

WOMEN * GENDER CONSTITUENCY



COP31 KEY DEMANDS

November 2026

OVERALL WGC COP31 ENGAGEMENT APPROACH

Despite the intensifying anti-rights agenda and the rise of conservative governments, the Women and Gender Constituency (WGC) remains unwavering in our pursuit of #FeministClimateJustice for a healthy planet and the wellbeing of our communities. In 2026, we are focused on advancing rights and amplifying feminist analysis and narratives. We will do this through strategic technical engagement in policy processes and direct negotiations via our thematic working groups, as well as through bold public-facing media engagement and manifestations inside the halls of COP31 and around.

Feminists from Australia, the Pacifics, and Türkiye have additionally worked on regional demands that can be found on the WGC website.

As we push forward, we will take deliberate action to **prevent harm, resist regression** on hard-won commitments, and **safeguard progressive language**. We will also seize global moments to mobilize, reconnect, and stand in solidarity with our members and the broader global feminist movement within UNFCCC processes and beyond.

WGC MOBILIZATION PRIORITIES

The WGC will prioritize public actions, campaigns, and protests related to:

1. Ending genocide everywhere and challenging militarism
2. Gender Justice: #ActOnBelemGAP
3. Resourcing adaptation implementation
4. A feminist Just Transition
5. Reforming the UNFCCC, calling for multilateral space free from anti-rights, conservatism, and corporate capture.

WGC COP31 THEMATIC DEMANDS

1. Effectively implement the Belém Gender Action Plan.

Last year, COP30 delivered the Belém Gender Action Plan (GAP) for 2026-2034, a nine-year implementable framework that is ambitious, robust, and carries significant milestones for the Women & Gender Constituency and feminist advocacy. The plan enters now into its most critical stage: implementation. The implementation must be strategic, effective and intentional, in particular with the backdrop of the intensifying anti-rights agenda and active erosion of gender commitments across multilateral spaces, as evidenced in the recent Party-led attempts to remove gender from the agenda at the recent UNCCD17.

The COP31 will invite parties during gender negotiation to consider three reports; [Experience in implementing gender-responsive financial instruments and methodologies, and available capacity-building in this regard report](#) (FCCC/CP/2026/6), [Gender Composition Report](#) (FCCC/CP/2026/4), and [In-session workshop report on best practices and tools for strengthening the role of national gender and climate change focal points](#) (FCCC/CP/2026/3). These reports must not be taken as mere notes, but referred to going forward.

- ★ The WGC demands a substantive discussion that engages with the evidence and with civil society input, including the feminist, LGBTIQ+ and grassroots submissions reflected in the finance synthesis, and decisions that enable gender-transformative climate action.
- ★ On finance, providing guidance to various bodies under and related to the UNFCCC regarding climate finance, especially on providing grant-based, non-debt finance and direct, flexible, multi-year funding to women's rights, feminist, LGBTIQ+ and grassroots organizations and environmental defenders, including through decentralized regranting mechanisms.
- ★ On strengthening the role of gender focal points, WGC calls for a streamlined official national mandate with dedicated time and budget, for effective delivery of the role.
- ★ On gender composition, WGC calls for concrete measures to close persistent leadership gender gaps: women made up 43.6 percent of Party delegates at COP30 but only 36.5 percent of heads and deputy heads of delegation, with representation falling steeply with age.

Further, COP31 is the first COP after the adoption of the Belém GAP, and it is a substantive test of the effective delivery of this framework. The WGC demands that COP31 continue translating adoption into action, through resources, political will, and accountability. This means:

- ★ **Prioritize submissions on national assessments and make them a foundation for change.** Activity A.3.9 and A.3.5, due March and June 2027 respectively, will shape the evidence base, financing decisions and follow-up for the plan's nine years, and weak submissions would give the risk of a paper victory a head start. The WGC demands assessments that go beyond compliance: covering health, violence against women and girls, and care work, as well as the issues too often left out, such as the diversified impacts on LGBTIQ+ people, displacement, land and Indigenous rights. They must be built with civil society and grassroots groups and reach frontline communities.
- ★ **Parties must equip National Gender and Climate Change Focal Points with the tools and all other relevant resources** to support delivery of the national-led Belém GAP activities, particularly national assessments, which require cross-ministerial coordination and budgets. Technical support and coordination with national statistical institutions is needed to carry the findings into national climate strategies, finance, and the COP32 data conference.
- ★ **Hold the high-level event on engaging all women, girls, men and boys as agents of change for socially just transitions at a level that matches its importance.** For feminists, a socially just transition is a gender-just transition: it leaves fossil fuels and extractive, patriarchal, racist and colonial economies behind and builds societies on care, wellbeing and redistribution, recognizing that we are part of ecosystems, not at the top of a

hierarchy over them. The event under activity A.3.8 must name patriarchal masculinities as a root cause of our climate crisis and leading on obstruction, recognize that men are not one group, and treat engaging men and boys with a whole-of-society approach, meaning as accountable to feminist, women's rights, queer and Indigenous movements, not merely as an "empowerment of women" agenda. It must also address gender-based violence, treat care work as climate infrastructure that must be recognized, redistributed and shared by men, and aim to move the "moveable middle". Negotiators must leave knowing that allyship without accountability is tokenism, and that care and redistribution are central to a just transition.

- ★ **Protect, enable and strengthen the safety and participation of women environmental human rights defenders in all their diversity.** COP30 recognized for the first time that the safety and protection of women environmental defenders is a condition of their full, meaningful and equal participation, and activity B.4 requires that this be done taking into account multidimensional factors. Implementation must therefore reach everyone targeted for defending land, territory, water and the environment, including women and girls, LGBTIQ+ people, Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendant communities, persons with disabilities and young people, who often face compounded and gender-based risks. Activity B.4 must turn this into practice, or it will be another policy win on paper, disconnected from the reality of those on the frontline of climate action as civic space continues to shrink. The WGC demands that Parties and the Secretariat support the regional workshops due by March 2027 (B.4.1), led by grassroots, feminist, queer, and regional organizations, and that their findings shape the guidelines for support, protection, and safe participation (B.4.4) at COPs and other climate meetings. Parties must respect, protect and fulfil the rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association for all, including environmental human rights defenders, and ensure the protection of defenders exercising those rights in line with international human rights obligations, regardless of whether the decision explicitly names them as human rights defenders.
- ★ **Guarantee the safety and full participation of every COP31 participant.** Since 12 September 2026, raids, detention orders and digital restrictions targeting LGBTI+, feminist and human rights organizations in Türkiye, documented by Turkish civil society, raise direct concerns about whether feminist, LGBTIQ+ and environmental civil society can engage safely in Antalya. Priority Area B of the Belém GAP commits COP Presidencies, hosts and the Secretariat to the full, meaningful and equal participation and leadership of women at UNFCCC conferences and to a safe and dignified workspace through gender-, care-, safeguard- and accessibility-responsive operations (B.3), and to stronger safety and protection mechanisms that take multidimensional factors into account (B.4). The first COP under the new plan must show that these commitments hold under pressure. The WGC demands that the COP31 Presidency, the President of Negotiations and the Secretariat publicly guarantee the safety of all participants, regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, sex characteristics or affiliation; ensure that no participant faces surveillance, detention, denial of entry or reprisals for their identity or advocacy before, during or after the conference; and enable the participation of defenders from Türkiye. We further demand that the Executive Secretary's report on how harassment cases are addressed (B.3.3), due at COP31, cover intimidation and reprisals, set out a

confidential and accessible reporting channel, and be discussed by Parties rather than simply noted.

2. Foster enabling environments to advance gender-responsive adaptation.

Parties should sustain momentum on the progress towards achieving the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA). This includes dramatically scaling up adaptation finance, particularly through the Adaptation Fund and other existing mechanisms; integrating gender considerations, responsiveness, and disaggregation across all levels; and providing robust means of implementation to support developing countries. Enabling environments will support the GGA to reduce vulnerability and enhance adaptive capacity, as well as the collective well-being of all people in the face of the climate crisis. This includes:

Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA)

- ✳ **Implementation and Next Steps:** Ensure the implementation and subsequent testing of the indicators include not only gender responsiveness as a throughline but also engage key civil society as experts throughout the process. Drive political commitment to both implementing the indicators and delivering adaptation finance and means of implementation via the Baku Adaptation Roadmap.
- ✳ Prioritize locally led adaptation and community-based adaptation, which are captured under cross-cutting considerations in Decision 2/CMA5 para. 14 and are part of the UAE Framework on Global Climate Resilience. This should be captured not just during Adaptation conversations, but also in climate finance and any coherence opportunities.
- ✳ **Inclusive participation of non-party stakeholders:** The mechanism that will advance the indicator process, via the Belém-Addis Vision and Baku Adaptation Roadmap, should outline clear next steps for non-party stakeholders to track, monitor, and report on inclusive participation of rights holders. Non-party stakeholders should have a named role throughout both these processes.

Adaptation Financing

- ✳ Parties must commit to prioritizing, increasing, and sustaining Adaptation Financing through existing mechanisms. **To enable the Global Goal on Adaptation, we need scaled-up financing commitments, especially channeled through the UNFCCC funds to the Adaptation Fund, the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) with the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) and the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF).**
 - Developed countries should make multi-year pledges that are not just ambitious but adequate, *according to Fair Shares*, and scale up ambition to at least triple adaptation outflows from the UNFCCC funds by 2030

3. Establish a feminist, just, equitable, human and nature-rights-centered Just Transition framework.

Feminists demand that the transition away from extractive, racist, and patriarchal economies towards a 1.5-aligned, fossil-fuel-free future must be just. Structural and systemic inequalities embedded in imperialist, colonial, racialized, and militarized modes of production and consumption must be dismantled, alongside the limitless economic growth-centered and extractive models that have brought us to the brink of ecological collapse.

The significant progress delivered under the JTWP at COP30, including the mandate to develop a Just Transition Mechanism, must be built on in 2026 to ensure full implementation and that the opportunity of this moment is not lost. Wins on rights, principles, equity, and participation must be operationalised, by establishing a fully participatory Belém-Antalya Mechanism as our implementer. With the JTWP up for renewal this year, frontline communities, workers, and feminists need the work on just transition under the UNFCCC to begin delivering actionable outcomes. Towards this, we call to:

- ★ **Ensure that Just Transition remains grounded in principles of cooperation, care, consent, inclusion, human rights, gender equality, labour rights, Indigenous rights and rights of nature.** Resist co-option and corporate capture of Just Transition as a term and concept. Guarantee a transition away from extractivism, greenwashing, and false solutions, and avoid reproducing the same patterns of oppression and destruction of the fossil paradigm. Rights and participation are fundamental components of a Just Transition, with workers, people and communities at the centre and guiding all Just Transition efforts.
- ★ **Establish the Belém Antalya Mechanism (BAM) on Just Transition as a constituted body under the authority and guidance of the CMA,** to coordinate and enable just transition work within and beyond the UNFCCC to achieve a holistic just transition within and between countries. For the mechanism to fulfill its objectives of enhancing international cooperation, technical assistance, capacity-building, and knowledge sharing, it must include intersecting functions on Coordination and Coherence, Action and Support, and Knowledge Building. Central to the mechanism's structure must be its role in strengthening equity in the deployment of just transition support and ensuring that financial mechanisms, technology transfers, and capacity-building initiatives do not exacerbate existing inequalities between and within countries. The work of the mechanism, under its multiple intersecting functions, must operationalize the principles recognized in paragraph 12 of decision -/CMA.7, mobilize the means of implementation to support just transition work and projects on the ground, and guarantee full participation of rights-holders and respective constituencies.

- ✳ **Developed country Parties,¹ in line with their obligation under Article 9.1 of the Paris Agreement, must take the lead in providing adequate, predictable and grant-based support for the administrative and operational budget of the BAM** to enable the full and sustained functioning of all elements of the mechanism.
- ✳ **Guarantee that any renewal of the Just Transition Work Programme will complement rather than replace efforts to establish the BAM**, in recognition of the mandate for institutional arrangements in the COP30 decision.
- ✳ **Establish principles for governance of transition minerals**, including ones related to circularity, demand reduction, consent and sovereignty, and protection of human and nature rights, and ensuring compliance with the right to Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) and the principles of the UN Secretary-General's Panel on Critical Energy Transition Minerals.
- ✳ **Respect international humanitarian law** by preventing territorial occupation for infrastructure construction and energy resource supply.
- ✳ **Promote and support frameworks for accountability and fairness in trade measures** concerning just transition pathways.
- ✳ **Promote and support policies of sufficiency** — recognized in the [IPCC AR6 WGIII report](#) as a set of measures and practices that avoid the demand for energy, materials, land, and water, while degrowing harmful sectors, such as the military and fossil fuel sectors, and delivering human well-being for all within planetary boundaries.

4. Deliver predictable, new, and additional public non-debt-creating climate finance in quantity and quality.

The climate finance landscape is defined by increasing urgency to drastically scale up funding in alignment with country needs, clear science, and legal obligations, coupled with developed country Parties' failure to deliver public climate finance and even retrenchment on existing commitments. The \$300 billion New Collective Quantified Goal adopted at COP29, and its parameters, do not compel an increased commitment by developed countries to provide finance in the quantity and quality corresponding to the needs and rights of developing countries and affected communities, as indicated by the Global Stocktake, the determination of needs of developing country Parties, and the latest science from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, inter alia, one of the key reasons leading to the Article 9 work programme decided at COP30. This work programme must be a secured agenda item beyond COP31.

¹ We refer to “developed” and “developing” country parties, cognizant of the colonial implications of these terminologies but also of obligations related to climate finance within the UNFCCC framework based on these designations.

At COP30, we also witnessed the first litmus tests of the NCQG, with developed country Parties failing to fulfill the Adaptation Fund's resource mobilization floor for the third year in a row and only agreeing to efforts toward tripling adaptation finance by 2035, despite the NCQG's call to triple outflows from UNFCCC climate funds by 2030 and achieve a balance between adaptation and mitigation. As of October 2026, the current GEF-9 replenishment stands at only \$4.3 billion, down \$1 billion from its previous cycle despite escalating environmental and climate impacts. At the same time, some pledges to the Fund for responding to Loss and Damage remain unconfirmed, further limiting the scale of its start-up funding phase, and the Green Climate Fund has kicked off its third replenishment process amid falling ODA and climate finance commitments and record military expenditures by developed countries.

- ★ **The Climate Finance Work Programme must be a secured agenda item beyond COP 31 and emphasize the necessity of a clear commitment to human rights and gender equality, community support, and equity; provide a clear climate finance definition; reaffirm the core role of public non-debt-creating finance support; and articulate sub-goals on mitigation, adaptation, and addressing loss and damage.**

This work programme must not only reiterate the mandate for developed countries to provide predictable, highly concessional, new and additional public finance to developing countries, but also develop an action and delivery plan, including on burden sharing, for developed countries to deliver the vast majority of the \$300 billion as public grant finance. Civil society and Indigenous Peoples should be full participants in any work programme activities. See the WGC [May](#) and [September](#) 2026 submissions on this work programme.

- ★ **Through the Veredas dialogue, and following the first high-level Xingu Talks, Parties must chart outcomes that identify key actions and move beyond a narrow instrument-focused discussions to tackling broader systemic questions to make all financial flows consistent with the Paris Agreement.** To tackle the systemic shortcomings of the current financial architecture and address structural barriers, Parties must prioritize just solutions to the difficulty of accessing finance and the high cost of capital, unsustainable debt burdens, an unfair global taxation and trade regime, and limited fiscal space for developing countries to implement urgent climate action in a people-centred and gender-responsive way.

- ★ **Matters relating to the Adaptation Fund:** We demand progress on transitioning the Adaptation Fund (formerly under the Kyoto Protocol) to the Paris Agreement without Parties imposing conditionalities, recognizing that the vital and specific role it plays in providing full-cost, grant-based finance to all developing countries merits no change in the wake of escalating adaptation needs. Parties should also signal support for adequate resource mobilization for the NCQG, GGA, and Belém GAP.

- ★ **Guidance to the Operating Entities:** The guidance from Parties to the COP and CMA to the Green Climate Fund, and Global Environmental Facility and Fund for responding to Loss and Damage, must reaffirm the essentiality of the public provision

of grant-based finance by developed countries in their replenishments and ongoing resource mobilization, in line with at least tripling outflows from 2022 levels by 2030. Highlighting the significance of these funds as setting the bar for transparent, accountable, high-quality finance and serving a key, signal-setting function within the overall climate finance architecture is also critical for NCQG alignment and operationalization. The guidance must also request for these funds to further strengthen implementation of gender and IP policy mandates; improve rights-holder engagement, information disclosure and broader transparency and accountability; and operationalize direct access to their funding for communities.

- ★ **Matters relating to the Standing Committee on Finance (SCF), including the second review of its functions:** The SCF, through its reporting on climate finance flows and delivery (with two reports on long-term finance and overall climate financial flows under preparation for COP31), will also be key for biennial reporting on NCQG progress. As the SCF prepares for a high-productivity year of reporting in 2028, it is crucial that the mandates for the reports include tracking both quantitative and qualitative key elements of the NCQG not only in the NCQG report but also across other reporting, with improved data and information on the tripling of adaptation finance, gender-responsive climate finance, and Indigenous Peoples-related finance. Correspondingly, the second review should particularly reflect on the “level and nature of its stakeholder engagement” to ensure accountability in climate finance. This also applies to its annual SCF Forum, which is one of the key spaces for stakeholder engagement, yet the Forum is often inaccessible to civil society, and outcomes are increasingly questioned in ways that call into question the “added value of the outputs of the SCF.” The “transparency of its decision-making processes” should be another key consideration as key deliberations on several deliverables continue to take place behind closed doors.

5. Strengthen and ensure an inclusive, gender-responsive bottom-up Global Stocktake process.

As GST2 begins at COP31 alongside implementation of the Belém Gender Action Plan, the Women and Gender Constituency calls on Parties to integrate a strong gender-responsive and gender-transformative approach throughout the process, from the Information Collection and Preparation (ICP) for GST2 phase onwards.

- ★ **Science and equity together, not one over the other.** GST2 must be grounded in the best available science and in equity and CBDR-RC. All Parties should deliver and exceed their highest possible ambition, with 1.5°C alignment treated as a rights precondition and GST2 outcomes directly informing NDCs 4.0.
- ★ **Anchor GST2 in the Belém GAP.** The Secretariat's synthesis report (due by May 2027) of national assessments on the links between gender, climate, health, care

and violence against women should be formally recognised as an input to the GST2 Technical Assessment phase.

- ★ **All data collected under GST2** should be disaggregated, at minimum by gender and age, and where possible by disability, and other factors, with feminist, participatory and Indigenous knowledge recognised as evidence.
- ★ **Put human rights and gender-transformative framing at the centre of the GST2**, the Paris "ratchet" mechanism. SRHR, the care economy and the protection of women environmental human rights defenders must be brought into the ICP, since they were largely absent from Party interventions at the first UAE Dialogue.
- ★ **Means of implementation that reach those most affected.** Finance must be new, additional, public and accessible, with dedicated funding for women-led, feminist and gender-diverse organisations and local communities. This should be linked to initiatives such as the UN Tax Convention and the Global Solidarity Levies Task Force. Rising military spending must not divert resources from climate action, public services and care.
- ★ **Gender-transformative adaptation and loss and damage within the GST2.** Adaptation must centre care, bodily autonomy, SRHR and local leadership, supported by gender-responsive indicators. Loss and damage finance must be dedicated, predictable and accessible to frontline communities.
- ★ **A gender-just transition.** The JTWP and JTM reviews at COP31 should anchor equity, non-discrimination and rights, covering workers, the care economy and women-led organisations, and bringing rights-holders into mitigation planning.
- ★ **Participation designed from the start.** Parties should establish a Global GST People's Assembly / Global Forum of Climate Participation, co-designed with civil society and ensuring linguistic justice and gender equity. The second UAE Dialogue at SB68 must include breakouts and meaningful engagement of non-Party stakeholders, avoiding the format failure seen at SB64. Concretely, Parties and the co-facilitators could embrace a methodological shift in how this Dialogue is conducted. Rather than retreating into safe, abstract exchanges, the Dialogue must identify the real drivers of impact, engage directly with the political and policy dilemmas that block implementation, and treat disagreement as a signal of where transformation is needed rather than a threat to be managed. Climate justice must be anchored throughout: through means of implementation that reach all vulnerable groups; formal recognition and protection of women environmental and human rights defenders; and a participatory architecture for GST2 that is built, not retrofitted, to include those most affected."

6. Deliver on an intersectional and just evaluated ACE action plan for the next five years

To deliver on the Glasgow Work Programme and on all six ACE elements equally, COP31 must

adopt an updated action plan with intersectional perspectives. Achieving equitable and sustainable climate outcomes requires approaches that go beyond addressing symptoms of inequality; they must actively transform the root causes that perpetuate exclusion and injustice. This includes recognizing how gender, age, capability, and knowledge systems intersect in shaping people's access to education, power, resources, and decision-making spaces. A just and inclusive climate framework must therefore center transformation, participation, and intergenerational justice.

- ✳ **We urge the adoption of a Gender Transformative Approach:** We urge governments and institutions involved in implementing the ACE action plan and in ACE negotiations to adopt a gender-transformative approach that engages women, men, and gender-diverse people as equal partners in change. This means confronting and dismantling the structural inequalities and restrictive gender norms that define roles, access, and power, ensuring shared responsibility for equality and climate justice.
- ✳ **We insist on the full inclusion of girls in all their diversity:** Girls in all their diversity, including those with disabilities, must be actively included at every level of climate policy, planning, and action. Inclusive participation in Climate Action requires removing barriers, ensuring accessibility, and addressing intersecting forms of discrimination that silence girls' voices and limit their leadership potential.
- ✳ **We demand intergenerational justice:** Intergenerational justice must be at the heart of all climate frameworks. Today's decisions must protect the rights and well-being of both present and future generations. This means amplifying youth leadership, ensuring their seat at decision-making tables, and valuing the experience and wisdom of older generations to build fair, forward-looking climate solutions.
- ✳ **We call for a global assembly rooted in community and Indigenous knowledge:** one that recognizes and elevates the knowledge and leadership of communities, grassroots, and Indigenous Peoples. Their lived experience and traditional wisdom are vital for shaping climate solutions that are equitable, culturally grounded, and truly transformative.
- ✳ **We demand the protection of Women Environmental Human Rights Defenders and action against climate and gender disinformation:** Women Environmental Human Rights Defenders (WEHRDs), together with scientists, journalists and teachers, are essential to ensuring public access to robust climate information grounded in the best available science and in Indigenous and grassroots knowledge. Yet they increasingly face threats, criminalisation and online harassment, as well as coordinated disinformation campaigns that target both climate science and gender equality. We call on Parties to retain the human rights language in the ACE action plan, recalling the Gender Action Plan's explicit reference to Women Environmental Human Rights Defenders. Parties should also report through their ACE national focal points and national communications on the barriers WEHRDs face in participating and accessing information, and on the steps taken to protect them. Upholding public access

to information and public participation means confronting disinformation that silences women's voices, undermines trust in science and weakens climate action, and ensuring that civic space remains safe, open and inclusive for all.

7. Fulfill commitments to integrate gender-responsiveness in technology development and transfer.

When discussing implementation, technology must necessarily be addressed. The WGC expects the Presidency will support the strengthening of the Technology Mechanism and the implementation of the Belém Technology Implementation Programme, by enhancing the CTCN's role in climate technology development and transfer. The WGC demands:

- ✳ **Ensure the MoU with UNEP for the new CTCN host strengthens the CTCN's work and advances the Belém GAP:** The MoU must enable the CTCN to deepen the development and transfer of climate technology to Global South countries, and must include clear gender language that contributes to implementing the related deliverables of the Belém GAP. It must also commit the host to continue working hand in hand with the WGC, so that all CTCN activities are gender-responsive. The CTCN has already worked with the WGC to support local, technical, gender-responsive solutions through the Gender Just Climate Solutions (GJCS), and this collaboration must continue.

8. Divest military and fossil-fuel spending, and redirect funds towards ambitious climate action.

It is essential to understand the fundamental systemic root causes of the climate crisis, considering factors such as imperialism, colonialism, patriarchy, and militarism. Militarism is fueling the climate emergency in two key ways: the misdirection of public funds towards the military instead of climate finance, and the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the military itself. At COP29, the "Baku Call on Climate Action for Peace, Relief and Recovery" acknowledged climate and security but failed to address the elephant in the room: militarism, including rising military spending, which directly contributes to record-high emissions, estimated at around 5.5% of global emissions. Figures released in April 2026 show that global military expenditure reached \$2.88 trillion in 2025, the eleventh consecutive annual increase. Higher military spending means higher emissions.

With multiple devastating large-scale wars and genocides happening across the globe, and military spending rising every year, it is critical that the links between the climate crisis and militarism be addressed at COP31. Demilitarization is key to climate justice, and the reallocation of military spending should fund climate action. The WGC demands:

- ✳ **Mandatory, robust, comparable, and transparent reporting of military emissions:** This includes emissions from conflicts under the UNFCCC framework to enhance accountability. Governments should commit to verifiable military emissions-reduction targets in line with national net-zero commitments.
- ✳ **Prioritize investment in conflict prevention and peacebuilding:** Implement conflict-sensitive climate finance by providing direct access to grants for conflict-affected countries and communities, particularly for marginalized groups, including women; gender-diverse people; Black, Indigenous, and People of Color; people with disabilities; children; and youth.
- ✳ **Divest from military and fossil-fuel spending and redirect funds** towards climate action and feminist just transitions in line with the Paris Agreement's goal of limiting warming to 1.5°C. This includes redirecting military spending, implementing a tax on the arms trade, and, in the long run, ceasing all arms trade to mobilize public funds for climate action.

9. Accelerate mitigation efforts.

The [IPCC AR6 report](#) stressed the need to peak emissions by 2025. Yet, here we are in November 2026 with a dysfunctional Mitigation Work Program that is not delivering. Several NDCs are still missing; there is a gap of [29.9 GtCO₂e](#) to remain below 1.5°C, and the GST commitment to transition away from fossil fuels and triple renewable energy has no clear follow-up. The result — June 2023 through May 2024 has been the highest on record at 1.63°C above pre-industrial levels, threatening millions of lives and livelihoods, and enriching the already ultrarich, giving even more power to patriarchal and colonial structures. COP30 needs to make sure we peak emissions in 2025, if not before the Mitigation Work Program ends in 2026, then in other negotiation tracks or in the cover decision. There's no time to lose. WGC demands:

- ✳ **Keep 1.5 alive.** Ensure that all Parties align their mitigation policies with 1.5°C-compatible pathways, an equitable fossil fuel phase-out, and their human rights and gender equality obligations, with transparent progress tracking and accountability mechanisms.
- ✳ **Ensure a feminist fossil fuel phase-out** that recognizes the role that the fossil fuel sector plays in maintaining patriarchal and colonial structures, in particular petro-masculinities and green colonialism, and that puts a care lens and care work at the center.
- ✳ Ensure that COP28's agreement to **triple renewables and double energy efficiency is implemented** in a way that ensures women and gender-diverse people's rights and favours energy efficiency and local decentralised renewables for households,

communities, and farmers. This involves sustainable lifestyle changes, policies, and infrastructure support.

- ✳ **Ensure that climate mitigation policies do not increase unpaid care work or economic inequalities.** Women already perform over 75% of unpaid care work globally, according to UN Women, and energy poverty further intensifies these burdens.
- ✳ **We further demand that renewable energy transitions do not reproduce extractivist models,** land grabbing, or environmental injustices that disproportionately impact Indigenous Peoples, rural women, and frontline communities.
- ✳ **The Mitigation Work Program needs to be extended beyond 2026 with a mandate for a target** that is informed by the Just Transition Work Programme and the Global Stocktake, and that fully integrates the principles of the Gender Just Climate Action.
- ✳ **Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU):** Invest in gender-transformative human-rights-based agricultural practices that reinforce community ownership and avoid false solutions that lead to the neocolonization of Global South lands.
- ✳ **The waste sector** needs to be addressed through a feminist perspective that shifts away from unlimited growth toward a care-centered economy that reduces demands at the source and values the roles of women and gender-diverse people in the recycling sector.
- ✳ **Enable policies and financial support schemes to support these measures.** These policies should not further reinforce patriarchal structures and swamp people in debt; **rather**, they should ensure equitable, gender-responsive access to mitigation technologies, linking technology needs assessments directly with predictable finance and removing intellectual property barriers that limit women and local innovators from deploying clean solutions.
- ✳ **All mitigation technology projects must undergo gender- and human rights-responsive impact assessments** and guarantee meaningful participation of women and marginalized communities throughout design, deployment, and monitoring, with transparent accountability and grievance mechanisms.
- ✳ **Ensure that mitigation finance is new, additional, predictable, accessible, and grant-based,** particularly for women-led and community-led initiatives without increasing debt burdens or reinforcing existing inequalities.

10. Reject carbon trading and offset mechanisms that undermine true emissions reductions and harm communities and nature.

The Article 6 rulebook was the last item in the Paris Agreement to be adopted. It happened at COP26 in Glasgow after years of negotiation. Article 6 of the Paris Agreement comprises 3 items: Article 6.2 on carbon trading, Article 6.4 Mechanism on carbon market, and Article 6.8 on non-market approaches (NMAs). Article 6.8 (NMAs) was fully operationalised at COP27. Articles 6.2 (carbon trading) and 6.4 (carbon market) were operationalised at COP29. The decision on Article 6.4 was most controversial and raised procedural issues.

Carbon markets' track record on environmental integrity and safeguards on human rights—including women's rights, Indigenous Peoples' rights, and the rights of environmental human rights defenders—has raised many red flags. These red flags were again highlighted in the recent [report from the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change \(Elisa Morgera\) to the UN General Assembly](#), which centers the identified structural misalignment between carbon markets and the international obligations of States towards climate change and human rights.

- ★ **Carbon trading and carbon markets are dangerous distractions and false solutions** that do not contribute to the emissions reductions urgently needed to achieve the Paris Agreement 1.5° goal. These solutions promote the use of unproven techno-fixes (e.g., land-based and marine-based geoengineering) and corporate capture, which negatively impact the environment, Indigenous Peoples, and local communities, particularly women, due to the pre-existing gender inequality and discrimination.
- ★ **Carbon credit projects have negative impacts on women and girls** in terms of their way of life, livelihoods, income, health, and their land tenure rights. It also increases their risk of gender-based violence and displacement. Currently, the Article 6.4 M grievance mechanism is not grassroots-friendly in terms of accessibility and language.
- ★ **Carbon markets are not climate finance.** Climate finance from alternative sources stated in the NCQG COP29 decision must not include Article 6.4 carbon markets or any other carbon markets.
- ★ Afforestation and reforestation activities or REDD+ activities are favoured under NMAs (Article 6.8) and Article 6.4 carbon market (e.g., transitioning CDM afforestation and reforestation activities), yet **recurring issues from REDD+ are well-documented**, such as reversal, non-permanence, leakage, additionality, benefit sharing, violation of the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, and potential harm to the local women and Indigenous women who are the protectors, users, and defenders of the customary forests. Therefore, stringent procedures, methodologies, and tools must be developed and applied for afforestation and reforestation activities, especially when designing the elements for such types of activities in the Sustainable Development tool.

★ **Supporting implementation of NMAs:**

- Amplify support for NMAs and advocate for funding for NMAs programme/projects from climate finance mechanisms.
- Advocate that NMAs must not be linked with Articles 6.2 and 6.4 (carbon markets and carbon offsets).
- NMAs must phase out the use of fossil-based and geoengineering technologies and must phase out REDD+.
- Allow non-Parties to record NMA activities in the NMA Platform; the Platform is highly underutilised. Currently, only 6 NMAs are recorded on the Platform.

11. Address climate-induced health impacts, including those on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), through gender-responsive adaptation and a gender-just transition.

Although health is not covered by a specific agenda item, it's a critical and integral part of gender-climate action. Climate change poses growing threats to the health and well-being of all people, with profound impacts on SRHR. The climate crisis exacerbates inequalities, including health disparities, and protecting the health of individuals and communities relies on ensuring a gender-just transition away from fossil fuels and delivering on adaptation. We must maintain momentum and recognize this nexus across UNFCCC policy processes at multiple levels, while ensuring SRHR is valued and integrated as a core component of health policy and all health actions. The right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment must be facilitated by swift emissions cuts led by the largest historical polluters, including halting militarization (which often exacerbates gender-based violence).

Following recognition in the Belém Health Action Plan (BHAP) of the significance of SRHR as part of gender-responsive health action, integration of SRH services and rights into policy, plans, and programs should be grounded in an intersectional, gender-responsive, and rights-based approach. The WGC demands:

- ★ **Integration of health across the agenda:** Ensure health and climate links, including SRHR, are in discussions and negotiations of relevant agenda items, including as evidence to support ambitious climate action and ensure Party alignment with existing health and gender commitments. The climate crisis is a health crisis. The COP31 Action Agenda item of “dynamic and resilient health systems” is a starting point, but SRHR must be secured beyond health systems and in all climate responses.
- ★ **Clean cooking solutions that prioritize household experiences and a gender-just transition:** Clean cooking initiatives must be grounded in local, democratic, and contextualized understandings of household cooking dynamics and the unpaid care and domestic work related to cooking. We must prioritize rights-based approaches over profiteering, capitalistic efforts. Furthermore, clean cooking should not be used as a

shield for the expansion of fossil fuel or natural gas infrastructure that will slow the transition away from fossil fuels.

✳ **Endorsement of the BHAP (COP30) and further advancement of the Gender-Responsive Just Transitions and Climate Action Partnership (COP28).**

Only 37 Parties have endorsed the BHAP, which recognizes SRHR as part of a gender-responsive and child- and adolescent-responsive approach to climate and health adaptation — that number must increase. A total of 82 countries (though not the COP30 President) signed the Partnership, which recognizes the disruption of climate change to SRH. These action agenda efforts should inform and motivate government leadership on the Belém Gender Action Plan, as Parties plan 2027 submissions on health as a relevant issue.

12. **Reject Industrial Agribusiness, Promote Agroecology, Food Sovereignty, and closing the gender gap in agriculture.**

Agriculture has consistently received inadequate attention in UNFCCC negotiations [despite 32% of GHG emissions coming from agriculture](#) (FAOSTAT 2025) making this one of the most crucial areas to introduce rigorous emissions reductions policies

✳ **As climate change wreaks havoc on environments around the world, especially in developing countries, drastic changes in the agricultural sector are needed to keep feeding billions of people.**

- ✳ Stagnation on key issues, including means of implementation, in particular finance for adaptation, has led to inaction and voluntary contributions that amount to empty promises. Meanwhile, nearly 4 billion people rely on agriculture for income and sustenance (Davis et. al. 2023), and 70% of smallholder women farmers in developing countries are responsible for food production in their countries (Worldmetrics Report 2026). We present the following demands:

- ✳ **No Agribusiness greenwashing:** We must recognize and reject agribusiness greenwashing by demanding clearer language, not euphemisms for exploitation and pollution. Climate Smart Agriculture, regenerative agriculture, biotechnology, artificial intelligence in agriculture, and “integrated systems” for sustainable agriculture are all intentionally ambiguous concepts that are easily manipulated by industry. Use of these terms in negotiating texts leaves open opportunities to promote practices that harm communities, ecosystems, and climate while benefiting agribusiness instead of small food producers, communities, and women in all their diversities. The use of AI in agriculture can even exacerbate existing gender biases (Zinnya del Villar, 2025). Closing gender gaps in agriculture could reduce the number of people affected by food insecurity by 45 million (UNDP 2026).

- ✳ **Food Sovereignty and Agroecology:** A tunnel-vision focus on food security is insufficient and promotes dependence on current industrial agriculture. The root

cause of the harms of industrial agriculture can only be solved by incorporating a food sovereignty and agroecology lens. For instance, Indigenous women's participation in forest governance leads to more effective and lasting solutions to deforestation and climate change impacts (Arthur and Eggerts 2024). In 2023, the top three sources of GHG emissions in agriculture were 1) livestock emissions (4.3 Gt CO₂eq) 2) deforestation (2.8 Gt CO₂eq), and 3) packaging, transport, and retail (1.4 Gt CO₂eq) (FAOSTAT 2025). Those are all components of the food system that industrial agriculture expands and makes more emissions-intensive. Therefore, it is not enough to merely push food aid, fertilizers, GMO seeds, and other forms of "assistance" that undermine the traditional practices and local ecology of the recipients and continue to entrench emissions-intensive, colonial agricultural practices. In order to truly address this issue, we must push for agroecology, food sovereignty, and direct aid (not loans).

- ✳ **Climate Finance/ Direct access. No loans. Grants only:** We need climate finance that is directly accessible to farmers, fisherfolk, and other workers in the agricultural sector, not industrial agribusiness. This is especially crucial for women, who often lack equal access to funding. We advocate only for grants, not loans. Currently, climate finance frequently comes in the form of loans, leading to a cycle of climate debt. In fact, 93.5% of developing countries are in or at risk of debt distress (ActionAid Report September 2026). The most climate-vulnerable countries are spending nearly 25 times more on debt repayments than on climate action, while debt servicing absorbs 65% of their combined government revenue (ActionAid Report September 2026). This gender gap in funding women in agriculture increases women's vulnerability in times of climate change (UNDP 2026). It is exacerbated by existing gender pay gaps, educational disparities, time poverty, and institutionalized sexism. Moreover, navigating financial avenues is complicated by a lack of policy coherence and language that is understandable (UNDP 2026).
- ✳ **Biofuels:** Biofuels are not a sustainable alternative to fossil fuels. Over 90% of all commercial biofuels are produced by food crops, especially corn, produced via industrial agriculture (Ritchie and Rosado, 2026), which itself relies on fossil fuels. 99% of synthetic pesticides are derived from petroleum (Pesticide Action and Agroecology Network 2023). The significant limitations and resource-intensiveness of biofuels must be acknowledged and stop being treated like a permanent and perfect solution in NAPs and NDCs.
- ✳ **Extend SJWA mandate to COP32.** The Sharm el-Sheikh Joint Work on Implementation of Climate Action on Agriculture and Food Security has not delivered on its goals. Abandoning it prior to completing the work it set out to do sets terrible precedent and creates a negotiations vacuum for food and agriculture that threatens the lives and livelihoods of billions of people.

WGC MAIN PRIORITIES FOR AHEAD, DURING AND AFTER COP31

1. **Gender:** The WGC will contribute to the effective implementation of the Belém Gender Action Plan, particularly through strategic, tailored engagement and advocacy around COP31 and other upcoming key deliverables. The most pertinent deliverables are varied across the board, relative to the increase of access to finance to building towards the development of guidelines for the protection of women environmental defenders to increasing the evidence base through national assessments on matters at the nexus of gender and climate change.
2. **Adaptation:** The WGC will engage strategically and tactically to ensure that the Global Goal on Adaptation includes an implementation plan via the Belém-Addis Vision that centers robust gender responsiveness that reflects the lived experiences and needs of women, gender-diverse people, and marginalized groups in all their diversities. All of our adaptation advocacy will be centered on the principles of locally led adaptation, highlighting community-centered rights-based solutions and the role of women- and gender-diverse-persons-led activities.
3. **Just Transition:** Investing in reimagining and shaping the ideals of a Feminist Just Transition away from fossil fuels, while developing practical resources and tools to support advocates and governments in its implementation. We will also collaborate with allies to deliver a just transition escalation in 2026, including the establishment of the Belém-Antalya Mechanism and shaping the second phase of the Just Transition Work Programme.
4. **Reforming UNFCCC:** The WGC will lead efforts to make COP governance, processes, and physical spaces just, equitable, and gender-transformative, working in solidarity with others to confront critical and existential challenges impeding UNFCCC effectiveness, including rules of procedure, transparency and accountability, corporate capture, the expo-like nature of COPs/"COP tourism", shrinking of civil space, and the broader crisis facing multilateralism.
5. **GST 2:** The WGC will engage in the GST 2 process by putting human rights and gender-transformative framing at the centre of the Paris "ratchet" mechanism. SRHR, the care economy, and the protection of women environmental human rights defenders must be brought into the ICP, since they were largely absent from Party interventions at the first UAE Dialogue.
6. **Finance:** As a cross-cutting enabler, finance is essential to climate ambition and connected to the COP31 discourses and decisions, particularly around gender, adaptation, just transition, and GST-2, with the lack of adequate climate finance reflected in the lack of ambition of the NDC-3 round. Public climate finance is necessary to uphold a functioning multilateral climate regime built on trust and shared vision of meeting the moment. With mandatory reporting requirements and the climate finance work programme on the agenda, the future of public climate finance

provision is at stake. Without stronger signals and commitments to deliver on the NCQG and particularly adaptation finance, COP31 cannot advance climate justice and climate action.