

## UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM COMMON MESSAGES FOR COP29 AND COP30

**Every fraction of a degree of warming matters. The 1.5 degree limit is still just about possible.<sup>1</sup>**

- The science is clear: **to avert the worst impacts of climate change** and preserve a liveable planet, **global warming needs to be limited** as much as possible and as a matter of urgency.
- The global average temperature for **the most recent 10-year period**, from 2014 to 2023, is estimated to be the warmest 10-year period on record, at around **1.2°C above the pre-industrial (1850-1900) average**.
- At COP26, COP27, and COP28, countries expressed their firm resolve to pursue efforts to **limit global warming to 1.5°C**, as agreed in the Paris Agreement.
- The first 12-month period to exceed 1.5°C (**above the 1850-1900 pre-industrial** average) as an average was February 2023 – January 2024, boosted by El Niño. Such breaches of 1.5°C for a month or a year are **early signs of getting perilously close to exceeding the long-term limit** and serve as clarion calls for **increasing ambition and accelerating action in this critical decade**.
- **Monthly and annual breaches of 1.5°C** do not mean that the world has failed to achieve the Paris Agreement’s temperature goal, which refers to a **long-term temperature increase over decades**, not individual months or years.
- Countries’ commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions under the Paris Agreement have reduced the projected global warming by the end of the 21<sup>st</sup> century from 3.7–4.8°C to 2.1–2.8°C or possibly even lower. While this is far from sufficient, it shows that **collective commitments under the Paris Agreement have made a difference**.
- **Every fraction of a degree of warming matters**. With every additional increment of global warming, changes in extremes, impacts and risks become larger.
- **Limiting global warming to below 1.5°C** will significantly reduce the risks, adverse impacts, and related human suffering from climate change. Failing to do so will lead to increasingly frequent and dangerous extreme weather events including heatwaves, droughts, wildfires, and heavy precipitation and flooding, with significant detrimental impacts also on food security.
- Even at current levels, climate change already has massive impacts on human rights, humanitarian needs, welfare, and dignity, particularly for those in vulnerable and marginalized situations, rocking the foundations of peace and security – as people are displaced and vital resources depleted.
- **The climate crisis is not “gender neutral”**. Women and girls are often disproportionately impacted by climate change, which amplifies existing gender inequalities and poses unique threats to their livelihoods, rights, health, and safety.

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<sup>1</sup> See a more detailed note here: [https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/2024/04/fact\\_sheet\\_on\\_1.5.pdf](https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/2024/04/fact_sheet_on_1.5.pdf)

## New national climate action plans must put the world on a path to limiting global warming to 1.5°C.

- The next round of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) – national climate action plans that every country must submit by early 2025, ahead of COP30 – will determine greenhouse gas emissions for the coming years. They must align with limiting global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.
- The development of these new NDCs can provide the guiding framework and clarity to rally cross-government and non-state actors to **take immediate action to decarbonize their economies, cut greenhouse gas emissions and build resilience to climate impacts.**
- The COP28 global stocktake outcome provided clear guidance for the next generation of NDCs. By early 2025, every country must submit a new NDC that is **1.5°C-aligned and economy-wide, providing absolute emissions reduction targets for 2030 and 2035, covering all greenhouse gases and all sectors:** energy, agriculture, transport, land use, industry (including reference to services sectors such as tourism when appropriate), and waste.
- These targets should be supported by credible and just transition pathways by sector, concrete and evidence-based/informed policies, and financing and other means-of-implementation needs, providing investors with clarity and certainty on the future direction of travel and priority areas.
- These plans must also **detail adaptation priorities, investments and other means-of-implementation (including technology) needs** which build resilience, protect critical sectors, infrastructure and people from climate impacts, and support and align with National Adaptation Planning processes.
- Governments should coordinate across all relevant ministries, and also work with finance, industry, transport, agriculture, subnational actors, Indigenous Peoples, the scientific community, the productive/business sector, and civil society, including women, children and youth groups, trade unions, human rights defenders and environmental activists, to design and implement these NDCs. **Attention to broad and meaningful participation of all relevant actors in decision-making widens support for the transformative changes.**
- If done right, **these climate plans would be aligned with national development priorities and double as investment plans**, spurring socio-economic development, eradicating poverty, and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.
- NDCs should be informed by **science and standardized data** to ensure the best and most feasible mitigation and adaptation actions underpinned by human rights, including gender equality.
- The Secretary-General has tasked UNDP to leverage its “**Climate Promise**” infrastructure to drive coordinated UN support to developing countries in the preparation of their NDCs. This process aims to leverage, mobilize, and synergize the diverse expertise and capacity and provide the space for the full participation of all entities across the UN system, including by harnessing the convening role of Resident Coordinators.
- Transparency in implementing the NDCs is equally important. Therefore, it is crucial that countries submit **Biennial Transparency Reports** covering all emissions and all sectors as the agreed means of tracking progress on the implementation of NDCs and showing collective progress towards 1.5°C.

## 1.5°C-aligned transitions must be fast and fair.

- To keep the worst of climate chaos at bay, we must supercharge the roll-out of renewable energy *and* the phase out of fossil fuels, halt and reverse deforestation, and ensure 1.5°C-aligned transitions across critical sectors. And we must ensure that these transitions are just for people and planet.
- To take forward the key outcomes on energy transition from COP28 – tripling renewable energy capacity and doubling energy efficiency improvements by 2030 while accelerating the transition away from fossil fuels – it is important to **build coalitions for just and equitable transitions across sectors**, including facilitating dialogue and cooperation on issues such as Just Energy Transition Partnerships (JETPs) and other similar country-led and multi-stakeholder approaches on fossil fuel phase-out, technological innovation, critical minerals, grid modernization and battery storage, methane emission reductions, agriculture and land-based mitigation measures, and industrial decarbonization.
- Countries need to urgently identify the technologies necessary for their transitions, and we need a mechanism to fast-track the transfer of these technologies on mutually agreed terms.
- The ongoing growth in **renewable energy** should both add new energy capacity to ensure affordable universal energy access and **replace existing fossil fuel-based capacity**.
- Governments must reallocate, reform, and phase out fossil fuel subsidies to advance a just energy transition. It is high time to put an effective price on carbon, that is aligned with the Paris Agreement’s goals, and tax the windfall profits of fossil fuel companies.
- Trade-related climate measures, including those aimed at sustainable consumption and reducing deforestation, should be aligned with **international trade rules** and minimize trade market access barriers and compliance costs in trade partners, particularly for SMEs in developing countries.
- Accelerating the deployment of carbon dioxide removal and storage measures can also contribute to global efforts, especially to address final emissions from hard-to-abate sectors. However, they cannot be a substitute for drastic emissions cuts or an excuse to delay fossil fuel phase-out. Acknowledging the contribution of other low-carbon technologies, such as nuclear technologies.
- **The 1.5°C-aligned transitions must be gender-responsive and just for all**, in accordance with human rights, gender equality, children’s rights, labour rights, and national development priorities, including through the creation of decent work and quality jobs, social dialogue, education and skills development, and adaptive social protection.
- **A just, orderly, and equitable transition away from fossil fuels** must recognize and account for countries’ common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities (CBDR-RC), accounting for and ameliorating the negative impacts across population groups with a focus on the most vulnerable. **Advanced G20 economies should go furthest, fastest.**

## The climate finance architecture must be reformed to deliver the trillions needed to secure a liveable planet for all.

- Climate finance is not a favour. It is fundamental element to a liveable future for all.
- A key focus area of COP29 will be on finance, as a **new collective quantified goal (NCQG) on finance**, to succeed the “\$100 billion” climate finance goal, is expected to be agreed by

countries. We need an outcome that builds trust and confidence, catalyses the trillions needed, and generates momentum for reform of the international financial architecture.

- Trillions of dollars are required by developing countries to support their mitigation, adaptation, and loss and damage efforts.
- It is therefore crucial to **continue to make serious efforts to reform the financial architecture** – both international and domestic – to ensure emerging and developing countries can equitably access the finance and technology needed to support their climate and development efforts.
- Ongoing efforts to establish a **UN framework convention on international tax cooperation** should be supported in view of facilitating domestic resource mobilization.
- In a context marked by high levels of indebtedness, elevated interest rates, reduced fiscal space, and geopolitical uncertainty, the **multiplication of investment sources** and types, including in the form of grants and concessional financing, will be essential.
- The **cost of capital is a key barrier** to renewable energy and other key sectoral investments in developing countries. Partnerships between international investors, the public sector, and multilateral financial institutions can greatly reduce the cost of capital. Availability of finance at **concessional rates and for longer term** would be critical in this regard.
- Reforming Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) and easing access to finance can create an **enabling international environment** for higher ambition through increasing public finance and leveraging private finance for net-zero and climate-resilient transitions. These reforms should focus on **increasing the capital of the MDBs** and **reforming their business models to scale up direct support and leverage more private finance at reasonable costs** for climate action in developing countries.
- We need to move from exploring to implementing **innovative sources of finance**, including solidarity levies and **GHG pricing mechanisms** to help fund climate action. These should be **scalable, fair, and easy to collect and administer**.
- We also need **better spending and sound policies** that can attract private investment and send clear signals about the direction of travel, informed by good analysis – an area where the UN system can work together with MDBs and other key partners.
- **Carbon markets** that abide by the highest standards of credibility and integrity, including effective human rights safeguards, can play a role in emission reduction efforts, mobilize climate finance from public and private sources, and assist in channelling climate finance from developed to developing countries.

## **Adaptation must be planned, financed and implemented at a scale that matches the worsening climate crisis.**

- Adaptation to climate change safeguards people from higher temperatures, rising seas, fiercer storms, unpredictable rainfall, and other climate impacts. When planned and implemented right, with risk-informed approaches and backed up by adequate funding, **adaptation saves lives and livelihoods**.
- **Building resilience** across sectors is critically urgent to protect societies and economies, and to reduce the adverse effects of climate change on people's health, ability to grow food, housing, safety and work, among others.

- **National adaptation plans** (NAPs) should be designed to attract finance from a broad range of donors and investors – public and private, including philanthropic sources.
- Current **adaptation finance** gaps are estimated at US\$194-366 billion per year. Delivering on the commitment of the developed countries to at least double adaptation finance from 2019 levels by 2025 and ensuring that at least half of all climate finance goes to adaptation and resilience-building efforts across sectors is critical.
- Implementation of the **Secretary-General's Early Warnings for All and Adaptation Pipeline Accelerator initiatives** and other similar country-led approaches to adaptation planning and implementation are essential for delivering climate justice while averting, minimizing, and addressing losses and damages.
- When taking adaptation action, governments should ensure **country-driven, gender-responsive, participatory and human rights-based approaches**, as well as intergenerational equity and social justice, taking into consideration vulnerable ecosystems, groups and communities, and including children, youth and persons with disabilities.

### The new Fund for Loss and Damage must be sufficiently resourced and fully operationalized.

- Global warming has already caused dangerous and widespread losses and damages that will further increase with every increment of global warming.
- We must build on the momentum from COP28 to ensure the **rapid operationalization of the new Fund for responding to loss and damage** and secure further contributions from a variety of sources to ensure financial assistance is provided to the most vulnerable nations.
- Losses and damages are “unequally distributed across systems, regions and sectors” and are “strongly concentrated among the poorest vulnerable populations”<sup>2</sup>. Their access to the Fund should be prioritized as a matter of international solidarity and climate justice.
- To ensure the Fund for Loss and Damage is effective and fully operationalized, we must build on lessons learned from other climate funds to fast-track access and simplify procedures.

### Non-State actors' commitments and actions must be aligned with limiting global warming to 1.5°C.

- A growing number of non-State actors – in **the private and financial sectors, local governments, and regions** – have committed to reducing their emissions to net zero.
- Net-zero commitments must include interim targets, cover all scopes of emissions, have transparent verification processes and must not use carbon offsets to achieve emissions reduction targets.
- Strengthening the credibility and accountability of non-State actors' net-zero commitments and ensure standardized and transparent reporting – through the implementation of the recommendations of the High-Level Expert Group on the Net-Zero Emissions Commitments of Non-State Entities and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights – is critical to limit greenwashing and bogus net-zero claims.

<sup>2</sup> IPCC: [https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg2/downloads/report/IPCC\\_AR6\\_WGII\\_SummaryForPolicymakers.pdf](https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg2/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_WGII_SummaryForPolicymakers.pdf)



- **Monitoring** should be tightened on fossil-fuel production and hard-to-abate sectors, such as steel, cement, or aviation, as well as on private and public financial support for such emission-intensive sectors.
- By implementing credible 1.5°C-aligned climate action, non-State actors **can be key delivery partners** and support countries in achieving their ambition on sectoral commitments and NDCs by demonstrating transition plans and ensuring they contribute to increased ambition of national goals. Non-State actors can work with Governments in developing **regulatory frameworks that support the transition from voluntary 1.5°C-aligned commitments to mandatory requirements**.
- We need an all-hands-on-deck approach to keep 1.5°C within reach: this means **all financial institutions must end their fossil fuel lending**, underwriting and investments and shift to renewables instead, and fossil fuel companies must chart their move towards clean energy, with detailed 1.5°C-aligned transition plans, as well as accountability and transparency mechanisms, across the entire value chain in this critical decade.

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The United Nations System Common Messages for COP29 and COP30 are intended to serve as an internal guide to inform UN system advocacy and outreach, and for entities to further build on in accordance with their mandates and expertise. The common messages have been prepared through an inclusive and consultative inter-agency process, under the leadership of UNFCCC and the Secretary-General's Climate Action Team. They respond to the call by the Secretary-General and the [UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination \(CEB\)](#) for a coherent and strategic UN system contribution for COP29 and COP30 that amplifies climate action priorities and enables entities to speak with one voice in support of ambitious climate action.

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