

Make Space for Peace at COP30

A call to better integrate Peace at COP30: Lasting climate action requires lasting peace

Over the past five years, progress has been made to interlink the global concerns for peace and climate action in international climate fora. Ignoring peace and conflict risks at COP30 may jeopardise effective climate action.

The first of its kind, the COP28 Declaration on Climate, Relief, Recovery and Peace called “for bolder collective action to build climate resilience at the scale and speed required in highly vulnerable countries and communities.” The Declaration was launched on a day for Peace, officially designated by the UAE Presidency. At COP29, the Azerbaijan Presidency similarly dedicated a day to the theme of Relief, Recovery and Peace. This engagement resulted in the Baku Call on Climate Action for Peace, Relief, and Recovery which established the Baku Climate and Peace Action Hub, a cooperative platform for collaborative peace-sensitive climate action.

These steps represent important progress, building on the increasing evidence that conflict and peace are integral to effective global climate action, a point strongly made by civil society on the frontlines of the climate crisis. Numerous stakeholders have taken action to implement projects that foster both peace and climate resilience.

Yet, **peace has dropped off the agenda for COP30**, to be held in November 2025 in Brazil, at a time when peace and climate action are more needed than ever.

The Brazilian Presidency ambition to lead a solutions-focused COP shifting from negotiation to delivery on addressing structural inequalities will struggle without a deliberate attempt to include conflict affected settings.

Progress on Brazil’s Action Agenda on issues such as forest conservation, resilient food systems, and reducing the effects of climate change on eradicating hunger and poverty will be undermined when conflict settings are excluded. Hunger, extreme poverty and deforestation are increasingly concentrated in conflict affected settings. Dedicated conversations on Relief, Recovery and Peace at COP30 are crucial to maintain momentum and take forward coalitions formed at previous global meetings that can accelerate implementation of commitments for conflict settings. This is why we, a collective of peace and climate practitioners, call on all actors across the COP landscape, including the Brazilian COP30 presidency, to again prioritise peace as a key factor for successful climate change mitigation and adaptation – and climate action as an important step for peaceful societies.

The connection between climate, environment, peace and conflict

Security concerns are more on the international agenda than ever. And these are highly connected to the climate and the environment. The devastating impacts of climate change and environmental degradation are intensifying insecurity and conflict risks around the world, particularly in fragile communities.

Climate change exacerbates deep-seated, interconnected drivers of conflict, such as:

- low economic development,
- competition over natural resources,
- human rights violations,
- weak governance and institutions, especially at the local level,
- discrimination and marginalisation,
- gender inequality, and
- a broader history of violent conflict.

Inequality and the lack of social safety nets further increase the vulnerability and reduce the resilience of those already suffering from the impacts of climate change.

In turn, armed conflicts contribute to the climate crisis both directly - through environmental destruction, such as deforestation, and military greenhouse gas emissions, and indirectly - through undermining systems of environmental governance and protection and impacting sustainable and equitable resource use. This weakens societies' abilities to adapt to climate change. With armed conflicts weakening national and local governance structures, climate change is not considered a priority as part of development planning, further increasing the vulnerability of affected communities.

Meanwhile conflict affected countries receive a disproportionately small share of **adaptation funding**, despite greater vulnerability and lower capacity to respond to climate change impacts.

Bolder Action for Climate Resilience as Catalyst for Peace

As climate change intensifies, there is a risk of increasing conflicts if preventive action is not taken. Climate Action, if undertaken with a conflict-sensitive approach, can be a catalyst for peace. We call for the prioritisation of peace during COP30 by:

- Defining Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) Indicators that do no harm (conflict analysis and conflict sensitivity) and ideally ensure prevention and preparedness (multi-hazard approach), thereby increasing human security, social cohesion and peace as co-benefits of climate adaptation.
- Showcasing good practices on conflict sensitivity across the COP landscape, including, for example Somalia's NDC 3.0.
- Mainstreaming conflict sensitivity in all actions decided during COP30, especially those related to LDCs, fragile and conflict affected settings.
- Substantially scaling up financial resources for climate adaptation and resilience to fragile and conflict affected areas.
- Institutionalising the Relief Recovery Peace agenda into the COP negotiation process, with regular dialogues and stock take of progress through clear accountability mechanisms.
- Including peace-related events and discussions in other thematic days. Peace and human security are very closely related to many of the themes already present in the COP30 agenda, such as: Adaptation and water; governance, justice and human rights; carbon markets, forests, and biodiversity; Indigenous peoples and local communities; youth, women, and family farming; agriculture, food systems, and security.
- Integrating peace in actions beyond this year's COP, particularly by paving the way for a dedicated day on Peace at COP31 and better integrating peace and conflict-sensitivity in NDCs, NAPs, and HAPs.

Ignoring peace and conflict risks undermines climate action. Only by placing peace at the heart of climate negotiations and responses, can we build a world truly prepared to address and adapt to climate change. Lasting climate action requires lasting peace.

Learn more and join the conversation at:

<https://www.ecosystemforpeace.org/cop30>.