

## GCE's COP30 Strategic Thematic Priorities

### Introduction

COP30, the annual UNFCCC Conference of the Parties, will take place in Belém, Brazil, from 10 to 21 November 2025. One decade after the Paris Agreement was adopted, this COP marks a decisive moment to close the ambition and finance gaps identified in the Global Stocktake into concrete pathways to a 1.5 °C aligned future. With the historic 2025 Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice (ICJ AO) affirming states' obligations to limit global warming to 1.5 °C and uphold intergenerational equity, COP30 represents a pivotal opportunity for global climate action and the implementation of the agreed targets and mechanisms under international legal instruments.

At Generation Climate Europe (GCE), the largest climate coalition of youth-led networks in Europe, we believe that COP30 must deliver commitments towards a transition that is just, credible, transparent, inclusive and ambitious, responding to the urgency of the climate and biodiversity crises, as well as humanitarian concerns. Recognising the interconnectedness of these issues, we have consolidated them into **three Strategic Thematic Priorities**:

- 1) Just Phase-out of Fossil Fuels
- 2) Scale up Climate Finance for Adaptation, Loss and Damage, and Biodiversity
- 3) Defend Civic Space and Strengthen Inclusive Climate Governance

These priorities call for ambitious and measurable actions that align public policies with the 1.5 °C goal, deliver justice for communities most affected by the climate crisis, and ensure meaningful representation of youth, Indigenous Peoples, and other rights-holders in all decisions shaping our collective future.

### Strategic Thematic Priorities for COP30

#### 1) Just Phase-out of Fossil Fuels

Fossil fuel production remains on an upward trajectory: coal output is projected to rise until 2035, gas expansion is expected to continue until 2050, and oil production is anticipated to persist through mid-century. Concurrently, fossil fuel subsidies have reached unprecedented levels, with G7 countries allocating a record \$282 billion in 2023. The **2024 NDC Synthesis Report** reveals that current global climate plans will reduce emissions by only 2.6% by 2030, falling 40% short of the 43% reduction needed to limit global warming to 1.5 °C, as outlined in the Paris Agreement.<sup>1</sup>

We call Parties to:

- **Implement a global, time-bound phase-out of fossil fuels and other climate harmful subsidies** building on and going further than the **UAE Consensus** to “transition away from fossil fuel fuels and phasing down unabated coal.” To achieve this, the European countries and the European Union must commit to:
  - A **coal phase-out** and a clear pathway for **oil and gas phase-down before 2030**, and formal endorsement of the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty, aiming to go beyond the European Green Deal and existing national commitments from many Member States.
  - An **end to all EU-backed international public finance for fossil fuels**, aligning with the Glasgow Statement on Public Finance for Fossil Fuels, and **an end to fossil fuel**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://unfccc.int/news/new-un-climate-change-report-shows-national-climate-plans-fall-miles-short-of-what-s-needed>

**subsidies** by 2030, accompanied by a just transition policy framework and the use of compensation schemes to support vulnerable households.

- An increase in the **renewable energy target** to at least 50% renewables and 20% energy savings by 2030, to align with a 1.5 °C pathway.
- Submit updated **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)** ahead of COP30 with transparent, science-backed and ambitious emission reduction targets through 2035. The European Union, in particular, must submit an ambitious 2035 NDC that includes achieving domestic net zero emissions by 2040 and a 2035 target of at least 94% net domestic emissions reductions, including at least 82% gross emission reductions (based on the proposed climate neutrality by 2040 at the latest).<sup>2</sup>
- Institutionalise just transition measures into the **Belém Action Mechanism for a Global Just Transition**, ensuring equitable access for youth, women, Indigenous peoples, and marginalised groups to transition resources and governance structures, especially in hard-to-abate sectors, and transforming **transition-mineral supply chains** to uphold human rights, protect the environment, and promote equity across all stages of the mineral value chain.

## 2) Scale up Climate Finance for Adaptation, Loss and Damage, and Biodiversity

In 2024, more than 150 unprecedented climate disasters struck communities around the world,<sup>3</sup> underscoring the urgent need to scale up adaptation alongside mitigation. Yet adaptation remains severely underfunded. Developing countries face climate finance needs of at least **\$400 billion for loss and damage, \$300 billion for adaptation, and \$300 billion for mitigation**, measured in grant-equivalent terms.<sup>4</sup> To help vulnerable communities, including youth and underserved populations, to withstand worsening climate impacts, protect livelihoods and ecosystems and advance social equity. COP30 must deliver a credible framework to scale **equitable, transparent, measurable, grant-based and public climate finance** in line with the **ICJ AO** and the Principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities.

We call for developed Parties to:

- **Deliver new and additional grant-based public climate finance** for adaptation, loss and damage, just transition and biodiversity conservation in developing countries, directly accessible by vulnerable communities and youth, in line with the **\$300 billion goal of the NCQG**, as a minimum threshold. The EU in particular must commit to:
  - Allocating new funds and fulfill existing pledges to the Green Climate Fund, the **Adaptation Fund** and the **Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage** (with minimum \$150 billion annually);<sup>5</sup>
  - Mobilising resources through mechanisms such as the **Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2028-2034** and **new polluter pays taxes and levies** on fossil fuel, extreme wealth, and aviation;
  - Ensuring **transparent reporting** and avoiding the offloading of responsibility onto the private sector or multilateral development banks (MDBs).

<sup>2</sup> [Letter: CAN Europe letter calling for an ambitious EU 2040 climate target and NDC in line with 1.5°C science and equity - CAN Europe](#)

<sup>3</sup> <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/5cb119c71c6c4f8a89b837bf5cf353b8>

<sup>4</sup> [https://climatenetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Climate-Action-Network\\_NCQG\\_August-2024.docx.pdf](https://climatenetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Climate-Action-Network_NCQG_August-2024.docx.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> <https://unctad.org/news/key-takeaways-cop29-and-road-ahead-developing-countries>

- Integrate **climate–biodiversity** objectives through a **Joint Work Programme on Climate and Biodiversity** to advance the Global Biodiversity Framework’s 30×30 goal by protecting and restoring natural greenhouse gas sinks, and to adopt robust indicators under the **Global Goal on Adaptation** that capture the role of **nature-based and ecosystem-based solutions**.

### 3) Defend Civic Space and Strengthen Inclusive Climate Governance

Across the world, civic spaces for climate action are rapidly shrinking, environmental defenders face growing threats and communities most affected by the climate crisis remain underrepresented in decision-making processes. **Transparent, inclusive, and rights-based governance** is therefore crucial to ensure genuine climate ambition and that climate action to address existing disparities, implement concrete actions that empower communities, and ensure that climate action protects people as well as the planet.

We call Parties to:

- Implement an **inclusive, transparent, and rights-based climate governance** by reinforcing structures, processes, and mandates that uphold human rights, protect civic space, and guarantee meaningful participation of all stakeholders, especially Indigenous Peoples, youth, women, persons with disabilities, and marginalized communities. To achieve this, the following actions must be taken:
  - Explicitly acknowledge **Intergenerational Equity** as a legal and ethical obligation in all climate-related decisions, in alignment with the July 2025 ICJ Advisory Opinion.
  - Ensure the meaningful participation of **youth** throughout all decision-making processes and enable it with associated financial, logistical, and safeguarding support mechanisms.
  - Adopt and enforce safeguards for **environmental defenders**, ensuring freedom of expression, assembly, and association, and the ability of civil society to engage freely and safely in climate governance, in line with the principles of the Aarhus Convention.
  - Empower **Indigenous peoples and local communities** in policy dialogue and knowledge-sharing, in line with the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP) and the principle of **Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)**, and respect their **right to say no** to activities that threaten their territories, resources, or cultural integrity.
  - Renew and strengthen the **UNFCCC Gender Action Plan**, by establishing stronger accountability mechanisms, mainstreaming gender equality across all areas of climate action, and providing dedicated resources.
  - **Ban fossil-fuel lobbyists and affiliated representatives** from COP participation and national delegations to prevent fossil fuel deals, and guarantee that representation remains free from vested interests.