

## C20 Working Group 3 Policy Brief

### Environment, Climate Justice and Just Energy Transition

The G20 countries must live up to their responsibility and capacity to make a difference in achieving net zero, the shift to a circular economy, a just transition, and ultimately a climate-resilient world. We emphasize reducing social inequalities must be a part of these efforts, by putting the rights of environmental and human rights defenders, racial and ethnic minorities, Indigenous peoples, People of African Descent, Africans, Asians, People of Asian Descent, migrants, refugees, Romas, Dalits, landless and homeless populations, women and girls, LGBTQIAPN+ people, people with disabilities, including autistic people, and those with other health conditions, such as people living with HIV and dementia, and other groups in vulnerable situations, at the forefront.

We call on G20 Leaders to commit to the following recommendations:

#### 1. Mitigation

- 1.1 Commit to implementing the outcomes of the First Global Stocktake<sup>i</sup> of the Paris Agreement (PA), agreed at COP28, and present new Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) by early 2025, in line with a 1.5°C scenario, including higher decarbonization targets for 2030, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 43% relative to 2019 levels, and reduce emissions by at least 60% by 2035, with developed countries taking the lead, and aiming for much higher targets.
- 1.2 Lead a global pledge to phase out all fossil fuels, with a timetable in which developed countries, major emitters, and producers, lead the acceleration of action in this critical decade. The pledge must include an end to prospecting and the exploration for new fossil fuel reserves, and an accountable commitment to leave a significant portion of known reserves untapped. It must also reaffirm 2030 as the deadline for ending all fossil fuel subsidies, fairly and equitably, which does not compromise energy access.
- 1.3 Develop roadmaps to translate paragraph 28 of the GST decision, and other commitments into action, such as decarbonizing industries, tripling renewable energy capacity, doubling energy efficiency, and reducing non-CO<sub>2</sub> emissions

(including methane by at least 30%) by 2030, while also demonstrating alignment with net-zero pathways for countries and their LTS.

- 1.4 Institutionalize the work of TF-Clima, with follow-up processes in the G20 nations, and in countries that bring together political and financial strategies from both tracks.

## 2. Climate Finance

- 2.1 Public climate financing for adaptation, mitigation, reparation, loss and damage. The G20 nations must fulfil their commitment to the Global Environment Facility Funds, the Adaptation Fund, the Green Climate Fund, the Loss & Damage Fund and other bilateral or multilateral funds. Climate financing must also be additional to other development commitments, including ODA. Furthermore, it should be as concessional as possible, favoring grant-based contributions, so as not to increase indebtedness.
- 2.2 Scale up climate and biodiversity financial commitments, to reach the trillions of dollars required to align climate action efforts with a 1.5°C pathway, led by the G20 developed nations. This includes leading an ambitious agreement for the New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance (NCQG) under the Paris Agreement, fulfilling the necessities of southern countries, who are disproportionately and asymmetrically affected by climate-related phenomena, driven primarily by the actions and economic appetite of Global North nations, and closing the adaptation finance gap, by financially supporting the implementation of the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) Framework through concessional financing and providing new and additional funding for losses and damages.
- 2.3 Provide adequate, new, and additional funding, predominantly non-reimbursable, based upon the principles of predictability, flexibility, and transparency, to marginalised communities in need, and remove barriers that prevent the groups mentioned in the introduction from accessing concessional funding for action on the ground.
- 2.4 Divert all funds currently used to finance wars, fossil fuel subsidies, extractive industries, deforestation, and other sectors that harm people and biodiversity, to

close the financing gap for the climate, biodiversity, and sustainable development agendas.

- 2.5 Promote progressive tax reform by supporting a wealth tax in the UN Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation (UNCITC), and taxation of major polluters such as the fossil fuel industry, shipping, and aviation. Financing a just and equitable energy transition must be at the heart of all tax policies.
- 2.6 Promote debt justice by canceling the sovereign debt of public and private creditors to free resources up in indebted countries, to tackle the climate and development crises. In addition, support a system that does not exacerbate debt, by increasing concessional financing at least fivefold by 2030<sup>ii</sup>. Support the creation of a multilateral credit rating agency, with transparent criteria, aligned with the transition to carbon neutrality.
- 2.7 Prohibit the subsidization and co-financing of Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS), Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage (CCUS) and Carbon Dioxide Removal (CDR), which are not scientifically proven technologies, and carbon or biodiversity offset projects, which increase the risk of harming local communities<sup>iii</sup>.
- 2.8 Lead the reform of public and private financial institutions, including central banks, by: (a) adopting clear governance frameworks, in line with UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which prevent asset allocation to asset classes or activities contributing to climatic and environmental degradation, the violation of human rights and harms to human health, such as illicit mining and fossil fuel extraction, and implement responsible divestments and sanctions; (b) strengthening anti-corruption and anti-money laundering regulations, by requiring the traceability of the financial flows related to goods associated with environmental crimes; and (c) democratizing decision-making governance, by ensuring equitable representation for the Global South and representative civil society, especially in multilateral development banks.
- 2.9 Strengthen transparency, accountability, and integrity in climate finance, including the submission of robust Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs) under the Paris Agreement, and strong anti-corruption measures in the management and use of climate funds.

2.10 Promote new allocations of Special Drawing Rights (SDRs), based on a new framework for access to liquidity, particularly in times of crisis, with a greater share of SDRs allocated to low- and middle-income countries, in a needs-based, timely, and accessible manner.

### **3. Adaptation, Loss and Damage**

3.1 Commit to operationalizing the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience, and strengthening adaptation actions around its seven thematic priorities: water, food and agriculture, health (including mental health), ecosystems and biodiversity, poverty and livelihoods, infrastructure, and cultural heritage.

3.2 Develop, finance, and implement climate-resilient and accessible infrastructure for basic services, including water, sanitation, hygiene and health services, escape routes, and early warning protocols, especially for the most vulnerable populations, such as the groups mentioned in the introduction.

3.3 Develop guidelines to integrate ecosystem-based approaches into national adaptation plans, while promoting the circular economy, sustainable livelihoods, the upholding of human rights, including health and mental health, and preventing, halting, and reversing biodiversity loss, whilst combating racism, ableism, and other forms of discrimination, and social inequalities.

### **4. Just Energy Transition**

4.1 Ensure that the expansion of renewable energy does not lead to social exclusion, deepen extractivism in developing countries, or come at the expense of local and vulnerable communities, and ecosystems. Develop and implement environmental, social, and governance policies to protect people and communities living in areas where these projects are installed, to ensure a just, inclusive, affordable, and democratic energy transition, whilst respecting the land rights, including non-proprietary land rights, of local and communities in vulnerable situations, as mentioned in the introduction.

4.2 Ensure equitable and affordable access to renewable energy for all, ending energy poverty, including for rural populations, isolated communities, and other communities in vulnerable situations, by adopting the goal of expanding the generation of distributed renewable energy of social interest. Also, mobilize

financial resources, and finance and technical assistance, to support this clean energy production, whilst ensuring energy transition processes do not increase the cost burden of the poorest consumers.

- 4.3 Prevent the repeat of colonial patterns in the extraction of the critical and strategic minerals essential for the energy transition, by creating mechanisms to facilitate technology development, capacity building, and financing, to enable developing countries to build local green technologies, rather than simply exporting raw materials.
- 4.4 Establish and enforce no-go zones, and environmental, social, and governance safeguards, in line with the highest international standards, to protect ecosystems and the rights of affected populations, including their Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), as required by the ILO Convention 169, the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and the UN Human Rights Council Res. 39/12.
- 4.5 Ensure the production of biofuel respects environmental, social, and governance safeguards, in line with the highest international standards, including zero deforestation, to protect ecosystems, and the rights of affected populations.
- 4.6 Prioritize regions and communities historically dependent on fossil fuels in their national transition plans, providing social safety nets and retraining programs for workers, especially groups identified in the introduction, in their transition to the renewable energy sector.

## **5. Climate Justice and Environmental Human Rights Defenders**

- 5.1 Work towards the establishment of a global framework defining and recognizing the rights of climate migrants and refugees, to guarantee their protection and resettlement.
- 5.2 Establish participatory mechanisms that value local knowledge and community proposals, whilst centering the groups mentioned in the introduction in climate-related decision-making processes, including the development and implementation of territorial climate change mitigation and adaptation plans and projects. This mechanism must use multiple channels and multimedia formats, including sign language, assistive technologies, and participatory methodologies, such as community workshops, Indigenous Peoples' languages, and the use of plain

language, to increase access to climatic environmental education based on science, traditional knowledge, and local experiences, to ensure climate information is accessible and understandable to all.

- 5.3 Establish local, regional, and global programs to protect environmental human rights defenders and whistleblowers, including provisions and support for a full life.
- 5.4 Commit to the inclusion and promotion of racial equality in the SDGs, and intensify efforts to eradicate ableism, gender discrimination, racism, xenophobia and related intolerance, and other forms of discrimination and hate speech, through cooperation, partnership, inclusion, and respect for diversity.
- 5.5 Embed climate justice and sustainability through environmental education and nature-based learning within public policies is vital for cultivating climate literacy and recognizing the disproportionate impacts of climate change on people in vulnerable situations. Expand access to sustainable infrastructure and practices into curricula and train professionals, in an interdisciplinary, intergenerational, and multisectoral approach with children and youth engagement.

---

<sup>i</sup> Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement. Fifth session. First Global Stocktake. Accessible at: [https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cma2023\\_L17\\_adv.pdf](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cma2023_L17_adv.pdf)

<sup>ii</sup> Second report of the Independent High-Level Expert Group on Climate Finance. November 2023. Accessible at: <https://www.lse.ac.uk/granthaminstitute/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/A-Climate-Finance-Framework-IHLEG-Report-2-SUMMARY.pdf>

<sup>iii</sup> Going through the motions: Verra's review of sexual abuse at Kasigau. Accessible at: <https://www.somo.nl/going-through-the-motions-verras-review-of-sexual-abuse-at-kasigau/>