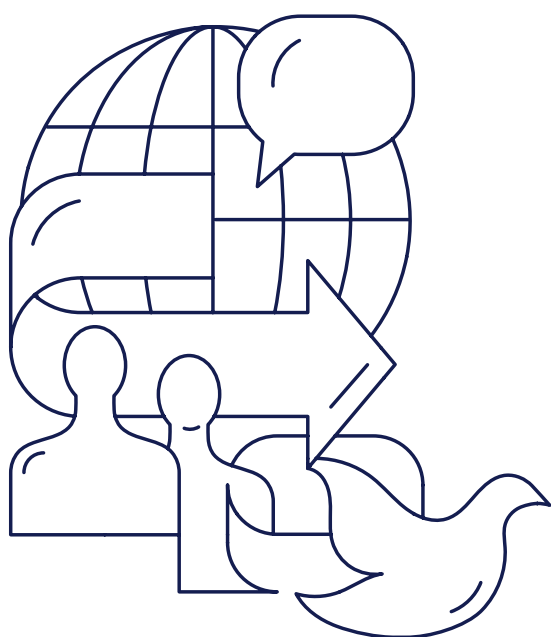


# COP30 – What should be delivered on Climate, Peace, and Security?



The increased frequency and intensity of climate impacts bring with them a higher risk of violent conflict. This is what 3000 respondents to a [survey by World Vision International](#) across various contexts ranging from Papua New Guinea and the Democratic Republic of Congo to Iraq answered when asked about their perceptions of the risk of conflict due to changing climate conditions. 86% of respondents believe climate change poses a serious issue for their communities and 60% think it specifically worsened conflict in their communities.

Furthermore, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) states that climate change indirectly contributes to a rise in conflict, for example through putting

further constraints on already depleting resources, or via intermediate factors such as governance. Many populations face a double burden as the most climate vulnerable contexts are at the same time affected by fragility and violent conflict. These countries only receive [a quarter of the climate finance](#) they require. Yet, if done well, both adapting to and mitigating climate change—as well as receiving funding to address climate induced losses and damages—can play a significant role for climate justice and in addressing drivers of conflict and building peace.

## How can increasing climate resilience and building peace be linked?

### Mitigation

Mitigation—meaning reducing emissions and transitioning to low carbon systems—is the prerequisite to limit future climate change impacts. It can also affect peace and conflict dynamics in important ways. If poorly designed, for example, a mitigation action can exacerbate grievances and even lead to violent conflict, especially if it violates human rights, causes job losses, divides communities or fuels perceptions of injustice—such as through unequal access to land, energy or green investments. That is why the transformation of energy systems and economies needs to be supported by inclusive policies that also involve marginalised groups. In addition, inclusive decision-making processes create opportunities to address root causes of conflict, overcome former divisions and injustice, and increase trust amongst all stakeholders.

Moreover, effective mitigation reduces long-term risks for conflicts by decreasing climate impacts such as extreme weather events (storms, floods or heatwaves) and slow onset processes (salination, erosion or sea level rise). This in turn impacts food security or displacements—common risks in fragile countries.

The current fossil fuel-based energy system is closely linked to patterns of corruption, human rights violations and violent conflict. In many cases, revenues from fossil fuel extraction have directly financed armed groups and repressive regimes, fueling wars, insurgencies, and prolonged violence. Control over oil, gas, and coal resources has been a strategic objective in numerous conflicts, both internal and international, often intensifying instability and human suffering. This dynamic is part of the broader “resource curse”, at which natural resource wealth enriches elites, fuels patronage networks, and undermines institutions, while local communities bear the environmental and social costs.

By contrast, renewable energy systems could offer a more decentralised, transparent, and participatory model. Unlike fossil fuels, renewable resources such as solar and wind are widely available across regions. If systems and projects are planned and implemented in a conflict-sensitive, gender-responsive, and human rights based manner, they can enable decentralised energy production and open opportunities for community ownership, democratic governance, and local economic benefits. If designed inclusively, renewable energy transitions can help shift power structures and foster more equitable and peaceful development pathways.

## Adaptation

Adaptation to climate change is not just technical—it is political and social. Protecting the human security of individuals and communities in conflict settings aligns closely with advancing climate adaptation, as growing climate impacts exacerbate vulnerabilities in already fragile environments. Addressing both climate adaptation and peacebuilding needs is thus essential and worthwhile: on the one hand, environmental degradation can be a rallying cause to bring people together across dividing lines to address shared challenges, including the need to protect nature and livelihoods; while on the other hand, peace is an enabling factor for successful measures to increase climate resilience.

**“Adaptation is more effective when it actively supports sustainable peace.**

Current approaches to resilience building and peacebuilding are, however, still operating in silos. This needs to change by recognising that adaptation efforts affect relationships between governments and citizens, between different groups within a society, and between generations. Adaptation is more effective when it is conflict sensitive and actively supports sustainable peace. One entry point could be the integration of adaptation measures specifically targeting the risks for conflict and to human security due to climate change (e.g. food insecurity or displacement) in National Adaptation Plans.

## Loss and Damage

Climate change is increasing the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events—such as storms, droughts, and floods—as well as slow-onset processes like sea level rise, ocean acidification, and rising temperatures. These impacts lead to climate-related losses and damages and threaten natural ecosystems, human livelihoods, and the functioning of societies.

Loss and damage can be economic—including damage to infrastructure, loss of land and water, homes, or income—or non-economic, such as the loss of territory, health, or cultural heritage. These losses and damages can severely disrupt social systems and livelihoods for groups and/or individuals, public health, and economic development, with far-reaching implications for conflict and peace.

For instance, agricultural losses from droughts can undermine food security, contributing to hunger and even famine. Loss and damage can also exacerbate existing tensions through resource scarcity, climate-induced displacement, political instability, or the loss of habitable land due to sea level rise or erosion. Despite these clear connections, discussions on loss and damage remain largely disconnected from peace and conflict debates. For responses to be effective and holistic, this gap must be bridged – ensuring that loss and damage is addressed through a holistic, conflict-sensitive approach that recognises its role in shaping stability and security.

## Why now?

Not only is the number of armed conflicts at an all-time high, but the success of adaptation and mitigation measures – as well as measures to address loss and damage and the acceleration thereof in the upcoming years – depends largely on conflict-sensitive implementation. COP30 in Belém, which will adopt the Global Goal on Adaptation with corresponding indicators for measuring progress, presents an opportunity to integrate a conflict-sensitive lens into all future programmes from the outset. The first payments from the Fund for responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD) are also due to be made from 2026 onwards. Here, too, conflict-sensitive instruments should play a role in implementation from the outset. COP30 represents the perfect moment to put this link into practice. The starting point and accelerator for this should be the existing commitments in the [COP28 Declaration](#)<sup>7</sup>, which was signed by 94 countries and other international organisations, as well as the [Baku Call to Action](#)<sup>8</sup>.

## What we want to see in the negotiated outcomes of COP30

- A selection of **adaptation indicators in the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA)** that can guarantee at least **to do no harm (conflict analysis and conflict sensitivity)**, but also ensure **prevention and preparedness (multihazard approach)**, increase human security, and sustain peace;
- An **increase in climate finance**, including adaptation and loss and damage finance, by setting a clear roadmap towards 1.3 trillion \$ by 2035. From that overall pot of finance, more funding is **needed for local civil society organisations (CSOs) and for fragile and conflict-affected settings**, particularly for the Adaptation Fund and the Fund for responding to Loss and Damage;
- A **Loss and Damage Status Report** is decided within the review of the Warsaw International Mechanism. This report, which would cover technical, capacity, and finance gaps of countries of the Global South, **will very much gain relevance, if it contains a specific analyses of needs and impact of the support in fragile and conflict-affected contexts.**

## Beyond the minimum, how do we ensure climate programmes enhance peace and do not lead to conflict?

### Green transition:

- **Commit to the timely phase-out of fossil fuels**, as they are a significant factor in climate change and contributing to violence.

- **Ensure a conflict-sensitive approach to a sustainable and just energy transition.** Rigorous conflict-sensitive analysis as well as meaningful consultation and decision-making with local communities, including on the costs and benefits of resource extraction, should happen from the outset. Early exit strategies for timebound external financial support and compensation funds for unintended negative side effects help to increase local ownership and prevent harm.

#### Quality of finance:

- **Increase grant based funding from all financial bodies** for climate adaptation, loss and damage and peacebuilding programmes **in fragile and conflict-affected areas**, as part of the triple nexus approach. Include conflict-affected communities and their representatives in political decision-making, planning and implementation, asking for consent.
- **Increase incentives for those who invest in fragile contexts.** Rather than being seen as a barrier, fragility should be viewed as a reason for engagement and funding.
- **Guarantee easy and flexible access and community access to climate finance** by removing institutional barriers and providing more technical support, especially in contexts where governance is weak or missing
- **De-risk and secure engagement of civil society, including peace and human rights actors**

#### Inclusive decision-making, transparency and accountability:

- **Democratise climate knowledge and planning by improving access to information, including climate-vulnerable communities in decision-making processes** on climate adaptation and critical raw materials—taking into account their grievances and **using less technical vocabulary and local languages**—to increase the impact of policies.
- **Plan conflict-sensitive climate measures and address the main grievances to overcome injustices and marginalisation**, increasing social cohesion and reducing violence at local level.
- **Enhance multisectoral cooperation** and create more space and incentives for cooperation **between climate, environmental and peacebuilding experts at all levels.** Ensure that climate and peacebuilding policies and programmes are context specific, inclusively planned, and implemented. Effectiveness and sustainability of climate measures are enhanced when peacebuilding and just development are an integrated aim.

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