



CHARTER OF DEMANDS FOR COP30

Submission to the Presidency of Brazil and the Parties of the UNFCCC

Submitted by: Alliance for Climate Justice and Clean Energy (ACJCE), Pakistan

The Alliance for Climate Justice and Clean Energy (ACJCE) is a consortium of civil society organizations that mobilize communities affected by climate change so that they can have their grievances and problems heard and addressed in a just, equitable and sustainable manner. It pushes for change in technologies and policies needed to get to a zero-emissions, high-energy planet at an affordable cost. We present this charter of demands to the COP30 Presidency for their consideration and push for a more accessible and equitable COP process.

Preamble: From Flooded Indus to a Burning Amazon

More than thirty years have passed since the UNFCCC was adopted and nearly a decade since the Paris Agreement entered into force. Yet global emissions continue to rise, fossil fuels remain structurally privileged, and climate impacts intensify across every continent. The promised trillions in genuine and meaningful climate finance are yet to be seen. The gap between promises and lived reality has become unbridgeable for climate-vulnerable countries like Pakistan, now caught in a tightening vice of climate disasters, ecological breakdown, economic crisis, and unsustainable debt.

Pakistan stands at the frontline of this planetary emergency. Still reeling from the 2022 super-floods and the devastating 2025 floods this summer, the country remains locked in a poly-crisis: record-breaking heat waves and smog, rapid glacial melt, nationwide flooding, water stress, coastal erosion and riverine degradation, collapsing public services, unaffordable energy, and deepening poverty—all compounded by a debt overhang that crowds out investment in resilience and recovery. Decades of ecologically destructive development, extractive trade rules, and predatory lending by the Global North and by Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) have pushed Pakistan and many climate-vulnerable countries to a point of systemic breakdown.

These conditions are not an accident. They are the predictable outcome of a global economic order built on dispossession, fossil extraction, violence on rivers and people, and financial subordination. The epistemology of neoliberalism—treating land, water, forests, and even data centers as sites of endless commodification—cannot solve a crisis it created. It can only reproduce in “green” form.

We therefore reject technocratic tinkering and piecemeal reforms for COP 30. We demand a decisive shift to a *climate-justice framework* in which:

- Historic emitters and wealthy economies are held legally and financially accountable;



- Climate-affected communities and peoples of the Global South lead decision-making; and
- Debt justice, energy transition, and ecological repair are treated as inseparably interconnected.

The choice of Belem as the host city for COP30 is symbolically powerful. The Amazon is not just a carbon sink; it is a living testimony to Indigenous stewardship and a frontline in the struggle against extractive capitalism. For those of us in the Indus basin, the Amazon's fate resonates with our own: rivers turned into reservoirs for distant profit, communities displaced in the name of "development," and forests and mountains are sacrificed to finance and minerals.

Yet COP30 also risks reproducing the same structural exclusions that have long undermined the UNFCCC's legitimacy:

- Prohibitive accommodation and travel costs in Belem already threaten to exclude delegations from Least Developed Countries (LDCs), frontline communities, and grassroots movements, repeating patterns seen at COP27 and COP28.
- Corporate actors—especially fossil fuel and high-carbon industries—continue to dominate: COP28 registered over 2,400 fossil-fuel lobbyists, outnumbering many national delegations, while corporate pavilions occupy prime space for agenda-setting. COP 30 appears set to repeat this hegemony.

If COP30 is to have any credibility, it must confront these contradictions. In honor of the struggle for our collective future—from the Amazon to the Indus, from Balochistan to Bolivia—we urge the Presidency and all Parties to take urgent action on the following fronts.

Reform the Exclusionary COP Process

- Guarantee procedural equity by prohibiting last-minute "green-room" bargains and ensuring open, inclusive, and transparent negotiation of all key texts by introducing structural reforms within the UNFCCC process.
- Provide enhanced financial, legal and technical support for LDCs, SIDS, Indigenous peoples, and civil society to level the playing field in terms of participation and negotiations.
- Introduce robust conflict-of-interest rules, elevating the voices of CSOs and vulnerable groups through the creation of permanent and structured mechanisms for meaningful and direct consultations.
- Cap fossil-fuel lobby registrations and ban sponsorships from companies whose core business model depends on fossil extraction, deforestation, or high-carbon infrastructure.
- Dialogue is meaningless without accountability. COP30 must establish a *Global Ethical Accountability Track* to identify and sanction state or corporate actors obstructing climate action or spreading disinformation.



It is High time for a Global Ethical Stocktake

- We believe the efforts to have an inclusive, pluralistic and trans-disciplinary dialogue on the values systems that are underpinning the current climate crisis is a positive first step. However, we insist that the process culminate in collective action rather than empty dialogue
- Alongside the Global Ethical Stocktake, we insist on strict accountability measures for states and institutions promoting climate change misinformation, environmental degradation and unsustainable development for the sake of profit. Without accountability of the wrongdoers, a value driven change can not be realised.

Provide Decisive Climate Finance and Debt Justice

- Capitalize and operationalize the Loss and Damage Fund (FRLD) at COP30, ensuring that developed countries mobilize the 788 million USD pledged and raise ambition further to reflect the ground realities of climate-affected communities and the losses sustained.
- Ensuring that eligibility and access procedures support quick and sufficient disbursement directly to climate affected communities within the Global South.
- The financing procedures and instruments must be limited to non-debt creating and grant-based financing without prohibitive conditionalities, preventing easy access or tying monies to private markets.
- The World Bank should be prohibited from hosting the Loss and Damage mechanism. A publicly accountable representative forum with adequate representation from climate affected communities of the Global South should be instituted.
- An annual Loss and Damage Accountability Report should be produced to stand alongside the Emissions and Adaptation Gap Reports, providing a fuller picture of global climate equity.
- Ensure that all projects qualifying for L&D, adaptation or other forms of climate finance are pursued irrespective of their capacity for revenue generation and with due regard for their ability to provide non-economic forms of future welfare to the local communities.
- Blended and Concessional Finance should come with in-built and clear protection measures for the public sector, without an overreliance on private sector financing.
- Private finance must be mobilized, not merely counted as a substitute for developed countries' public financial obligations. The Presidency must ensure that all finance committed towards adaptation must be high-quality, highly concessional, and non-debt-creating.
- Pakistan and many climate-vulnerable states are being asked to finance their own mitigation and adaptation through new loans, austerity, and regressive taxes. This is not climate finance—it is climate extraction. We believe the four R's in the Baku to Belem roadmap lack the intent needed to see genuine climate just finance.
- *Reform without Redistribution is Empty:* The Four R's promise "reform" of climate finance architecture while avoiding the core issue: redistribution of wealth from historic polluters to climate-vulnerable nations. Without mandatory contributions,



grant-based finance, and recognition of climate debt, the roadmap repackages old donor-led models and leaves intact the structural inequality of the current system.

- *Resilience Cannot Be Built on Debt:* By privileging blended finance, private capital, and loans—even for adaptation—the Four R’s entrench a market overreliant and debt-driven model of climate action. This approach contradicts the wisdom of local climate stewards and the findings of climate science, which shows resilience requires public, predictable, non-debt-creating finance, not market volatility or austerity-inducing conditionalities imposed by MDBs and IFIs.
- *Redirection Without Regulation Enables Greenwashing:* The roadmap’s call to “redirect financial flows” lacks enforceable exclusions for fossil fuels, large hydropower, or environmentally destructive infrastructure. Without clear prohibitions, strong conflict-of-interest rules, and binding Paris-alignment standards, financial redirection merely becomes a pathway for greenwashing, allowing MDBs and private financiers to continue funding carbon lock-in and river-destroying mega-projects.

We Need Binding Targets for a Fossil Fuel Phaseout

- Operationalize the COP28 commitment to “transition away from fossil fuels” by setting and committing to clear and binding timelines for a full, fair, and funded phaseout of coal, oil, and gas, led by the developed countries and historical emitters, with transitioning and developing economies following suit.
- Encourage governments to tax polluters at source and implement a UN-based framework for global taxation of fossil fuel operations and financial speculation, with revenues directed to climate reparations funds.
- The COP30 Presidency should ensure an immediate halting of all public subsidies extended to fossil fuel producers in historically high emitting countries and corporations. All such public monies should be redirected to local community owned sustainable and distributed renewable solutions in low access regions of the Global South most in need of energy security.

1.5C Must Ground All Mitigation Measures and Actions

- The Presidency must ensure that all new financial and technological commitments for global and national mitigative action align with the 1.5-degree pathway. Global emissions reached 53.2 Gt CO₂eq (without LULUCF) in 2024¹ and are still on an upwards trajectory, despite the IPCC’s warnings to achieve emissions peaking by 2025. Even with full NDCs implementation, the global emissions trajectory is set to reach 2.3 to 2.5 degrees Celsius by 2100².
- The Presidency must push the remaining parties to submit more ambitious but realistic and achievable NDC targets, as currently, only 71 parties have officially submitted the third iterations. It should also push the Global North countries to scale up ambition and channel mitigation finance into the most vulnerable countries to ensure the NDC targets are not only met, but exceeded.

¹ [EDGAR - The Emissions Database for Global Atmospheric Research](#)

² [Emissions Gap Report 2025 | UNEP - UN Environment Programme](#)



A Global Justice Reset on Adaptation Finance Is Needed

- The Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA), due for revision in 2025, sits at a critical juncture, as the UNEP's Report³ shows the pledged USD 120 billion target has never been met and is heavily underreported. We demand that COP30 Presidency delivers a fundamental reset of adaptation finance, reducing reliance on non-concessional loans and private finance that perpetuates inequity.
- Adaptation support must be grant-based, with clear limits preventing the use of debt-creating instruments in debt stressed, vulnerable, and cash strapped countries.
- Weak definitions and inflated accounting have distorted global adaptation totals. In 2023, MDBs claimed nearly USD 1 billion that benefited private profitmakers, while USD 7 billion in adaptation claims were exposed as false or inflated. COP30 must require transparent, verifiable, project-level accounting, including disclosure of incremental adaptation costs and actual expenditures.
- Africa faces the largest gaps in adaptation action and finance, relying on limited grants and emergency funds while private finance remains largely absent—trapping countries in reactive loss-and-damage cycles instead of resilience-building. MDBs must shift from private-sector extraction toward public-interest resilience.
- ACJCE stands with African and other vulnerable regions under South–South Solidarity in demanding an adaptation framework rooted in justice, and sufficient debt-free, fit for purpose, and additional finance utilized under locally determined priorities. Adaptation support must strengthen public infrastructure, social protection, early warning systems, and community-driven actions

We Need:

- A binding, needs-based adaptation finance target delivered as grants.
- A unified, transparent global methodology for adaptation finance with third-party verification which includes the presence of local stakeholder communities and affectees.
- A ban on mislabelling development or emergency spending as “adaptation.”
- A COP30 decision recognizing Africa's adaptation emergency with tailored support in quality, grants based, fit for purpose finance.
- A shift in MDB portfolios toward public-centered resilience, not private profit.

The Only Energy Transition that is Acceptable is a Just One

- The shift to renewables must redress historical injustices, not replicate them. COP30 must secure a global treaty for a fair fossil fuel phase-out, prioritizing countries most dependent on these resources while ensuring historical polluters lead the transition.
- Direct climate finance toward community-owned renewable energy projects, prioritizing off-grid solutions, mini-grids, and public transportation to democratize the process and ensure inclusion.
- Establish technology transfer mechanisms and support local manufacturing of renewable energy components to foster energy sovereignty, especially in off-grid

³ [Adaptation Gap Report 2025 | UNEP - UN Environment Programme](#)



areas and vulnerable regions where communities live without access to sustainable and reliable energy.

- The indigenous people of the land, from Balochistan to Bolivia, must be included in the transition process as vital stakeholders and climate stewards rather than cheap labour to be exploited. Each and every development project should incorporate the principle of free, prior and informed consent (FPIC).
- COP30 should work towards creating and launching a global Just Transition Framework that centers labor rights, Indigenous sovereignty, and community-led energy solutions, especially.

Role of MDBs

- The Paris-aligned joint methodological principles of the MDBs have been established, but their implementation remains fragmented and weak. The COP30 Presidency must push for the transposition of the MDB environmental and social standards to ensure there is no room for ambiguity in interpretation, transforming what is currently a voluntary and opaque methodology into a binding and transparent standard.
- Establish a fully independent and CSO-inclusive Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) mechanism for all MDB-financed projects to guarantee equitable benefit-sharing and climate integrity.
- Prioritize and massively scale up grants and non-debt creating instruments, channelling a minimum of 50% directly to community-led and locally focused beneficial projects with no MDB intervention on conditionalities.
- Prohibit all MDB-imposed policy conditionalities or "strings attached" on non-debt finance (e.g., grants, equity) to respect national sovereignty and local development pathways.

Guardrails for Just Mining Are Urgently Needed

- We condemn coal mining, coal-based energy generation, coal transportation, and associated industrial practices, and call for legally enforceable mechanisms for the immediate closure and decommissioning of existing coal mines and plants in GN countries. All NDCs from historical emitting nations must include quantified targets for achieving permanent closure before COP31.
- We reject any burden placed on GS nations for bearing the costs of coal phaseout. Instead, we call for a global public audit of the historical inequities, economic imbalances and flawed policy advice and investments by Global North countries, corporations, and MDBs, that have cemented the GS's dependence on fossil fuels. Global South nations must be provided reparations for the harms of such projects as well as pays out financing in exchange for the closure of all such plants.
- Any new project for exploration, extraction or expansion licenses for coal and associated infrastructure should be immediately halted.
- Protection of health, labor and other rights of miners working in coal mines must be ensured. For this purpose, robust regulatory mechanisms are needed to be in place. Moreover, participation of coal mine workers and protection of their rights in the energy transition plans should be ensured.



- The natural resources of the Global South must not be exploited to power the 'Green Revolution' in the Global North. The same colonial logics that have powered the industries, built infrastructure and lined the pockets of the wealthy in the Global North through the Industrial Revolution cannot be replicated at this critical juncture where the survival of the planet and the people is at stake. There can be no climate justice without just energy transition.

Environmental justice and international law

- COP 30 must link UNFCCC with FfD, UNCTAD, and Human Rights Bodies. Climate justice requires:
 - A coherent global financial architecture under UN authority;
 - Trade and investment reform to stabilize commodity-dependent economies;
 - Human rights oversight of all climate measures.
- The industrialised economies must drastically reduce emissions and follow through on global climate commitments, as declared in the International Court of Justice advisory opinion in July 2025.
- Major polluters, despite withdrawal from the Paris Agreement earlier this year, must be held accountable under international law for their expansion of fossil fuel projects.
- Industrialised and developed economies, under the polluter pays principle, must meet their legal obligations to increase the flow of finances and channel the promised and committed climate finance to countries in the Global South.
- Data centres, which are not only depleting scarce fresh water sources but are powered by fossil fuels, have contributed to an increasing energy demand of around 25% yearly, which outpaces the shift to renewables. There must be national and international accountability of 'Big Tech' to ensure a global energy transition and a reduction in emissions, to regulate corporate power

Water security and availability

- Climate change is severely disrupting Pakistan's water resources through glacial melt and erratic monsoon patterns, threatening the Indus Basin Irrigation System. We demand international assistance to pivot from large, climate-vulnerable hydropower projects that require massive capital investment and risk dependency on fluctuating water flows, towards decentralized, climate-resilient, and community-managed water and energy solutions.

We call for:

- Recognition of obligations owed to rivers, their stewards, and related socionatural ecosystems. Rivers must be allowed to flow, regenerate, and exist.
- An Immediate review, de-risking, and phased decommissioning of harmful hydropower and irrigation mega-projects, including those comparable to Pakistan's Tarbela, Dasu, Balakot, Madyan, LBOD, and CRBC.
- Local community-led restoration of deltas, mangroves, and wetlands funded through grants and reparations.



Alliance for
Climate Justice &
Clean Energy

Beyond Paris: International Law and Systemic Reform

COP 30 must ensure that all parties and multilateral institutions align their operations with the demands of International Law and the ICJ Advisory Opinion.

The COP must recognize the ICJ's climate-justice principles as binding obligations:

- Rapid decarbonization is governed not just by Paris but by customary obligations, human rights law, and the duty to use the best available science and respect local knowledge systems.
- Grant-based, scaled-up finance.
- Protection of public services and just transitions.

Contact

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