaves-are-worsening-air-pollution-underscoring-the-urgent-need-to-phase-out-fossil-fuels/>

17 Amnesty International, *A burning emergency: Extreme heat and the right to health in Pakistan* (Index ASA 33/6823/2023), 4 June 2023, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa33/6823/2023/en/>

18 Amnesty International, *The Cost of Doing Business? The Petrochemical Industry’s Toxic Pollution in the USA* (Index: AMR 51/7566/2024), <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/AMR51/7566/2024/en/>

19 Amnesty International, *Fatal fuels: Why human rights protection urgently requires a full and equitable fossil fuel phase out* (Index: POL 30/7382/2023), 13 November 2023, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/pol30/7382/2023/en/>

20 Amnesty International, *Stop burning our rights! What governments and corporations must do to protect humanity from the climate crisis* (Index: POL 30/3476/2021), 7 June 2021, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/pol30/3476/2021/en/>

# WHAT PROGRESS CAN BE MADE AT COP30 TO LIMIT GLOBAL WARMING?

With enough ambition, parties to the UNFCCC and the Paris Declaration can do a lot to advance climate justice. Moving forward on the COP28 agreement to transition away from fossil fuels towards a full fossil fuel phase out is critical to protect human rights. Governments, financial institutions and businesses can and should do far more to halt the growth of the fossil fuel industry, which is [incompatible with states' human rights obligations and the goal to limit global warming to below 1.5°C](#).<sup>21</sup> The renewable energy expansion taking place in many countries is unstoppable, but far more action is required for a fair and just transition towards a sustainable and equitable future with access to renewable energy for all and where everyone can enjoy the full range of their human rights.

States and parties must also urgently submit their own updated national climate plans – known as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) – which were due in February 2025. Disappointingly, by 12 May 2025 [only 21 countries had submitted a new NDC](#),<sup>22</sup> representing only 20% of total global emissions. These plans need to be framed around the protection of human rights, be aligned to keeping the 1.5°C target alive. For lower income countries, these plans must indicate predicted costs for the effective allocation of climate finance to enable their implementation. And they must be produced through meaningful, inclusive public participation.

<sup>21</sup> Amnesty International, “Fossil fuel production will be double the level needed to limit global warming to 1.5°C”, 8 November 2023, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2023/11/global-fossil-fuel-production-will-be-double-the-level-needed-to-limit-global-warming-to-1-5c/>

<sup>22</sup> Climate Watch, “NDC Tracker”, available at <https://www.climatewatchdata.org/ndc-tracker>



## JUST AND EQUITABLE ENERGY TRANSITION TO PROTECT THE INDIGENOUS SÁMI PEOPLE

In the report *Just Transition or 'Green Colonialism'?*, Amnesty International, in collaboration with the [Saami Council](https://www.saamicouncil.net/en/home)<sup>23</sup> (a voluntary organization with Sámi member organizations in Finland, Sweden, Norway and Russia) analyzing how **mineral extraction and new energy projects** conducted without free, prior and informed consent are **threatening Indigenous Sámi livelihoods and culture in the Nordic countries**.<sup>24</sup> Climate change threatens the culture and existence of the Sámi Indigenous People in two ways: firstly, through direct environmental impacts such as changing weather conditions and ecosystems, and secondly, through the increasing number of energy projects and resource extraction in Sápmi (the cultural region traditionally inhabited by the Sámi People) in the name of “green” development and “clean” energy transition.

Greenhouse gas emissions warming the climate must be rapidly reduced, but this cannot happen at the expense of those who are already most harmed by climate change. To be truly just, the transition to renewable energy must be consistent with human rights.



IMAGE: A Sámi woman feeds her son while watching their herd of reindeer, in Reinfjord, in Northern Norway, 15 September, 2023. © Olivier Morin/AFP/Getty Images

<sup>23</sup> Saami Council, <https://www.saamicouncil.net/en/home>

<sup>24</sup> Amnesty International and the Sámi Council, *Justice Transition or 'Green Colonialism': How mineral extraction and new energy projects without free, prior and informed consent are threatening Indigenous Sámi livelihoods and culture in Sweden, Norway and Finland* (Index: EUR 20/8913/2025), 29 January 2025, <https://www.amnesty.fi/amnestyn-ja-saamelaisneuvoston-raportti-oikeudenmukainen-siirtyma-vai-vihreaa-kolonialismia/>

# CLIMATE FINANCE IS A HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE: WHAT NEEDS TO HAPPEN AT COP30?

Lower income countries are paying far more in debt repayments than they are receiving as climate finance from the high income countries that are the most responsible for climate change. This hampers their ability to take climate action and protect human rights (see Figure 5).

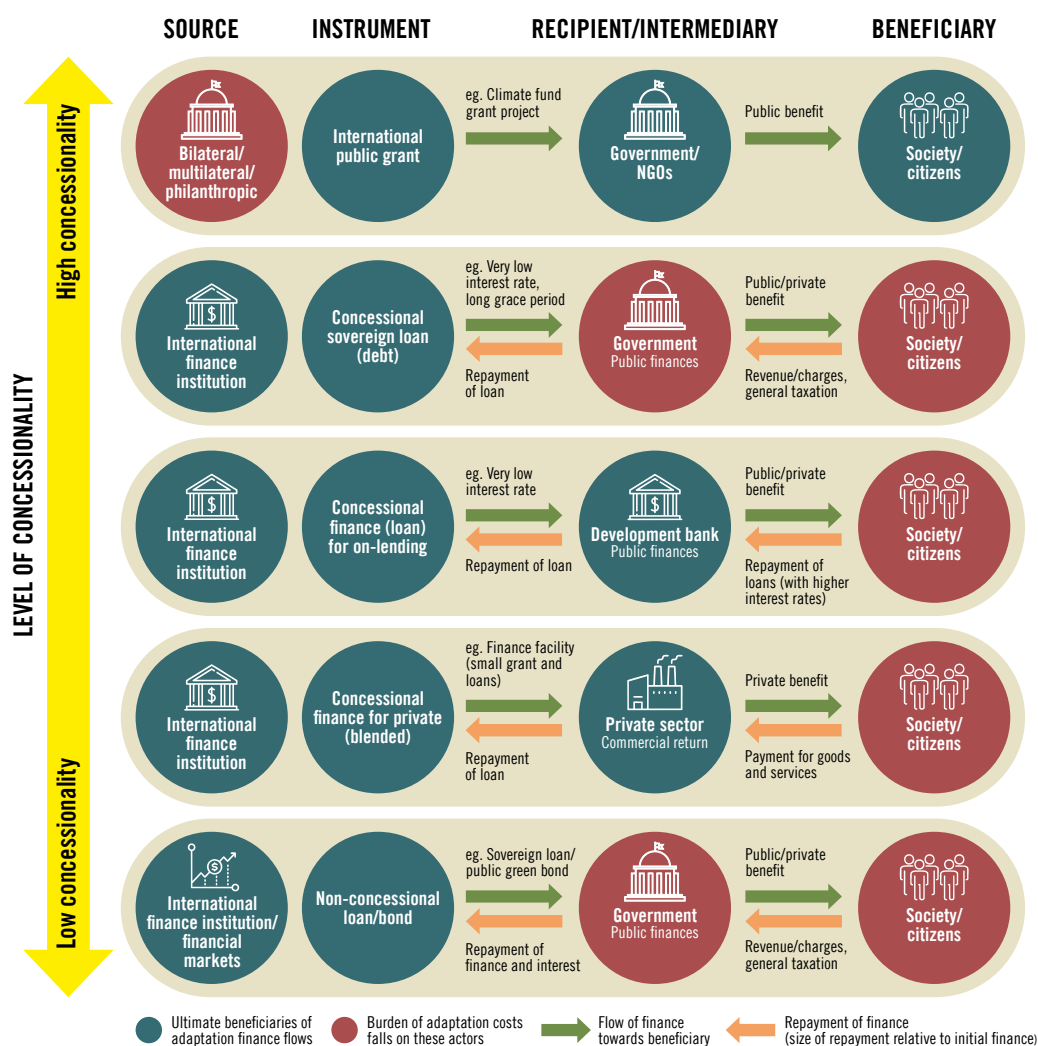


Figure 5: Who pays the cost of climate finance?\*

\*Source: UNEP, Adaptation Gap Report 2024, 7 November 2024, <https://www.unep.org/resources/adaptation-gap-report-2024>

At COP29, a derisory new climate finance target was agreed. Higher income countries agreed to mobilize [USD 300 billion per year](#) for mitigation and adaptation in lower income countries (see Figure 6), with another vague target of USD 1.3 trillion annually by 2030 to be “mobilized”.<sup>25</sup> The 1.3 trillion could consist of public and private finance and could be debt-creating. These targets failed to include loss and damage: The Fund for responding to Loss and Damage, set up in 2022, has so far received pledges totaling only [USD 768.40](#).<sup>26</sup> As of May 2025, many governments have failed to follow through on their pledges.

“**Loss and damage**” refers to the harms caused by climate change that cannot be prevented by climate action.

Providing scaled-up loss and damage finance is key **to achieving climate justice**. Under international human rights law, communities and individuals suffering loss and damage have the right to remedy, which incorporates restitution, compensation, rehabilitation, satisfaction and guarantees of non-repetition.

However, for decades the countries that are the most responsible for the damage caused by climate change resisted providing grants-based public funding to lower income countries suffering climate-related loss and damage. They finally agreed to establish a Fund for responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD) in 2022. It remains woefully underfunded.

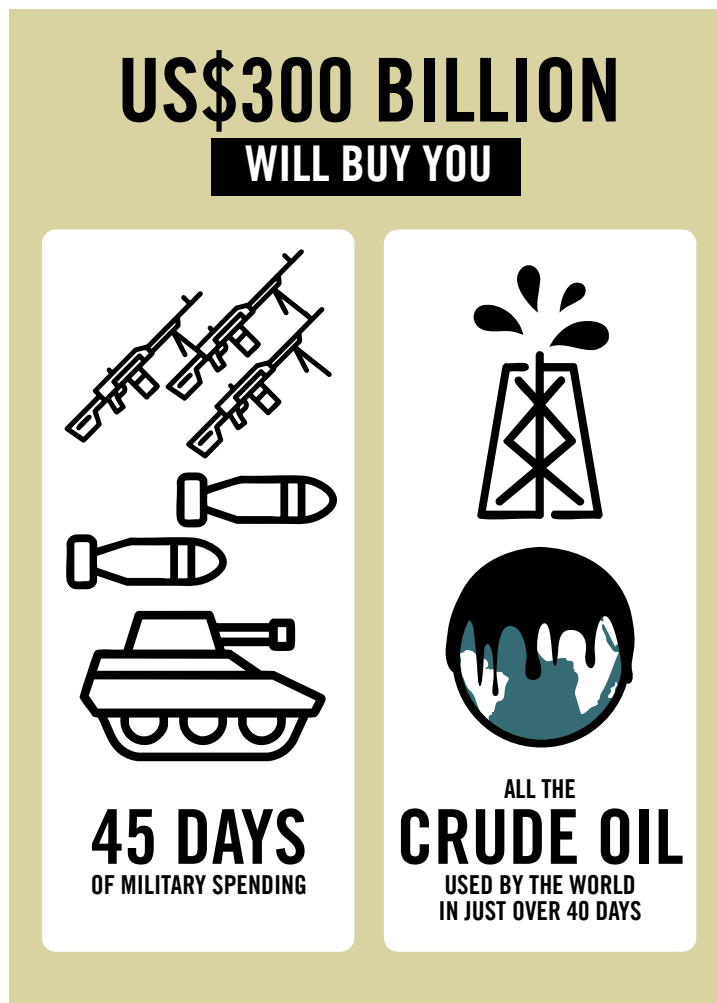


Figure 6: What USD 300 billion can buy © Amnesty International

High income countries are continuing to shirk their obligations to provide climate finance, yet as [Amnesty International has shown](#),<sup>27</sup> there are plenty of ways in which additional finance could be raised. Taxing fossil fuel companies, corporate windfall profits and wealthy individuals, as well as ending subsidies and investments in fossil fuels and ending global tax abuses, could raise over USD 3 trillion per year (see Figure 7).

<sup>25</sup> Amnesty International, “COP29: Finance target is a blueprint for inequalities and violations”, 25 November 2024, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2024/11/cop29-finance-target-is-a-blueprint-for-inequalities-and-violations/>

<sup>26</sup> UNFCCC, “Pledges to the Fund for responding to Loss and Damage”, available at <https://unfccc.int/topics/climate-finance/funds-entities-bodies/fund-for-responding-to-loss-and-damage/pledges-to-the-fund-for-responding-to-loss-and-damage>

<sup>27</sup> Amnesty International, *Plenty to go around: Mobilizing finance for climate justice*, (Index: POL 30/8850/2025), 16 January 2025, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/pol30/8850/2025/en/>



# THE CLIMATE FINANCE GAP AND POSSIBLE FUNDING SOURCES

(annual US\$)

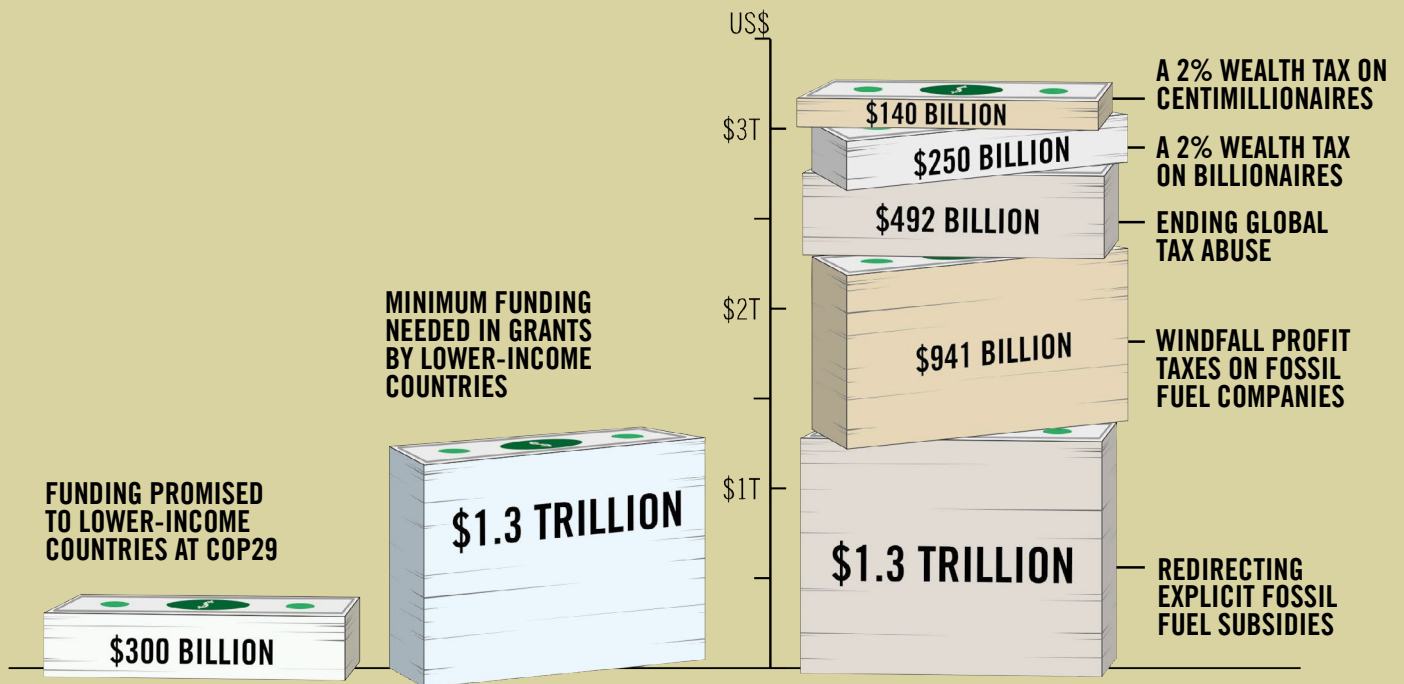


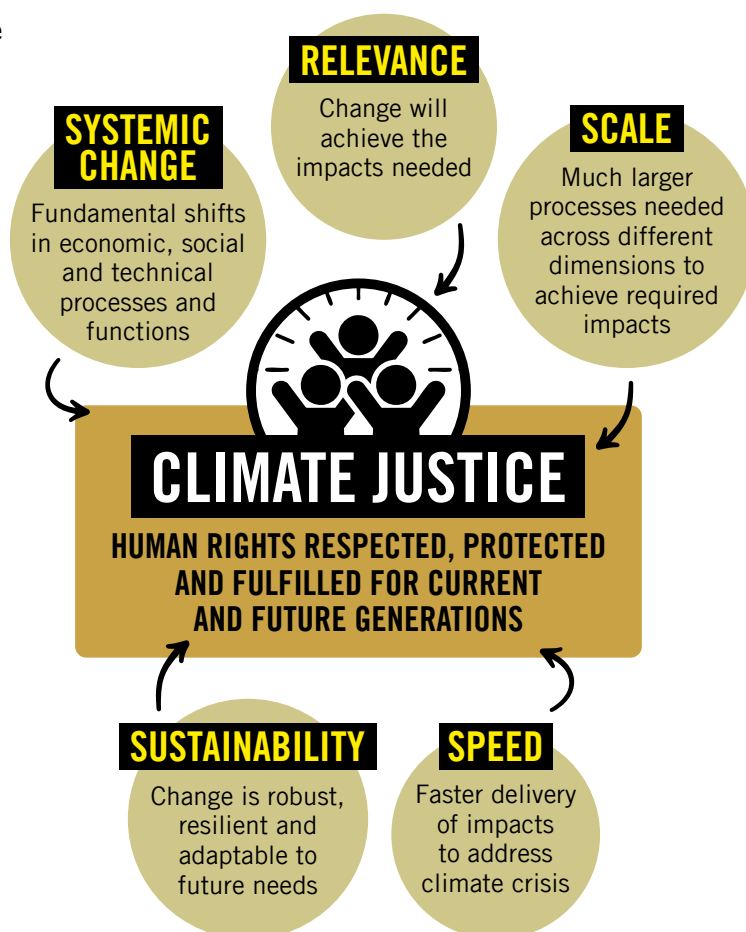
Figure 7: How to close the Climate Finance Gap © Amnesty International

COP30 needs to conclude with a clear plan and timeline for delivering on the USD 300 billion target and to scale up the provision of public grants-based finance, while ensuring that international investments flow into projects that actually help to address climate change. High income high emitting states must come forward with new and additional contributions to the FRLD, ensure that the Fund provides opportunities for direct access by affected communities and is insulated from undue private sector influence.

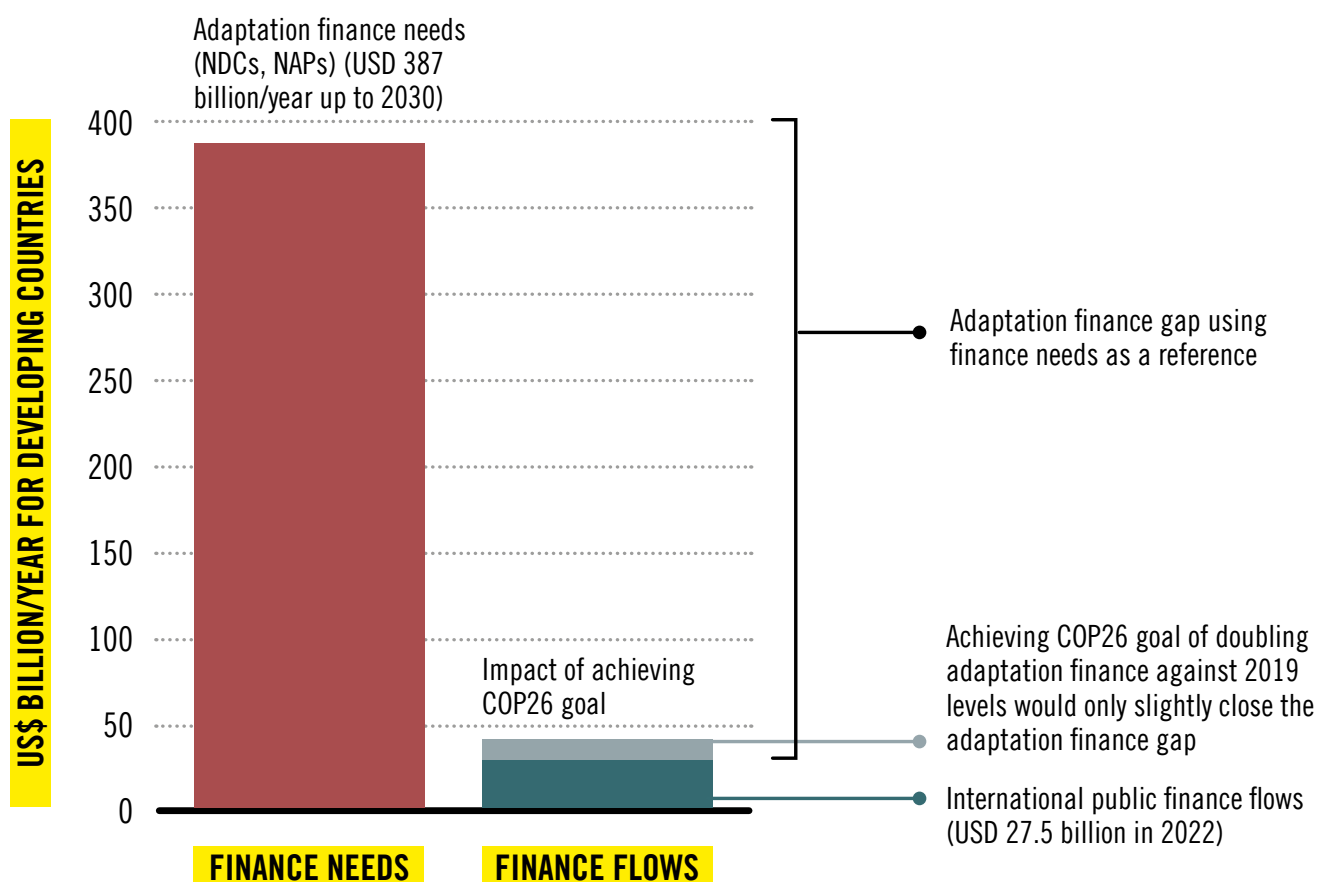
# PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE FACE OF CLIMATE CHANGE: CLOSING THE ADAPTATION FINANCE GAP

Adaptation measures often involve strengthening basic essential services and public goods such as water, healthcare, social protection, basic infrastructure and disaster preparedness: These can protect human rights in the face of climate change. Given the scale of the climate emergency, adaptation needs to be transformational in order to protect human rights (see Figure 8). Adaptation to climate change comes at a high price. Lower income countries should not be forced into greater debt distress in order to protect their populations from the harmful climate impacts for which they are not responsible.

**Figure 8: Transformational adaptation** © Amnesty International







**Figure 9: The Adaptation Finance Gap:**  
Comparison of adaptation financing needs and international public adaptation finance flows in lower income countries.\*

A Global Goal on Adaptation was established under the Paris Agreement, but its implementation has been slow. Lower income countries estimate their adaptation finance needs to amount to USD 387 billion per year up to 2030. Despite the explicit aim under the Paris Agreement to achieve a balance between adaptation and mitigation finance, the climate finance gap is particularly acute in relation to adaptation finance, where the gap is now estimated at USD 215-387 billion per year and growing (see Figure 9). People in countries at all levels of income, but particularly in lower income countries, are already experiencing preventable ill health and death from climate change. Parties must take urgent steps at COP30 to reduce the adaptation finance gap.

\*Source: UNEP, Adaptation Gap Report 2024, 7 November 2024, <https://www.unep.org/resources/adaptation-gap-report-2024>

# PROTECTING CIVIC SPACE AT COPS: AN ESSENTIAL INGREDIENT FOR EFFECTIVE CLIMATE ACTION

Civil society organizations, Indigenous Peoples' representatives and young people have an important role to play in pushing for ambitious COP outcomes, both in their home jurisdictions and at the conferences themselves. Yet there remain challenges in access and inclusion for Indigenous Peoples in UNFCCC spaces where civic space is shrinking, in keeping with what we see around the world. Environmental defenders are among those most impacted by shrinking civic space and poor governmental protection of the rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association.



**IMAGE:** Proscovier NNanyonjo Vikman describing her difficulties in obtaining a visa for the 2024 Bonn Climate Conference at a press conference co-organized by Human Rights Watch, Center for International Environmental Law and Amnesty International © UNFCCC

**ENVIRONMENTAL  
HUMAN RIGHTS  
DEFENDERS  
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**Figure 10:** The risks faced by environmental human rights defenders for their essential work  
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## CRACKDOWN AGAINST CLIMATE ACTIVISTS

In recent years, we have seen increasing repression of climate activists, land and environmental defenders, journalists and other voices critical of governments' climate inaction.<sup>28</sup> Many defenders have endured human rights violations, including intimidation, crackdowns on their rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association, enforced disappearances, criminalization and smear campaigns, arrest and arbitrary detention, among others.<sup>29</sup>

- In **Canada**, the Wet'suwet'en Nation land defenders have for years been experiencing a campaign of violence, harassment, discrimination and dispossession for their attempts to protect their ancestral and unceded territories against the construction of the Coastal GasLink liquified natural gas pipeline.<sup>30</sup>
- In **Australia**, more than 100 protesters were arrested in November 2023 after demonstrating against government inaction on the climate crisis ahead of COP28.<sup>31</sup>
- In October 2020, Fikile Ntshangase, a vocal opponent of a nearby open pit coal mine, was shot six times and killed inside her home in **South Africa**,<sup>32</sup> but to date, no one has been held accountable for her murder.<sup>33</sup>

Criminalization through prosecution is increasingly used as a tool to silence and intimidate climate activists, environmental and land defenders and civil society organizations. There has also been increasing use of Strategic Litigation Against Public Participation lawsuits (SLAPPs), intended to silence or intimidate journalists, human rights defenders, civil society organizations, activists and other critical voices. For example, the fossil fuel company Energy Transfer's legal action against Greenpeace illustrates the madnitude of the risks posed by SLAPPs. In March 2025, a ruling of a U.S. jury in North Dakota ordered Greenpeace to pay at least USD 660 million to Energy Transfer, having found Greenpeace responsible for defamation and for the actions of protesters opposed to the Dakota Access pipeline in 2016 and 2017.<sup>34</sup> Greenpeace plans to appeal this decision.

28 Amnesty International, "Human rights defenders working on climate change and a just transition: Submission to the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders" (Index: IOR 40/9325/2025), 5 May 2025, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/ior40/9325/2025/en/>

29 Global Witness, "Missing voices: The violent erasure of land and environmental defenders", 10 September 2024, <https://globalwitness.org/en/campaigns/land-and-environmental-defenders/missing-voices/#killed>

30 Amnesty International, "Removed from our land for defending it: Criminalization, Intimidation and Harassment of Wet'suwet'en Land Defenders (Index: AMR 20/7132/2023), 11 December 2023, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/amr20/7132/2023/en/>. See interactive report landing page: "A land divided: Wet'suwet'en Nation", available at <https://amnesty.ca/wetsuweten-report/>

31 Amnesty International, "Australia: More than 100 people charged after kayaking protesters block coal port ahead of COP28", 27 November 2023, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2023/11/australia-protesters-climate-coal/>

32 Amnesty International, "Two years and still no justice for Fikile Ntshangase's murder", 21 October 2022, <https://amnesty.org.za/south-africa-two-years-and-still-no-justice-for-fikile-ntshangases-murder/>

33 Amnesty International, "Fikile Ntshangase", Instagram post, 12 March 2025, [https://www.instagram.com/amnestysafrica/p/DHF2TZlA9d/?hl=en&img\\_index=1](https://www.instagram.com/amnestysafrica/p/DHF2TZlA9d/?hl=en&img_index=1)

34 Amnesty International, "USA: Chilling verdict against Greenpeace sets damaging precedent for protection and promotion of human rights and climate justice", 20 March 2025, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2025/03/usa-verdict-against-greenpeace-sets-damaging-precedent/>

At the COPs themselves, the rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association have been challenged. Civil society in Azerbaijan experienced an [intensified clampdown](#), including arrests and arbitrary detention of a dozen civil society activists and journalists, following the country's selection as the host of COP29.<sup>35</sup> The repressive atmosphere in Azerbaijan led some civil society activists to choose to stay away from the conference, and added to a climate of fear for those who attended. In Dubai, COP participants faced [unlawful digital surveillance](#), an attack on the meaningful participation of civil society at COP28.<sup>36</sup> In Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, climate activists endured [restrictions](#) on their rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association,<sup>37</sup> including being subjected to [intimidation, harassment and surveillance](#) during COP27.<sup>38</sup> In [Glasgow, UK](#),<sup>39</sup> [Madrid, Spain](#),<sup>40</sup> and [Katowice, Poland](#),<sup>41</sup> there were also concerns about policing of protests, intimidation of participants and restrictions on entry.



To combat this, we need to see public recognition of the important work of environmental human rights defenders and efforts to prevent reprisals against anyone participating in the Bonn Climate Conference or in COP30. This requires explicit human rights commitments from the host country, Brazil. These commitments should be enshrined in the Host Country Agreement at the outset of organizing the COP. The UNFCCC Secretariat must also ensure that the rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association are fully protected in the “Blue Zone” of the conference, the area over which it has control.

**IMAGE: Protesters at a COP29 action where speaking freely was not permitted © Amnesty International**

- 35 Amnesty International, *Azerbaijan: Update — The Human Rights Situation in Azerbaijan ahead of COP29* (Index: EUR 55/8703/2024), 1 November 2024, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/eur55/8703/2024/en/>
- 36 Amnesty International, *UAE: Concerns around authorities' use of digital surveillance during COP28*, 15 November 2023, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2023/11/uae-concerns-around-authorities-use-of-digital-surveillance-during-cop28/>
- 37 Amnesty International, “Egypt: Statements on COP27 imply restricting activism”, 12 July 2022, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2022/07/egypt-statements-on-cop27-imply-restricting-activism/>
- 38 UN Human Rights (OHCHR), “Egypt: UN experts alarmed by harassment of civil society actors at COP27 climate summit”, 18 November 2022, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2022/11/egypt-un-experts-alarmed-harassment-civil-society-actors-cop27-climate>
- 39 Amnesty International UK, “Amnesty briefing on policing of protest at COP26”, August 2022, <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/blogs/scottish-human-rights/policing-cop26-and-right-protest-scotland>
- 40 Amnesty International, “Madrid climate talks failed: What now?”, 17 December 2019, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2019/12/madrid-climate-talks-fail-what-now-2/>
- 41 Amnesty International, *Poland: Arrests and refusal of entry to environmentalists during the COP24 climate talks* (Index: EUR 37/9550/2018), 11 December 2018, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/eur37/9550/2018/en>



# WHAT ABOUT THE SITUATION IN BRAZIL?

As documented in [Amnesty International's recent annual report](#), human rights defenders and Indigenous Peoples in Brazil are particularly at risk of persecution.<sup>42</sup> In 2023, the second highest number of killings of land and environmental defenders globally occurred in Brazil, according to Global Witness.<sup>43</sup> In 2024, the Protection Programme for Human Rights Defenders monitored over 1,000 incidents of human rights violations and abuses against human rights defenders in Brazil, with over half involving Indigenous and Quilombola individuals (people who are descendants of Africans who escaped slavery). Most threats came from landowners, companies and public security agents. Impunity for violations remains common and journalists and media workers are also at risk, facing stigmatization, physical assault, and civil and criminal lawsuits. In April 2025, police [violently repressed](#) a protest in the capital Brasília, led by Indigenous Peoples from across the country who protested to decry the violations and attacks they experienced and to claim their right to survival.<sup>44</sup>

Brazil must take steps to prevent similar violations and combat impunity for the abuses that have already taken place, including by providing redress for anyone whose rights have been violated.

**IMAGE:** People attend a demonstration in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, calling for justice for Brazilian indigenous expert Bruno Pereira and British journalist Dom Phillips, who were murdered while working in the Amazon rainforest, 26 June, 2022 © Luciola Villela/ AFP/Getty Images



<sup>42</sup> Amnesty International, "Brazil 2024" in Annual Report, April 2025, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/location/americas/south-america/brazil/report-brazil/>

<sup>43</sup> Global Witness, "Missing voices: The violent erasure of land and environmental defenders", September 2024, <https://globalwitness.org/en/campaigns/land-and-environmental-defenders/missing-voices/#killed>

<sup>44</sup> Martina Medena, "Indígenas são reprimidos pela polícia durante marcha do Acampamento Terra Livre em Brasília", Brasil de Fato, 10 April 2025, <https://www.brasildefato.com.br/2025/04/10/indigenas-sao-reprimidos-pela-policia-durante-marcha-do-acampamento-terra-livre-em-brasilia/> (in Portuguese)



## BRAZIL'S OIL EXPLOITATION IN THE MOUTH OF THE AMAZON RIVER

The government of Brazil is expanding fossil fuel extraction across the country, with 332 sites across the country and 47 in the mouth of the Amazon basin.<sup>45</sup> Particularly concerning is the site known as Block 59 in the mouth of the Amazon River.

According to the Brazilian Institute of the Environment and Renewable Natural Resources (IBAMA in Portuguese), oil extraction in the mouth of the Amazon would have serious negative impacts, including pollution of water and soil.<sup>46</sup> It poses a direct threat to local nature and to the ecological balance of the mouth of the Amazon.<sup>47</sup> In addition to environmental damage, oil extraction would cause serious harm to the way of living of the indigenous and traditional communities that live in the region, such as the Karipuna, Palikur-Arukwayene, Galibi Marworno and Galibi Kali'na peoples, who have not been consulted about the project that is set to impact their lands.<sup>48</sup>

As the country prepares to host COP30 in Belém in November 2025, the efforts to accelerate the license approval of fossil fuel projects at the mouth of the Amazon reveals a clear contradiction between the Brazilian government's domestic actions and its role as a global leader in climate action. The population in Brazil is already feeling the impact of climate change as unnatural disasters have risen by 460% since the 1990s.<sup>49</sup> Brazil recorded approximately 10 extreme weather events in 2024, three of which were unprecedentedly severe: prolonged drought in the Amazon; heatwaves in the Brazilian heartlands, with temperatures topping 42°C; and torrential rains and flooding in the southern region of the country.<sup>50</sup>



IMAGE: Boats docked in the Bay of Guanabara, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, February 2025 © Amnesty International (Candy Ofime)

- 45 Sarah Brown, "Lula pushes oil drilling at mouth of Amazon despite climate risks", Mongabay, 21 February 2025, <https://news.mongabay.com/2025/02/lula-pushes-oil-drilling-at-mouth-of-amazon-despite-climate-risks/>
- 46 Greenpeace, "Impacto de exploração de petróleo na Foz do Amazonas é de nível máximo", 31 January 2024, <https://www.greenpeace.org/brasil/blog/impacto-ambiental-da-exploracao-de-petroleo-na-foz-do-amazonas-e-de-nivel-maximo/> (in Portuguese)
- 47 Climainfo, "Exploração de combustíveis fósseis na foz do Amazonas é de impacto ambiental máximo, avalia IBAMA", 1 February 2024, <https://climainfo.org.br/2024/02/01/exploracao-de-combustiveis-fosseis-na-foz-do-amazonas-e-de-impacto-ambiental-maximo-avalia-ibama/> (in Portuguese)
- 48 World Wildlife Fund (WWF), "Ainda sem licença do Ibama, exploração de petróleo na Foz do Amazonas é risco para povos indígenas e tradicionais", 28 November 2022, <https://www.wwf.org.br/?84220%2Fainda-sem-licenca-do-ibama-exploracao-de-petroleo-na-foz-do-amazonas-e-risco-para-povos-indigenas-e-tradicionais> (in Portuguese)
- 49 Letícia Klein, "Brazil has seen a 460% increase in climate-related disasters since the 1990s", Mongabay, 11 February 2025, <https://news.mongabay.com/2025/02/brazil-has-seen-a-460-increase-in-climate-related-disasters-since-the-1990s/>
- 50 World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), *State of the Global Climate 2024*, 19 March 2025, <https://wmo.int/publication-series/state-of-global-climate-2024>

“While NDCs are a tool designed to report on and ratchet up climate change mitigation, they can also address adaptation and loss and damage. A truly ambitious NDC should address all facets of the climate action needed to respect, protect, and fulfill human rights.” OHCHR<sup>51</sup>

Brazil is also a major fossil fuel producer and is seeking to [expand production](#),<sup>52</sup> even though the science is clear that to keep below 1.5°C of global heating, no new extraction should go ahead. Brazil is also [joining OPEC](#),<sup>53</sup> an organization of fossil fuel producers that has [fought against a commitment to phase out fossil fuels](#).<sup>54</sup> Emissions reduction targets in [Brazil's new NDC](#) fall short of its fair share, as calculated by civil society organizations, and the NDC does not commit to phasing out fossil fuels.<sup>55</sup> Brazil's NDC would also not meet the goal of halting and reversing deforestation by 2030. On the positive side, the NDC does include a strong focus on adaptation, underpinned by the principles of climate justice, a just transition, and human rights, although the NDC does not include any reference to loss and damage. Through its COP30 presidency, Brazil should show leadership by making a commitment to phase out fossil fuels with a clear timeline for implementation.



IMAGE: Flare from industrial facility operated by the national Brazilian oil and gas company Petrobras in the Bay of Guanabara, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, February 2025 © Amnesty International (Candy Ofime)

51 OHCHR, *Integrating Human Rights in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs): A Toolkit for Practitioners*, 1 November 2022 <https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/tools-and-resources/integrating-human-rights-nationally-determined-contributions-ndcs>

52 Brasil247, “Brasil planeja aumento significativo na produção de petróleo até 2025”, 16 December 2024, <https://www.brasil247.com/economia/brasil-planeja-aumento-significativo-na-producao-de-petroleo-ate-2025-aponta-instituto> (in Portuguese)

53 Cristen Hemingway Jaynes, “Brazil Joins OPEC+ Ahead of Hosting UN Climate Summit”, EcoWatch, 19 February 2025, <https://www.ecowatch.com/brazil-opec-cop30.html>

54 Yousef Saba and Maha El Dahan, “OPEC head to OPEC+: reject COP28 language on fossil fuel phase-out”, 8 December 2023, <https://www.reuters.com/sustainability/climate-energy/opec-chief-urges-members-reject-any-cop28-deal-that-targets-fossil-fuels-2023-12-08/>

55 Climate Action Network International, “Brazil's NDC”, March 2025, <https://climatenetwork.org/resource/ndc-3-0-analysis-briefs-brazil/>

# WHAT IS AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL CALLING FOR AT COP30?

Amnesty International is calling for parties to the UNFCCC and Paris Agreement to put human rights at the heart of all climate action decision making.

This includes:

- **Massively scaled-up needs-based climate finance**, particularly for adaptation and loss and damage, in the form of grants, not loans, with those most responsible for emissions contributing the most.
- **Adequate capitalization based on the polluter pays principle for the Fund for responding to Loss and Damage** to enable affected people in lower income countries to effectively access resources.
- Provision of **adequate finance for all aspects of just transition**.
- **Equitable transformation of global systems of development finance, taxation, and public and private investment** to provide additional sources of finance and to increase fiscal space for climate action.
- **Debt restructuring** for countries that need it, including cancellation where appropriate.

- A **full, fast, fair and funded fossil fuel phase out** across all sectors, without relying on risky and unproven technologies or offsets that do not lead to genuine emissions reductions, through a just transition to a sustainable future for all.
- Urgently develop **new human rights compliant NDCs** that will keep global warming below 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, with high income historical emitters, other high emitting G20 countries and other high income fossil fuel producers going furthest and fastest.
- **Protection of civic space**, including at UNFCCC meetings; for civil society, children and youth, women, people with disabilities and Indigenous Peoples from all countries to be able to participate meaningfully; and **strengthened protections for environmental human rights defenders**.
- All states must press for respect for **freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly** in Germany ahead of the Bonn Climate Conference, as well as in Brazil ahead of COP30, and demand meaningful improvements in the human rights situation in Azerbaijan (the current president of the COP).

**Amnesty International is a movement of 10 million people which mobilizes the humanity in everyone and campaigns for change so we can all enjoy our human rights. Our vision is of a world where those in power keep their promises, respect international law and are held to account. We are independent of any government, political ideology, economic interest or religion and are funded mainly by our membership and individual donations. We believe that acting in solidarity and compassion with people everywhere can change our societies for the better.**

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