



UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM COMMON MESSAGES FOR COP29 AND COP30

Every fraction of a degree of warming matters. The long-term temperature goal of the Paris Agreement is still just about possible.¹

- The science is clear: **to avert the worst impacts of climate change** and preserve a liveable planet, **global warming needs to be limited** as much as possible and as a matter of urgency.
- The annually averaged global mean near-surface temperature in 2024 was $1.55^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 0.13^{\circ}\text{C}$ above the 1850–1900 average used to represent pre-industrial conditions. The year 2024 was the warmest year in the 175-year observational record, clearly surpassing the previous warmest year, 2023 at $1.45^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 0.12^{\circ}\text{C}$ above the 1850–1900 average.²
- 2024 was the first calendar year in which the annual global average temperature exceeded 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. Such a short-term exceedance of 1.5°C is an **early sign of getting perilously close to exceeding the long-term limit** and serve as a clarion call for **increasing ambition and accelerating action in this critical decade**.
- **An annual exceedance of 1.5°C** does not mean that the world has failed to achieve the Paris Agreement's temperature goal, which IPCC consider as a reference to **long-term temperature increase over decades**.
- At COP26, COP27, COP28, and COP29, countries expressed their firm resolve to pursue efforts to limit global warming to 1.5°C , as agreed in the Paris Agreement.
- Countries' commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions under the Paris Agreement have reduced the projected global warming by the end of the 21st century from $3.7\text{--}4.8^{\circ}\text{C}$ to $2.1\text{--}2.8^{\circ}\text{C}$ or possibly even lower. While this is far from sufficient, it shows that **collective commitments under the Paris Agreement have made a difference**.
- **Every fraction of a degree of warming matters.** With every additional increment of global warming, changes in extremes, impacts and risks become larger.
- **Limiting global warming to below 1.5°C** will significantly reduce the risks, adverse impacts, and related human suffering from climate change. Failing to do so will lead to increasingly frequent and dangerous extreme weather events including heatwaves, droughts, wildfires, and heavy precipitation and flooding, with significant detrimental impacts also on food security.
- Even at current levels, climate change already has massive impacts on human rights, humanitarian needs, welfare, and dignity, particularly for those in vulnerable and marginalized situations, rocking the foundations of peace and security – as people are displaced and vital resources depleted.

¹ See a more detailed note here: https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/2024/04/fact_sheet_on_1.5.pdf

² [State of the Global Climate 2024](#)

- **The climate crisis is not “gender neutral”.** Women and girls are often disproportionately impacted by climate change, which amplifies existing gender inequalities and poses unique threats to their livelihoods, rights, health, and safety.

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

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

- Transparency in implementing the NDCs is equally important. Therefore, it is crucial that countries submit **Biennial Transparency Reports** covering all emissions and all sectors as the agreed means of tracking progress on the implementation of NDCs and showing collective progress towards 1.5°C.

The case for climate action has never been clearer

- **Climate action yields significant returns – creating jobs, investment, and business opportunities. The clean energy sector alone is already contributing significantly to GDP growth in many countries across the world.** The Network for Greening the Financial System³ has estimated that an orderly transition to net zero by 2050 could result in global GDP being 7% higher than under current policies, with the savings from avoided damages greatly outweighing investment costs. **Renewable energy is cheaper:** Nearly all new renewable power installed (81%) was cheaper⁴ than fossil fuel alternatives in 2023. On average, around the world, electricity from solar energy was 56% cheaper than power from fossil fuels. **Climate action creates more jobs:** There already are more jobs⁵ in clean energy than in fossil fuels, as growing investment in clean energy technologies – such as solar panels, windmills, batteries and electric vehicles – is driving demand for new workers in every region of the world. Every dollar invested in renewable energy creates three times more jobs⁶ than in the fossil fuel industry. Currently over 60 million people are engaged in nature-based solutions activities and these can generate up to 32 million new jobs by 2030⁷.
- **The economic opportunities in increasing climate resilience** are already estimated to be USD18 trillion. Every dollar invested in adaptation can return up to USD10⁸. Globally, a USD1.8 trillion investment in early warning systems, climate-resilient infrastructure, improved dryland agriculture, global mangrove protection and resilient water resources could generate USD7.1 trillion in avoided costs and social and environmental benefits⁹.
- **Building resilience and reducing emissions means independence and security.** Instead of depending on imported fossil fuels, countries can harness the wind, water, sun, and geothermal heat, which are plentiful and available, to varying extents, in all countries – allowing for energy security¹⁰ and independence¹¹ from foreign sources and geopolitical volatilities. A minimum of 25 million people are expected to migrate by 2050 as a result of climate change. Other estimates say hundreds of millions. Acting to lower emissions and build resilience will create better conditions for peace and reduce forced migration, easing pressures on borders and budgets.

³ [NGFS publishes latest long-term climate macro-financial scenarios for climate risks assessment | Network for Greening the Financial System](#)

⁴ : IRENA (2024), Renewable power generation costs in 2023, International Renewable Energy Agency, Abu Dhabi

⁵ IEA (2023), World Energy Employment 2023, IEA, Paris <https://www.iea.org/reports/world-energy-employment-2023>, Licence: CC BY 4.0

⁶ IRENA (2020), The post-COVID recovery: An agenda for resilience, development and equality, International Renewable Energy Agency, Abu Dhabi

⁷ ILO-UNEP-IUCN 2024, Decent work in nature-based solutions.

⁸ Adapt Now: A Global Call for Leadership on Climate Resilience September 2019

⁹ Global Commission on Adaptation, 2019

¹⁰ IEA (2022), Renewables 2022, IEA, Paris <https://www.iea.org/reports/renewables-2022>, Licence: CC BY 4.0

¹¹ [WETO Digital Report](#)

- **Climate action saves lives and increases human health.** Acting on climate now could help avert an estimated 14.5 million deaths and USD12.5 trillion in economic losses predicted by 2050¹². Extreme weather events turbo-charged by climate change caused over two million deaths¹³ and USD4.3 trillion in economic losses over the past 50 years.
- **Climate action boost food security, farmer incomes and livelihoods and protects nature and biodiversity. Sustainably managing and restoring ecosystems is a major solution to the climate crisis.** According to the Emissions Gap Report 2024¹⁴, action on forests alone could deliver around 20 per cent of the cuts needed by 2030 and 2035 to meet the Paris Agreement goals.

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

- To keep the worst of climate chaos at bay, we must supercharge the roll-out of renewable energy and the phase out of fossil fuels, halt and reverse deforestation, and ensure 1.5°C-aligned transitions across critical sectors. And we must ensure that these transitions are just for people and planet.
- To take forward the key outcomes on energy transition from COP28 – tripling renewable energy capacity and doubling energy efficiency improvements by 2030 while accelerating the transition away from fossil fuels – it is important to build coalitions for just and equitable transitions across sectors, including facilitating dialogue and cooperation on issues such as Just Energy Transition Partnerships (JETPs) and other similar country-led and multi-stakeholder approaches on fossil fuel phase-out, technological innovation, critical minerals, grid modernization and battery storage, methane emission reductions, agriculture and land-based mitigation measures, and industrial decarbonization.
- Efforts need to be directed towards implementation of the Actionable Recommendations launched by the Secretary-General's Panel on Critical Energy Transition Minerals to properly manage mineral value chains with human rights and environmental integrity at their core, working towards equity and justice and accelerate greater benefit-sharing, value addition and economic diversification.
- Countries need to urgently identify the technologies necessary for their transitions, and we need a mechanism to fast-track the transfer of these technologies on mutually agreed terms.
- The ongoing growth in **renewable energy** should both add new energy capacity to ensure affordable universal energy access and **replace existing fossil fuel-based capacity**.
- Governments must reallocate, reform, and phase out fossil fuel subsidies to advance a just energy transition. It is high time to put an effective price on carbon, that is aligned with the Paris Agreement's goals, and tax the windfall profits of fossil fuel companies.

¹² Quantifying the Impact of Climate Change on Human Health

[WEF Quantifying the Impact of Climate Change on Human Health 2024.pdf](#)

¹³ World Meteorological Organization, 2023: Atlas of Mortality and Economic Losses from Weather, Climate and Water-related Hazards (1970-2021)

¹⁴ United Nations Environment Programme (2024). Emissions Gap Report 2024: No more hot air ... please! With a massive gap between rhetoric and reality, countries draft new climate commitments. Nairobi.
<https://doi.org/10.59117/20.500.11822/46404>

- Trade-related climate measures, including those aimed at sustainable consumption and reducing deforestation, should be aligned with **international trade rules** and minimize trade market access barriers and compliance costs in trade partners, particularly for SMEs in developing countries.
- Accelerating the deployment of carbon dioxide removal and storage measures can also contribute to global efforts, especially to address final emissions from hard-to-abate sectors. However, they cannot be a substitute for drastic emissions cuts or an excuse to delay fossil fuel phase-out. Acknowledging the contribution of other low-carbon technologies, such as nuclear technologies.
- **The 1.5°C-aligned transitions must be gender-responsive and just for all**, in accordance with human rights, gender equality, children's rights, labour rights, and national development priorities, including through the creation of decent work and quality jobs, social dialogue, education and skills development, and adaptive social protection.
- **A just, orderly, and equitable transition away from fossil fuels** must recognize and account for countries' common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities (CBDR-RC), accounting for and ameliorating the negative impacts across population groups with a focus on the most vulnerable. **Advanced G20 economies should go furthest, fastest.**

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

- Climate finance is not a favour. It is an investment in global stability and a liveable future for all.
- The new finance goal agreed at COP29 calls on developed countries to take the lead in mobilizing at least \$300 billion per year for developing countries by 2035 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and protect lives and livelihoods from the worsening impacts of climate change. Parties also agreed to scale up climate finance for developing countries from all public and private sources to \$1.3 trillion a year by 2035.
- It is therefore crucial to **continue to make serious efforts to reform the financial architecture** – both international and domestic – to ensure emerging and developing countries can equitably access the finance and technology needed to support their climate and development efforts.
- The 4th Financing for Development conference taking place in June-July this year provides an opportunity to propose meaningful actions on fundamental issues to mobilize finance for climate and development at scale.
- Ongoing efforts to establish a **UN framework convention on international tax cooperation** should be supported in view of facilitating domestic resource mobilization.
- In a context marked by high levels of indebtedness, elevated interest rates, reduced fiscal space, and geopolitical uncertainty, the **multiplication of investment sources** and types, including in the form of grants and concessional financing, will be essential.
- The **cost of capital is a key barrier** to renewable energy and other key sectoral investments in developing countries. Partnerships between international investors, the public sector, and

multilateral financial institutions can greatly reduce the cost of capital. Availability of finance at **concessional rates and for longer term** would be critical in this regard.

- Reforming Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) and easing access to finance can create an **enabling international environment** for higher ambition through increasing public finance and leveraging private finance for net-zero and climate-resilient transitions. These reforms should focus on **increasing the capital of the MDBs** and **reforming their business models to scale up direct support** and **leverage more private finance at reasonable costs** for climate action in developing countries.
- We need to move from exploring to implementing **innovative sources of finance**, including solidarity levies and **GHG pricing mechanisms** to help fund climate action. These should be **scalable, fair, and easy to collect and administer**.
- We also need **better spending and sound policies** that can attract private investment and send clear signals about the direction of travel, informed by good analysis – an area where the UN system can work together with MDBs and other key partners.
- **Carbon markets** that abide by the highest standards of credibility and integrity, including effective human rights safeguards, can play a role in emission reduction efforts, mobilize climate finance from public and private sources, and assist in channelling climate finance from developed to developing countries.

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

- **Adaptation** to climate change safeguards people from higher temperatures, rising seas, fiercer storms, unpredictable rainfall, wildfires, and other climate impacts. When planned and implemented right, with risk-informed approaches and backed up by adequate funding, **adaptation saves lives and livelihoods**.
- **Building resilience** across sectors is critically urgent to protect societies and economies, and to reduce the adverse effects of climate change on people's health, ability to grow food, housing, safety, and work, among others.
- **National adaptation plans** (NAPs) should be designed to attract finance from a broad range of donors and investors – public and private, including philanthropic sources.
- Current **adaptation finance** gaps are estimated at US\$203–388 billion per year. Delivering on the commitment of the developed countries to at least double adaptation finance from 2019 levels by 2025 and ensuring that at least half of all climate finance goes to adaptation and resilience-building efforts across sectors is critical.
- Implementation of the **Secretary-General's Early Warnings for All and Adaptation Pipeline Accelerator initiatives** and other similar country-led approaches to adaptation planning and implementation are essential for delivering climate justice while averting, minimizing, and addressing losses and damages.
- When taking adaptation action, governments should ensure **country-driven, gender-responsive, participatory and human rights-based approaches**, as well as intergenerational equity and social justice, taking into consideration vulnerable ecosystems, groups and communities, and including children, youth and persons with disabilities.

The Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage must be sufficiently resourced and fully operationalized.

- Global warming has already caused dangerous and widespread losses and damages that will further increase with every increment of global warming.
- We must build on the momentum from COP28 and COP29 to ensure the **rapid operationalization of the Fund for responding to loss and damage** and secure further contributions from a variety of sources to ensure financial assistance is provided to the most vulnerable nations.
- The **Santiago network** must be strengthened and scaled up to provide much needed technical assistance to developing countries to avert, minimize and address loss and damage, including by enabling access to complementing programmatic approaches of the Fund.
- Losses and damages are “unequally distributed across systems, regions and sectors” and are “strongly concentrated among the poorest vulnerable populations”¹⁵. Their access to the Fund should be prioritized as a matter of international solidarity and climate justice.
- To ensure the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage is effective and fully operationalized, we must build on lessons learned from other climate funds to fast-track access and simplify procedures.

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

- A growing number of non-State actors – in **the private and financial sectors, local governments, and regions** – have committed to reducing their emissions to net zero.
- Net-zero commitments must include interim targets, cover all scopes of emissions, have transparent verification processes and must not use carbon offsets to achieve emissions reduction targets.
- Strengthening the credibility and accountability of non-State actors’ net-zero commitments and ensure standardized and transparent reporting – through the implementation of the recommendations of the High-Level Expert Group on the Net-Zero Emissions Commitments of Non-State Entities and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights – is critical to limit greenwashing and bogus net-zero claims.
- Monitoring should be tightened on fossil-fuel production and hard-to-abate sectors, such as steel, cement, or aviation, as well as on private and public financial support for such emission-intensive sectors.
- By implementing credible 1.5°C-aligned climate action, non-State actors **can be key delivery partners** and support countries in achieving their ambition on sectoral commitments and NDCs by demonstrating transition plans, and ensuring they contribute to increased ambition of national goals. Non-State actors can work with Governments in developing **regulatory frameworks that support the transition from voluntary 1.5°C-aligned commitments to mandatory requirements**.

¹⁵ IPCC: https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg2/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_WGII_SummaryForPolicymakers.pdf

- We need an all-hands-on-deck approach to keep 1.5°C within reach: this means **all financial institutions must end their fossil fuel lending**, underwriting and investments and shift to renewables instead, and fossil fuel companies must chart their move towards clean energy, with detailed 1.5°C-aligned transition plans, as well as accountability and transparency mechanisms, across the entire value chain in this critical decade.

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

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