



LWF Expectations and Policy Demands for COP30



THE
LUTHERAN
WORLD
FEDERATION

Action for Justice

Action for Justice unit

Introduction

The LWF stresses the urgent need to address the climate emergency¹, and stands in solidarity with its member churches and those who are already vulnerable -refugees, persons with disabilities, those who suffer from poverty, women, children, Indigenous Peoples and all individuals and communities affected by the adverse effects of climate change.

The world is at a critical crossroads, with Mother Earth in a dangerous state of imbalance. The decisions we make now will determine the future of communities everywhere and for generations to come. Now is the time to choose solidarity over division, courage over complacency and action over inaction.

LWF urges all leaders, institutions, and communities to take responsibility for this. Together, we can act with urgency and compassion to protect our shared planet and ensure a fair and sustainable future for everyone.

1. LWF Climate Justice Commitment and Action from Local to Global to Local

Climate change poses a real and present threat to human rights and dignity, as well as to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Addressing it requires a holistic and justice-centered approach that recognizes the social, economic, and environmental dimensions.

Climate justice requires climate action all around the year and at all levels, from local to national to global and back to local. Therefore, LWF set up a permanent climate advocacy hub, called 'Action for Justice'. It is a joint initiative that accompanies and supports member churches, ecumenical and faith-based organizations, civil society, and communities affected by climate impacts, who are committed to climate change mitigation, adaptation, and the promotion of climate justice.

Under its "Action for Justice and Hope" advocacy framework (2025–2031), LWF is committed to strengthening its efforts for climate justice through four key areas of action:

- ⇒ Climate change impacts and human rights: Advocate for policies that address historical inequalities and prioritize vulnerable communities through effective adaptation and mitigation, ensuring inclusive decision-making and promoting intergenerational equity.
- ⇒ Climate change, conflict, migration and internal displacement: Promote the legal protection and inclusion of migrants and climate-displaced people, integrate conflict-sensitive approaches into adaptation strategies, and ensure affected communities help shape global policies on mobility, adaptation, and peacebuilding.
- ⇒ Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and just transition: Support member churches and country programs in reducing emissions and sharing good practices, while holding governments and corporations accountable and calling for stronger climate finance for developing countries.
- ⇒ Adaptation, disaster risk reduction, and resilience building of vulnerable communities: Strengthen the capacity of member churches, World Service country programmes and communities to address climate impacts through training and advocacy tools. Promote climate-resilient policies that align with the Sustainable Development Goals.

The LWF is strongly committed to a climate-resilient, zero-carbon future. In its 2014 Public Statement on Climate Justice, it pledged to achieving carbon neutrality by 2050. However, at its 13th assembly in 2023, this target was brought forward to 2030 in light of the worsening

¹ <https://2023.lwfassembly.org/resolution-climate-emergency>

climate emergency. A major milestone was reached in 2015, when the LWF decided to divest from fossil fuels, underscoring its dedication to a just transition toward a low-carbon economy.

With nearly half of its member churches located in some of the world's most climate vulnerable countries, the LWF works on the frontlines to address loss and damage associated with climate change, enhance adaptation, and reduce climate risks in response to the needs of affected communities.

Since obtaining observer status with the UNFCCC in 2010, the LWF has actively engaged in COPs and related global processes—amplifying the voices of vulnerable communities, mobilizing faith leaders, and empowering youth to advocate for intergenerational climate justice.

2. The Importance of COP30

The 30th Conference of the Parties (COP30) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) takes place in Belém, Brazil, in November 2025. COP30 is considered an “implementation COP” and marks a crucial milestone, 10 years after the Paris Agreement was adopted:

1. Turning ambition into action: The signatory states are required to present their new climate pledges - NDCs, Nationally Determined Contributions² for the period up to 2035 and to make their best possible contribution to limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, reflecting the findings of the Global Stocktake and the latest climate science³ and demonstrate concrete implementation plans.
2. State Parties must credibly demonstrate how the US\$1.3 trillion in climate finance required in the Global South can be mobilized annually by 2035. Building on the decisions made at COP29 in Baku, where a New Collective Quantified Goal - NCQG for climate finance was established, albeit still far below the required scale, COP30 will discuss how to mobilize the necessary resources for mitigation, adaptation, and loss and damage. The Baku-to-Belém Roadmap⁴ to \$1.3 trillion, designed to scale up climate finance to address the growing impacts of climate change, will be presented at COP30.
3. Promoting adaptation⁵: At COP30, parties will agree on indicators⁶ to track progress on the Global Goal on Adaptation - GGA. Furthermore, the COP30 Presidency is reminding and encouraging all governments to submit National Adaptation Plans- NAPs⁷ as 'strategic roadmaps to build resilience. Furthermore, a new adaptation finance goal is called for, as the current one (agreed at COP26) expires by the end of 2025.
4. Just Transition⁸ and Fossil Fuel Phase-Out: Following the historic COP28 decision to “transitioning away from fossil fuels in a just, orderly and equitable manner”, COP30 is expected to progress with outlining how the global transition to carbon neutrality can be shaped so that it is fair and does not cause unreasonable social hardship, because only then it will gain majority support

² <https://unfccc.int/NDCREG>

³ <https://climateactiontracker.org/climate-target-update-tracker-2035/>

⁴ <https://unfccc.int/topics/climate-finance/workstreams/baku-to-belem-roadmap-to-13t>

⁵ [Glasgow–Sharm el-Sheikh work programme on the GGA referred to in decision 7/CMA.3](#)

⁶ [Final list of potential indicators, UAE–Belém work programme on indicators](#)

⁷ [Submitted NAPs from developing country Parties](#)

⁸ <https://unfccc.int/topics/just-transition/united-arab-emirates-just-transition-work-programme>

5. Gender & Climate⁹: The Gender Action Plan must continue to take shape by reaching agreement on a list of activities to be implemented¹⁰ activities to implement in the context of the Gender Work Program.
6. Amazon and the Global Climate System: Hosted in Belém, the gateway to the Amazon, COP30 stands for and puts spotlight on the vital role of forests, Indigenous Peoples, and biodiversity in maintaining global climate stability.

At the same time, COP30 is taking place amid increasing geopolitical tensions and growing geo-economic fragmentation. The rules-based multilateral system is under significant strain, challenged by recent shifts in global power dynamics and ongoing conflicts. These pressures including the previous U.S. withdrawal from the Paris Agreement, and conflicts around the world have further complicated the international landscape at a time when cooperation is urgently needed.

This makes COP30 a test case to see whether, despite the adverse conditions, including the massive economic interests of those profiting from the fossil fuel era, it will be possible to find the insight and strength to take joint action against the climate emergency and create the strong sense of togetherness that made the Paris Agreement possible ten years ago.

At this stage, accelerating the transition to renewable energy and protecting remaining forests and ecosystems are essential. Only by acting with urgency and ambition can we keep the Paris goals within reach and prevent further destabilization of the ecosystems, on which human life depends.

3. LWF Expectations and Policy Demands for COP30

Implementation of the UAE Consensus: Aligning the next generation of NDCs with 1.5°C

The Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) are at the very center of the Paris Agreement (PA): Their level of ambition is decisive to achieve the global goal of limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius. The International Court of Justice (ICJ), in its recently published legal advisory opinion¹¹. However, this is not yet the case with regard to achieving the Paris climate targets: There is a serious risk of missing the 1.5-degree target. The emission reduction measures currently in place are leading to global warming of 2.7¹² degrees Celsius, which would have catastrophic consequences for humanity and the environment. Science is very clear: Without immediate and drastic measures, the 1.5-degree target can no longer be achieved. The second generation of NDCs is the decisive factor in determining whether a change of course is still possible.

⇒ LWF call on all state parties, especially all major emitters including the G20 members, to present 1.5°C-aligned¹³ NDCs.

⁹ [LWF Gender Responsiveness Index for Climate Action](#)

¹⁰ <https://unfccc.int/topics/gender/workstreams/the-gender-action-plan>

¹¹ <https://www.icj-cij.org/case/187>

¹² <https://climateactiontracker.org/publications/the-climate-crisis-worsens-the-warming-outlook-stagnates/>

¹³ 1.5°C-aligned NDCs includes Coverage of all greenhouse gases, setting clear peaking dates for GHG emissions; absolute economy-wide emission reduction targets; halting and reversing deforestation by 2030, phase-out of fossil fuel subsidies that do not address energy poverty,

- ⇒ LWF call on the COP30 Presidency and all state parties to deliver a collective response to the NDC synthesis report, noting with deep concern that the report shows a continuing 1.5C shortfall, and reaffirming NDCs as the foundation of collective climate action, guided by GST1 outcomes.
- ⇒ LWF call on all state parties, to furthermore, decide that mitigation becomes a permanent COP agenda item with annual re-assessments of NDC implementation progress, resulting in corrective actions to close the remaining emissions gap.
- ⇒ LWF call for a truly credible COP30 outcome that centers progress on tripling renewable energy generation capacity, doubling energy efficiency, transitioning away from fossil fuels in an equitable, fair, and orderly manner, and halting and reversing deforestation by 2030.
- ⇒ LWF call for a Global Ethical Stocktake, initiated by the COP30 Presidency, as a central element of the Mutirão, to connect the real world with the fragile COP process, to fuel it with ethics, and to call on leaders to act responsibly and collectively for the global common good.

Identifying credible and operational ways to fulfil climate finance commitments

The financial need for climate mitigation, adaptation and redressing climate-induced loss and damage in the Global South is estimated at 2.4 trillion US-Dollar annually by 2030¹⁴

The New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) for climate finance, as decided at COP29, is set at USD 1.3 trillion by 2035, with a minimum of USD 300 billion committed by developed countries at the core. The NCQG falls short of what is needed to meet global climate finance requirements. It also failed so far to include a sub-goal on finance to redress loss and damage.

Rebuilding trust will be a critical task for the COP30 Presidency: The Baku-to-Belém Roadmap has to politically credibly outline how to mobilize USD 1.3 trillion by 2035, with public finance at the core. This should be anchored in a COP30 cover decision.

Apart from that, ongoing negotiations on Article 9 and Article 2.1 should take place constructively, leading to a widened base of donors and financial sources, with developed countries taking the lead, including through new pledges and targets, launched at COP30.

- ⇒ LWF calls on developed countries to lead by significantly increasing their financial contributions under the Baku-to-Belém Roadmap, including through pledges made at COP30, which should consist of grants and highly concessional finance
- ⇒ LWF calls on other major emitters with advanced economic capacities to also contribute their fair share to the NCQG
- ⇒ LWF calls on the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, as well as on other Multilateral Development Banks and financial institutions to significantly step up their contribution to climate finance at highly concessional conditions
- ⇒ LWF calls for the formation of coalitions of the willing from Global North and Global South to start activating alternative sources for climate finance, as solidarity levies on premium flights among others, and not to wait for consent of all states

ambitious renewable energy and energy efficiency targets, incorporation of adaptation and loss and damage, and alignment with national development plans.

¹⁴ <https://www.lse.ac.uk/granthaminstitute/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/A-Climate-Finance-Framework-IHLEG-Report-2-SUMMARY.pdf>

- ⇒ LWF calls on all investors, including private investors, to invest in the transition to a sustainable, equitable, climate-resilient and carbon-neutral future by aligning all their investments with the goals of the Paris Agreement and consequently de-invest from fossil fuels, which are the core problem and no part of the solution.

Promoting and strengthening adaptation

Adaptation remains a top priority for developing countries. Progress has been made on finalizing the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) by shortlisting indicators under the UAE–Belém Work Program. The final set of indicators is to be decided and adopted at COP30.

They are supposed to inform and monitor National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) as the key tools for identifying medium- and long-term adaptation needs, and for developing and implementing strategies and programs to address these needs. To date, 144¹⁵ countries have started the NAP process, with 67 developing countries that submitted their NAPs to the UNFCCC.

One of the major barriers to develop and implement NAPs is the huge adaptation finance gap: International public adaptation finance to developing countries increased from US\$22 billion in 2021 to US\$28 billion in 2022, marking the largest annual increase since the Paris Agreement. This growth represents progress toward the Glasgow Climate Pact¹⁶ commitment for developed countries to double adaptation finance by 2025 from 2019 levels. However, even if this target is achieved, it would only address around 5% of the estimated annual adaptation finance gap of US\$187–359 billion.

- ⇒ LWF calls on parties to agree on and adopt under the GGA a balanced and feasible set of core indicators that are measurable, reportable and verifiable¹⁷ that contribute to enhancing concrete outcomes, defining priorities, and improving transparency in adaptation action. This set should include an indicator measuring transformative adaptation, mainstream it in NAPs, and report regularly on it
- ⇒ The current pledge by developed countries to double their provision of adaptation finance by 2025 is set to expire. Securing a new, more ambitious finance goal at COP30 is crucial. The LWF calls on State Parties to agree on a new, more ambitious adaptation finance¹⁸ goal at COP30 for the long term under the Baku-to-Belém Roadmap as well as for the short term. As a first step, adaptation finance should be tripled by 2030, compared to 2025, including through widening the financial sources and donor base.
- ⇒ LWF calls for prioritizing access to adaptation finance for most vulnerable countries, especially people in fragile contexts, LDCs, and African countries. Vulnerable communities should benefit from simplified and direct access.

Minimizing and addressing loss and damage

In the face of rapidly escalating climate-related loss and damage — including non-economic losses such as the extinction of species, the destruction of cultural heritage, and the displacement of communities from their homes — the continued inability or unwillingness of

¹⁵ <https://cop30.br/en/news-about-cop30/global-adaptation-efforts-advance-as-countries-move-from-planning-to-action-unfccc-report-shows>

¹⁶ <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/the-glasgow-climate-pact-key-outcomes-from-cop26>

¹⁷ <https://unfccc.int/documents/649629>

¹⁸ According to [Adaptation GAP report 2024](#), Adaptation finance needs (NDCs, NAPs) USD387 billion/year up to 2030

the international community to agree on shared solutions represents a profound political failure.

In its legal advisory opinion, the International Court of Justice¹⁹ - ICJ has made it clear that states cannot evade their obligations under international law towards the victims of climate-related loss and damage, in particular to protect their human rights. Nevertheless, there is reason to fear that these issues will once again not be given the attention they deserve at COP30.

- ⇒ LWF calls on State Parties, to take a decision at COP30 that Loss and Damage becomes a permanent COP agenda item with annual assessments of progress in addressing loss and damage, including non-economic loss and damage, resulting in corrective actions to close the remaining gap
- ⇒ LWF calls for an annual loss and damage gap report, complementing the emission gap and the adaptation gap reports
- ⇒ LWF calls on developed countries as well as other economically capable high-emitting countries to contribute to the replenishment of the Fund for redressing Loss and Damage -FRLD and make pledges at COP30
- ⇒ LWF calls on State Parties to ensure that the Baku-to-Belém Roadmap leads to significantly increased funding to redress loss and damage.
- ⇒ LWF calls on the FRLD to create a separate funding window to support climate-displaced people.

Just transition: Progressing from talking to implementing

COP29 ended without an agreement for the Just Transition Work Programme - JTWP, despite significant international momentum. After two years of dialogues, COP30 is now critical to ensure that the work program is fully implementable. Since SB62 in Bonn, there has been decisive momentum to turn the JTWP into a practical tool for delivering equitable and urgent climate action. The text forwarded to the COP is a robust basis and includes principles listed as takeaways from the dialogues and, importantly, options for new institutional arrangements, the main recommendation from parties and observers.

- ⇒ LWF calls on State Parties to agree on a fully implementable Just Transition Work Program, which starts lean and action-oriented, thematically focused on equitably and fairly transitioning away from fossil fuels, but with an option to widen the thematic range at later stages
- ⇒ LWF calls on State Parties to establish the Belem Action Mechanism for Just Transition (BAM), supporting, facilitating and advancing just transition processes by promoting international cooperation.

Progressively shaping the Gender Action Plan

An enabling environment is essential for the effective integration of gender considerations into climate action, in particular climate policies, legislation, budgets, strategies and programs. At COP25 in Madrid, the Enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender (LWPG) and its Gender Action Plan (GAP) were adopted for this purpose, recognizing the critical need for gender mainstreaming in climate change policies and actions, given the significant gender impacts of climate change due to existing inequalities.

¹⁹ <https://www.icj-cij.org/case/187>

As the five-year Enhanced LWPG and GAP concluded at COP29, LWF conducted an assessment of the GAP's implementation²⁰ in 20 countries and identified significant gaps. Despite these gaps, there are valuable practices to build on. Key drivers for gender-responsive climate action include strong representation of women in leadership, collaboration among diverse stakeholders, international exchanges, and a culture of cooperation that prioritizes the involvement of often marginalized women, particularly from rural or Indigenous communities. However, significant barriers remain, including persistent discrimination against women in many countries, the lack of political will to overcome power structures that are unfavorable to women, the lack of strong institutional structures for implementing targets and plans, and the lack of gender-disaggregated data and monitoring tools.

At COP29, parties decided to extend the LWPG for 10 years and to develop a new Gender Action Plan which is due to be decided at COP30. This development started at the 62nd session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) in June 2025, followed by technical workshops to facilitate the design of the GAP activities.

- ⇒ LWF calls on State Parties to adopt the new GAP at COP30, building on the review of the LWPG, that continues to promote gender responsiveness, and step-wise moving to gender transformative climate action, capturing the five priority areas gender capacity, gender balance, gender coherence, gender implementation, and gender monitoring.
- ⇒ LWF strongly recommends,
 - ⇒ To undertake multi-stakeholder national stock-takes on gender responsive climate action in the beginning of the new Work Program
 - ⇒ To strengthen institutional capacities for mainstreaming gender and better understand gender-based vulnerability drivers and barriers to gender-transformative approaches specifically in legislation and policy
 - ⇒ To explicitly refer to and mainstream key GAP components in NDCs and NAPs, including to collect and use gender-disaggregated data and to use gender markers, and gender budgeting
 - ⇒ To ensure that all climate actions are guided by a rights-based approach leaving no one behind

Promoting the vital role of forests, Indigenous Peoples, and biodiversity in maintaining global climate stability

Tropical forests are essential for climate stability, with Indigenous Peoples and traditional communities playing a vital role therein. Yet existing incentives are weak, underfunded, and typically undervalue their full social, economic, cultural, and ecological benefits.

The Tropical Forest Forever Facility²¹ (TFFF), a global south-led initiative supported by key tropical forest countries, sponsors and organizations, marks a promising paradigm shift in mobilizing new and additional funding, with the potential to reverse the long-standing trend of deforestation, by replacing traditional, short-term, aid-based project funding with a long-term, investment-style model that rewards verified forest protection through direct, annual payments over the long term.

Indigenous Peoples and traditional communities play a central role in safeguarding forests and are supposed to become key partners of the TFFF, which is planned to be launched at COP30, based on the principles of equity, rights and inclusion.

²⁰ <https://lutheranworld.org/resources/publication-gender-responsiveness-index-climate-action>

²¹ <https://tfff.earth/>

- ⇒ LWF calls on all stakeholders to support the TFFF based on these commitments and principles
- ⇒ LWF calls on states, financial institutions and other potential investors to contribute to the capitalization of the TFFF
- ⇒ LWF calls on the TFFF Board to be truly inclusive, with adequate representation of Indigenous Peoples and traditional communities in the governance system, and to establish robust grievance and redress mechanisms.

4. LWF Delegation at COP30

The faith-based perspective of LWF member churches serves as a foundation for both immediate action and sustained transformation to address the spiritual and social roots of the climate emergency. This approach emphasizes compassion for all living beings and affirms the moral responsibility to care for the earth while safeguarding the lives, livelihoods, and dignity of communities most vulnerable to climate change

5. LWF Advocacy at COP30

LWF considers COPs as an important platform to influence negotiations and decisions being taken by governments to address climate change at the global level. For this reason, the LWF engagement has a strong advocacy agenda, specifically:

- ⇒ LWF follows and seeks to influence the negotiations particularly on agenda items that relate to the priorities of member churches, as above all mitigation aligned with 1.5°C, adaptation and resilience building, climate finance, addressing loss and damage, gender, and just transition.
- ⇒ LWF joins the advocacy and policy engagement of its ecumenical partners, and as appropriate, its interfaith partners, particularly the Interfaith Liaison Committee to the UNFCCC.
- ⇒ LWF contributes to the advocacy of the wider civil society, including the environmental, research and independent non-governmental organizations gender, and youth constituencies. Therefore, LWF will take part, as appropriate, in collective advocacy and campaigning of these umbrella groups.
- ⇒ LWF advocacy happens both at the COP itself and in beforehand and in parallel at national and regional levels, where member churches engage with their governments on climate change issues.

6. LWF Communications channels at COP30

During COP30, the LWF communication channels will ensure the effective flow of information and exchange among LWF delegates participating both in person and online, as well as with LWF member churches and partners engaged in climate action and advocacy at the local and national levels.

LWF communications at COP30 will:

- ⇒ Share updates on LWF's engagement for climate justice and care for creation.
- ⇒ Explain LWF's role, priorities, and activities at the COP.
- ⇒ Highlight LWF's advocacy initiatives and key messages.
- ⇒ Feature individual LWF delegates, their experiences, and perspectives.
- ⇒ Provide information about LWF's exhibition booth and side events.
- ⇒ Promote joint initiatives with ecumenical and interfaith partners.
- ⇒ Offer interviews and distribute press releases to the media.
- ⇒ Share information materials and facilitate connections with LWF delegates.

7. Partnership and collaboration

LWF can point to a number of successes in building new and innovative alliances for climate justice that could involve faith-based organizations, academic institutions, civil society organizations (CSOs) the UN, and the public and private sectors.

The LWF works closely with the World Council of Churches (WCC) and Action by Churches together (ACT Alliance) in a spirit of ecumenical complementarity. We are also an active member of the Interfaith Liaison Committee to the UNFCCC and the Geneva Interfaith Forum on Climate Change, Environment and Human Rights.

In addition, LWF cooperates closely with Caritas International, All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC), Brahma Kumaris, Bread for the World, Christian Aid, Dominicans for Peace, Franciscans International, The Episcopal Church, The Anglican Consultative Council among others.

8. Contacts

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