

RAISING AMBITION IN HUMAN RIGHTS- CONSISTENT CLIMATE PLEDGES

RECOMMENDATIONS TO STATES AHEAD OF RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS IN 2021

KEY MESSAGES

The climate crisis is a global human rights emergency, impacting the rights to life, food, health, housing, water, sanitation, among others. It disproportionately affects individuals and communities that are already marginalized or subject to discrimination – including women and girls, indigenous communities and young people who will bear the brunt of future impacts - but no one is exempt from the risks associated with climate change. In the last 10 years, over 1.7 billion people in all regions of the globe have been affected by the catastrophic effects of rising numbers of extreme disasters exacerbated by climate change, including flooding, prolonged drought, devastating tropical storms and intense heatwaves.¹

Existing national climate plans are in no way ambitious enough to achieve the reduction in global carbon emissions that is needed to protect the planet and the human rights of all living on it from the most dangerous impacts of climate change. This is not just a moral failure to act on the crisis at our door, but a failure of states to meet their obligations under human rights and environmental law.

Parties to the Paris Agreement are due to submit national climate pledges for 2030 and for the longer-term ahead of COP26 in November 2021.² **Amnesty International is calling on all parties to the Paris Agreement to urgently raise their ambition on climate action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with keeping the temperature rise as low as possible and no higher than 1.5°C and in a manner that advances human rights, including when submitting their national climate pledges.**

G7 and G20 member states, as the wealthiest countries and responsible for the greatest percentage of global emissions, have the responsibility to make the most ambitious pledges. They should do so no later than their respective summits, whichever is earlier. **We urge these states to demonstrate true global leadership to address the climate emergency, including by committing to plans to end fossil fuel subsidies immediately for G7 countries and by no later than 2025 for the rest of the G20.**

International climate finance to support climate change mitigation and adaptation in developing countries, though increasing, remains inadequate, with states falling far short of the target of USD\$100 billion annually by 2020.³ **We are calling for states in a position to do so to substantially increase international cooperation and assistance for climate change mitigation and adaptation and to provide additional resources for loss and damage. G7 and G20 states must urgently jointly mobilize to ensure that the USD\$100 billion a year target is met and incrementally increased.**

Economic recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic poses both a risk and opportunity for addressing the climate crisis and ensuring a just transition away from fossil fuels that fully respects and protects human rights. **We call on all states to ensure that economic recovery packages contribute to both reducing emissions and to addressing the inequalities that the pandemic and the climate crisis have exacerbated. G7 and G20 countries should operationalize the commitments made in this regard last year. We also call on all states to reject any multilateral mechanisms for carbon trading which do not lead to genuine emission reductions and do not include human rights safeguards.**

The struggle for climate justice is undermined by the lack of transparency and accountability concerning climate plans and the hostility and violence often meted out to environmental human rights defenders.⁴ **We call on all states to respect, protect and fulfill the rights to information, participation and remedy in climate action, using transparent and inclusive processes that leave no one behind. All human rights defenders, including climate activists and all those working to protect the environment, livelihoods and access to land, must be allowed to continue their legitimate work without fear of reprisals in a safe and enabling environment.**

¹ IFRC, Come Heat or High Water: World Disasters Report 2020, <https://media.ifrc.org/ifrc/world-disaster-report-2020/>

² The 26th Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change scheduled to take place in Glasgow 1-12 November 2021.

³ Independent Expert Group on Climate Finance, Delivering on the \$100 billion climate finance commitment and transforming climate finance, December 2020, https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/100_billion_climate_finance_report.pdf

⁴ In this document, we use “environmental human rights defenders” to refer to human rights defenders who strive to protect and promote human rights relating to the environment in a peaceful manner, including all those struggling for climate justice, for access to land and for a healthy environment.

RAISING AMBITION IN CLIMATE PLANS TO REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IN LINE WITH KEEPING THE TEMPERATURE RISE AS LOW AS POSSIBLE AND NO HIGHER THAN 1.5°C AND IN A MANNER THAT ADVANCES HUMAN RIGHTS

While a slew of new 2030 and carbon-neutrality targets have recently been announced, most countries – especially wealthier states that are members of the G20 - are currently failing to adopt sufficiently ambitious and human rights-consistent climate plans. Under the Paris Agreement, state parties were due to submit new, more ambitious plans for 2030 (Nationally Determined Contributions – NDCs) and long-term strategies by 31 December 2020.

By the end of 2020, only 48 countries and the European Union - overall 75 countries responsible for about 30% of global emissions - had submitted an updated NDC.⁵ By 19 May 2021, only another 15 states had submitted new NDCs.⁶ Of the G20 countries, which collectively account for almost 80% of global GHG emissions and are currently not on track to meet their existing insufficient targets for 2030, the majority has either to still submit a new NDC or had failed to set an emission reduction target for 2030 aligned with their level of responsibility and capacity or compatible with the imperative to keep the increase of global average temperature as low as possible and no higher than 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.⁷ The Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) calculate that, based on the new pledges received by 31 December 2020, countries would only emit 0.3% less in 2025 and 2.8% less in 2030 than under the old plans, and would overall reduce global emissions by less than 1% by 2030 compared to 2010 levels. This is extremely alarming, considering that in 2018, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change estimated that emissions should be cut at least by 45% by 2030 compared to 2010 levels in order to contain global warming to under 1.5°C. Patricia Espinosa, executive secretary of the UNFCCC, described the lack of sufficient climate action as “collectively wandering into a minefield blindfolded”.⁸

In behaving in this way states are showing not just a moral failure to act on the crisis at our door, but a failure to meet their obligations under human rights law. As a reminder, 1.5°C is not a high watermark for what is required under human rights law; the current global temperature rise of 1.1°C has already led to major human rights impacts.

All states – and in particular the wealthiest and highest carbon-emitting states - must take all feasible steps to the full extent of their abilities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions within the shortest possible time-frame in order to keep the increase in global average temperatures as low as possible and no higher than 1.5°C. They must increase their efforts to publicly recognize and commit to the need to act immediately, collaboratively seek progress and urge other states to follow suit. Such efforts must not directly or indirectly violate human rights and should learn from the experience of previous conservation or renewable energy projects, for example where indigenous land has been exploited or appropriated without the free, prior and informed consent of the affected Indigenous peoples.⁹ Conversely, climate change policies and measures must have human rights at their heart, thereby advancing equality, justice and dignity for all, in line also with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

RECOMMENDATIONS TO ALL STATES

Ahead of COP26, Amnesty International calls on all states parties to the Paris agreement that have not already done so to:

- Submit ambitious new Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and a long-term emission reduction strategy as soon as possible and ahead of COP26, ensuring these plans are aligned with the imperative to keep the increase of global average temperature as low as possible and no higher than 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, and reflect each state’s full ability to reduce emissions in the shortest timeframe possible;
 - Wealthy industrialized states¹⁰ should adopt the most ambitious emission reduction targets that would enable them to reduce GHG emissions by 50% well before 2030 and reach zero carbon emissions by 2030 or as soon as feasible after that while ensuring a just transition that enhances human rights;
 - Developing countries with greater capacity¹¹ must set emission reduction targets that would enable them to reduce

⁵ UNFCCC, Nationally determined contributions under the Paris Agreement, Synthesis report by the Secretariat, 26 February 2021, UN Doc. FCCC/PA/CMA/2021/2. For a list of countries which had submitted a new NDC by 31 December 2020, see footnote 19.

⁶ See <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/Pages/LatestSubmissions.aspx>. For an analysis of the new round of NDCs, see <https://climateactiontracker.org/climate-target-update-tracker/>.

⁷ As of 19 May 2021, Argentina, the EU (which binds individual member states – and therefore France, Germany and Italy), the UK and the USA had submitted a new NDC with an enhanced emission reduction target for 2030. However, the 2030 targets set by the EU, the UK and the USA, although much higher than the previous ones, are still not aligned with their level of responsibility and capacity, and, in the case of the EU and the USA, not compatible with the imperative to keep the increase of global average temperature as low as possible and no higher than 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. Canada, China, Japan, South Africa and South Korea had pledged to submit an enhanced NDC but not yet done so. Australia, Brazil and Russia had submitted a new NDC but failed to enhance their 2030 emission reduction target compared to their previous NDC. Turkey, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia and India had not even pledged to update their NDC.

⁸ Climate Home News, China, US urged to step up as UN warns world “very far” from meeting climate goals, 26 February 2021,

<https://www.climatechangenews.com/2021/02/26/china-us-urged-step-un-warns-world-far-meeting-climate-goals/>

⁹ See for example Amnesty International, *Kenya: Evicting the Forest Guardians*, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/campaigns/2018/05/kenya-evicting-the-forest-guardians/>

¹⁰ For the purpose of this document, Amnesty international refers to countries that are considered as ‘developed countries’ in Annex 1 of the UNFCCC as wealthy industrialized countries.

¹¹ Amnesty International considers countries classified by the World Bank as “upper middle income” and which are also part of the G20 as “developing countries with greater capacity”. These are China, South Africa, Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, South Korea, Indonesia.

GHG emissions by at least 45% from 2010 levels by 2030 or as soon as possible after that, and to reach zero by 2050, as the IPCC stated that these emission reduction targets at global level are needed to limit global warming to 1.5°C;

- Other developing countries should aim to reduce their emissions by levels consistent with a 1.5°C target as soon as possible in line with their own respective capacity.
- To meet their human rights obligations, ensure that all state plans to achieve the NDCs and long-term climate strategies:
 - Include clear timelines and specific steps to end all fossil fuel subsidies¹² by 2025 at the latest, with wealthy industrialized countries ending them immediately;
 - Phase out fossil fuels by 2030 or as soon as possible after that for wealthy industrialised countries and by 2050 at the latest for all other countries;
 - End production and use of most polluting fossil fuels and forms of production, such as coal, peat, fracking and tar sands by 2030 for wealthy industrialized countries and as soon as possible and no later than 2040 for all other countries;
 - Include clear timelines for a shift to renewable energy for all by 2030 or as soon as possible after that for wealthy industrialized countries and by 2050 at the latest for all other countries, while immediately developing concrete long-term plans for a just and sustainable transition to human rights-consistent renewable energy;
 - Establish regulations and policy measures and ensure that businesses move towards zero carbon emissions across their operations and value chains as soon as possible and in line with the IPCC's 1.5°C targets and that financial regulators, such as central banks, take regulatory action to accelerate the financial industry's alignment with the threshold of 1.5°C of warming;
 - Reflect human rights law, principles and standards and contain clear references and be consistent with each state's human rights obligations and include relevant indicators, targets and benchmarks, including to ensure that the transition towards zero-carbon economies and resilient societies does not result in human rights violations and deepening inequalities;
 - Include human rights-consistent "just transition" plans, which address the concerns of all workers and communities affected by climate change and climate policies, seek to safeguard their economic, social and cultural rights in areas such as work, livelihoods and social protection and are based on social dialogue and on the genuine participation of those affected groups and communities;
 - Operationalize the obligation to provide access to information and ensure meaningful participation to all, particularly to those individuals and groups most affected by the climate crisis, and to ensure that environmental human rights defenders are enabled and safe.
- Adopt a global commitment at COP26 to reduce emissions by 45% from 2010 levels by 2030, and to reach net zero by 2050, in line with the IPCC scientific evidence to limit the global temperature rise from pre-industrial levels to 1.5 ° and to do so in a human rights-compliant manner, including by ensuring a just transition.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO G7 COUNTRIES

Ahead of the G7 Leaders' Summit on 11-13 June 2021, Amnesty International calls on G7 members to:

- Submit their enhanced NDCs by the Leaders' Summit at the latest, ensuring they contain the most ambitious emission reduction targets that would enable them to reduce GHG emissions by 50% well before 2030 and reach zero carbon emissions by 2030 or as soon as feasible after that while ensuring a just transition that enhances human rights
- Develop an "Action Plan to Accelerate the Race to Zero", that includes:
 - A call for a global phase-out of fossil fuel subsidies and agreement by all G7 countries to immediately end all fossil fuel subsidies (including tax concessions and funds through multilateral development banks), thereby speeding up the current commitment to end them by 2025;
 - A commitment by all G7 members to end all fossil fuel expansion and exploration at home and abroad as soon as possible;
 - A commitment to phase-out the most polluting fossil fuels and forms of production, such as coal, peat, fracking and tar sands by 2030 at the latest;

¹² With the exception of clean cookstove programmes, necessary as an alternative to the use of wood and charcoal for cooking as interim measure for those who do not have access to affordable electricity produced from renewable energy.

- A proposal for the creation of a global initiative to incrementally reduce fossil fuel production by at least 6% annually between 2020 and 2030;
- A commitment to ensure that financial regulators, such as central banks, take regulatory action to accelerate the financial industry's alignment with the threshold of 1.5°C of warming. This includes, for example, the requirement to incorporate climate scenarios within central bank stress tests, make climate risk disclosure mandatory, and changes to capital requirements that impose higher requirements on fossil-fuel lending;
- A commitment to ensuring that green technologies (including the massive expansion in rechargeable batteries) are developed in full compliance with human rights standards at all stages of production, use and end-of-life;
- A commitment to adopt “just transition” plans, which address the concerns of all workers and communities affected by climate change and climate policies, seek to safeguard their economic, social and cultural rights in areas such as work, livelihoods and social protection and are based on social dialogue and on the genuine participation of those affected groups and communities.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO G20 COUNTRIES

Ahead of the G20 Leaders' summit on 30-31 October, Amnesty International calls on G20 members to:

- Commit to a G20-wide phase out of all fossil fuel subsidies, not just inefficient ones, by 2025 at the latest (including tax concessions and funds through multilateral development banks (MDBs), with wealthier countries committing to end them immediately;
- Publicly call for a global phase-out of fossil fuel subsidies immediately;
- Commit to a G20-wide phase out the use and production of all fossil fuels by 2050 at the latest and by 2040 for the most polluting fossil fuels and forms of production, such as coal, peat, fracking and tar sands, with wealthier countries committing to do so much earlier and no later than 2030;
- Support the creation of a global initiative to incrementally reduce fossil fuel production by at least 6% annually between 2020 and 2030;
- Commit to prioritize immediate emission reduction measures over carbon removal mechanisms and offsets, and particularly avoid those mechanisms that negatively impact on human rights;
- Adopt a set of principles, as a first stage towards an Action Plan, to ensure that the scale up of production of rechargeable batteries is fully compliant with human rights standards at all stages of production, use and end-of-life. Governments should support a global moratorium on deep sea mineral exploration and extraction and set a deadline to end sales of new internal combustion engine vehicles in line with science-based 1.5 °C emissions reductions targets.

SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION, ADAPTATION AND LOSS AND DAMAGE

To meet their human rights obligations, all states must take sufficient mitigation and adaptation measures in a manner that would ensure enjoyment and progressive realization of economic, social and cultural rights for their population. They should also provide effective remedy to people whose rights have been negatively affected as the result of loss and damage caused by the climate crisis. States that are unable to take sufficient mitigation and adaptation measures, as well as to address loss and damage, in a manner that would ensure continued enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights for their population must seek (and cannot arbitrarily refuse) international assistance and co-operation to do so. All states in a position to do so must provide the necessary financial resources, capacity-building and technology transfer to those countries which would not otherwise be able to meet their climate targets alone, to support people to adapt to climate change or to address the loss and damages caused by the climate crisis.

Wealthy industrialized nations, particularly those with the greatest historical responsibility for the climate crisis,¹³ have the obligation, under international human rights and environmental law,¹⁴ to mobilize more resources for mitigation and adaptation, as well as new and additional resources for loss and damage. States should also use every opportunity to effectively cooperate on this issue, including international and regional political and economic forums to boost climate finance and support one another in leading a just and human rights-consistent transition to a zero-carbon economy at home and abroad.

¹³ The US, UK and Germany have per capita greenhouse gas cumulative emissions between 1751 to 2018 that are six times or more the global average. Russia, Canada and Australia have four to five times the global average. Meanwhile, China and India are well below the global mean. James Hansen and Makiko Sato, *Environmental Research Letters*, Vol. 11, No.3, p. 6, 2 March 2016, www.iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1748-9326/11/3/034009

¹⁴ This is based on the obligations of international assistance (e.g. in Article 2 (1) of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and the obligation to provide remedy for contribution to harm caused to the rights of others. The right to effective remedies extends to human rights violations caused by environmental harm, including harms related to climate change. Based on the fact that developed countries have contributed the most to the global accumulation of carbon emissions and they have greater ability to provide funding, developed countries bear a greater responsibility to mobilize finance to help developing countries respond to climate change.

Although the amount of international climate finance to support climate change mitigation and adaptation in developing countries is increasing,¹⁵ this is far from what is needed to ensure that the rise of global average temperatures is kept below 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and that mitigation and adaptation efforts do not translate into an excessive burden for people in developing countries.¹⁶ In particular, the target for developed countries to jointly mobilize USD\$100 billion a year by 2020 to support developing countries for climate change mitigation and adaptation measures remains significantly unmet, while the vast majority of the funds provided have been in the form of loans as opposed to grants, half of which were non-concessional, meaning that the loans were offered on ungenerous terms.¹⁷ Moreover, states have until now failed to agree on adequate mechanisms to mobilize new and additional finances for loss and damage caused by the effects of climate change.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO ALL STATES

Amnesty International calls on all states in a position to provide international cooperation and assistance to:

- Provide the necessary financial resources, capacity-building and technology transfers to those countries which would not otherwise be able to meet their climate targets alone, to support people to adapt to climate change or to cope with the loss and damages caused by the climate crisis. Wealthier industrialized countries should substantially increase their contributions, reflecting their level of responsibility and capacity and indicating a specific timeline for delivery;
- Ensure that climate funding is additional to existing commitments for overseas development assistance, that climate finance to low-income countries is in the form of grants, not loans, and that a better balance is achieved between mitigation and adaptation funding;
- Ensure that projects supported by national and international climate finance mechanisms respect and protect all human rights, and that climate projects that specifically advance the enjoyment of human rights, including promoting gender justice and fulfilling the rights of Indigenous Peoples, are prioritized.

Amnesty International calls on all other states to seek (and not arbitrarily refuse) international assistance and co-operation where needed to address climate change and guarantee the human rights of their populations.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO STATES PARTIES TO THE UNFCCC

Ahead of COP26, Amnesty International calls on UNFCCC states parties to:

- Deliver on their commitment to jointly mobilize at least USD\$100 billion per year till 2025 and commit to incrementally increase this target through to 2025 to provide adequate support to states with the least resources in implementing adequate and human rights-compliant climate action and just transition measures;
- Adopt a higher target for climate finance from 2025 onwards that matches actual needs for support from developing countries;
- Agree on adequate mechanisms to mobilize new and additional finances, separate from those available for climate change adaptation and beyond insurance, to provide means, support and remedy, including compensation, to people and communities, including Indigenous peoples, whose rights have been negatively affected as the result of loss and damage caused by the climate crisis in climate-vulnerable developing countries;¹⁸
- Require any new financing facilities to ensure meaningful participation of the most affected groups, including children, women, Indigenous Peoples and marginalized groups, particularly those facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, in policy design and decision-making phases;
- Ensure the Santiago Network on Loss and Damage established at COP25 is fully operationalized, including through adequate financial arrangements, and able to provide technical assistance for countries with less resources in a timely manner to avert, minimize and address the loss and damage of climate-related impacts.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO G7 COUNTRIES

Ahead of the G7 Leaders' Summit on 11-13 June 2021, Amnesty International calls on G7 members to:

- Adopt a G7 commitment to substantially increase their respective contributions to climate finance to support reaching the internationally agreed target of jointly mobilizing USD\$100 billion annually by 2020 for climate action in developing countries;
- Establish a new window of public finance to provide resources for loss and damage, in addition to the existing finance for adaptation and mitigation.

¹⁵ OECD, *Climate Finance Provided and Mobilised by Developed Countries in 2013-18*, 6 November 2020, www.oecd.org/newsroom/climate-finance-for-developing-countries-rose-to-usd-78-9-billion-in-2018oecd.htm

¹⁶ Oxfam, *Climate finance shadow report 2020*, 2020, <https://oxfamlibrary.openrepository.com/bitstream/handle/10546/621066/bp-climate-finance-shadow-report-2020-201020-en.pdf>

¹⁷ Oxfam, *Climate finance shadow report 2020*

¹⁸ See also Report of the Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment, 15 July 2019, UN Doc. A/74/161, para. 91; Report of the Independent Expert on human rights and international solidarity, 1 April 2020, UN Doc. A/HRC/44/44, paras 48 & 54(i).

RECOMMENDATIONS TO G20 COUNTRIES

Ahead of the G20 Leaders' summit on 30-31 October, Amnesty International calls on G20 members to:

- Pledge to increase their respective contributions to climate finance, with wealthier industrialized countries among G20 members committing to meet and go beyond the USD\$100 billion annual target by 2020, and for all other members to provide capacity-building, financial resources and technology transfers for climate action and loss and damage to less wealthy countries, based on their capacity.

PROMOTE A “JUST RECOVERY” FROM COVID-19 ALIGNED WITH HUMAN RIGHTS OBLIGATIONS AND THE IMPERATIVE OF KEEPING THE TEMPERATURE RISE BELOW 1.5°C

The decisions we take in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic have huge implications for our future. Before the pandemic struck, we were already running out of time to tackle the climate crisis. Therefore, in managing the economic fallout of the pandemic, any responses must limit - rather than increase – climate change. Stimulus packages and recovery measures must be aligned with the imperative of keeping the rise of global average temperatures below 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and therefore facilitate the transition to a zero-carbon economy and resilient society. At the same time, they must contribute to addressing the inequalities that the pandemic and the climate crisis have exacerbated and brought to light. UNEP estimates that a “green pandemic recovery could cut up to 25% off the emissions we would expect to see in 2030 based on policies in place before Covid-19”, substantially increasing the chances to meet the Paris Agreement goal.¹⁹ Nevertheless, until now states seem to have been largely missing this opportunity, with most of public finance for the recovery invested either in the high-carbon sectors or towards action with no discernible effects on emissions.²⁰

As governments transition their economies away from fossil fuels and towards a decarbonized economy and resilient society, they must ensure that the move is fair for everybody and contributes to enhancing human rights for all – a truly just transition. That includes the rights of workers and communities who could be negatively impacted by such a transition – governments must not leave anyone behind. They must ensure the creation of alternative decent work and quality jobs and assist displaced workers with the necessary training and support to access such jobs as a priority whilst also ensuring that affected people and their families continue to have an adequate standard of living through appropriate levels and coverage of social protection. The human rights impact on communities of mitigation and adaptation projects must also be assessed and procedural rights of affected people should be respected to ensure that all climate measures respect, protect and fulfil human rights in both their outcomes and the way they are implemented. It is also essential that the energy transition, including the production of renewable energy and green technologies such as rechargeable batteries, does not result in human rights abuses and environmental harm at any level in the supply chain.²¹

RECOMMENDATIONS TO ALL STATES

- Ensure that any economic stimulus packages, including those that cover private corporations, include a requirement to prioritise support for workers and communities over corporate profit:
 - Ensure that any immediate assistance to fossil fuel energy companies is targeted at safeguarding workers' jobs and the protection of their rights, by prioritising the maintenance of current services, rather than supporting new exploration and development;
 - Condition any such assistance with time bound commitments to phase out fossil fuels in line with the latest scientific advice accompanied by appropriate transition plans to safeguard jobs and livelihoods;
 - Target any assistance to aviation companies at protection of workers' jobs and livelihoods and make it conditional on time-bound commitments to reduce emissions in absolute terms without relying on offsets, including by reducing the number of flights within a defined period;
 - Invest in sectors that support a just transition to a zero-carbon economy and resilient society, creating green and decent jobs and opportunities;
 - Develop concrete policies and programmes to support workers and communities dependent on the fossil fuel industry and other sectors affected by the transition to access decent jobs and opportunities that are environmentally sustainable, including appropriate reskilling and training, whilst also ensuring they can access the necessary social protection to ensure their right to an adequate standard of living;
 - Ensure women, the most marginalized and those most impacted by the climate crisis have equal access to jobs and opportunities in the emerging zero-carbon sectors.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO G7 COUNTRIES

¹⁹ UNEP, Emissions Gap Report 2020, Key messages, <https://wedocs.unep.org/xmlui/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/34461/EGR20KM.pdf?sequence=17>

²⁰ UNEP, Emissions Gap Report 2020. See also <https://www.energypolicytracker.org/region/g20>

²¹ Amnesty International, *Powering change: principles for businesses and governments in the battery value chain*, 4 February 2021. Index: ACT 30/3544/2021, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/act30/3544/2021/en/>

Ahead of the G7 Leaders' Summit on June 11-13, Amnesty International calls on G7 members to:

- Operationalize their February 2021 commitment to “continue to support our economies to protect jobs and support a strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive recovery”,²² in particular by adopting a clear commitment to ensure that any Covid-19 response measures facilitate the transition away from fossil fuels and towards human rights-consistent renewable energy and a zero-carbon economy and also provide for greater social protection and the creation of green and other new jobs that deliver sustainable and decent employment for all workers without discrimination of any kind.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO G20 COUNTRIES

Ahead of the G20 Leaders' summit on 30-31 October, Amnesty International calls on G20 members to:

- Operationalize, in a manner that fully protects the human rights of all, the commitment in the April 2020 G20 Action Plan on Supporting the Global Economy Through the Covid-19 Pandemic to support an environmentally sustainable and inclusive recovery fully consistent with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,²³ and its October 2021 updated commitment to leverage opportunities, and guard against negative consequences, from current and emerging economic transformations in recovery plans.²⁴

RESPECT, PROTECT AND FULFILL THE RIGHTS TO INFORMATION, PARTICIPATION AND REMEDY IN CLIMATE ACTION

People who are at the frontline of climate impacts continue to be excluded in the vast majority of cases from climate or disaster-risk reduction decision-making, despite their lived experiences, accompanying expertise and knowledge that they have accumulated and the specific rights and needs they have. Their exclusion from decision making processes is a human rights violation and perpetuates indignity, oppression and injustices. It also means that climate change mitigation and adaptation projects and policies frequently lead to human rights violations and increased inequality, rather than improving the lives of the most at-risk.

Another important challenge faced by the struggle for climate justice is the hostility and violence meted out to environmental human rights defenders. Killings are a particularly pressing issue: of the over 300 defenders killed every year, about 70% are people defending the environment, access to land and Indigenous rights, with high levels of impunity.²⁵ The escalation of such attacks is often related to social tension leading to violence within communities, generated by a lack of adequate participation, genuine consultation, sufficient information and adequate alternatives and mitigation measures regarding resource exploitation projects driven both by states and private companies. In other cases, the violence is carried out by state security forces or private security agents acting on behalf of private business interests.²⁶ Killings such as that of Mexican environmental rights defender Samir Flores Soberanes in February 2019, after receiving death threats for his work defending the community's territory from a geothermal plant,²⁷ are stark indications of the challenges that lie ahead. In many cases, environmental human rights defenders are also targeted with spurious criminal charges. For example, in Guatemala, Bernardo Caal Xol has been unfairly imprisoned for over two years for defending the rights of Mayan Q'eqchi communities affected by the construction of a hydroelectric project on the sacred Cahabón River in the department of Alta Verapaz.²⁸

Added to this, the increasingly shrinking space for civil society, with growing barriers to the rights to privacy, freedom of expression, assembly and association across much of the world,²⁹ present a difficult and often dangerous environment for human rights defenders who want to protest and organize activities to demand climate action. For example, in the UK, in October 2019 protesters in London faced mass arrests and a blanket ban on protests, which eventually brought them to an end.³⁰ In India, draconian laws such as sedition and UAPA (Unlawful Activities Prevention Act) have been used to clampdown on protesters, journalists and climate activists, who have also faced targeted digital surveillance.³¹

²² G7 Leaders' Statement: 19 February 2021, <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/g7-leaders-statement-19-february-2021>

²³ Virtual meeting of the G20 finance ministers and central bank governors, Communiqué, 15 April 2020, <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-finance-0415.html>

²⁴ G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting, Communiqué, 14 October 2020, <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-finance-1014.html>

²⁵ Front Line Defenders, *Global Analysis 2020*, www.frontlinedefenders.org/sites/default/files/flid_global_analysis_2020.pdf

²⁶ Amnesty International, *Deadly but Preventable: Attacks, killings and enforced disappearances of those who defend human rights*, 5 December 2017, Index: ACT 30/7270/2017, www.amnesty.org/en/documents/ior30/0174/2019/en/; Global Witness, *Defending Tomorrow: The climate crisis and threats against land and environmental defenders*, 2020; 350.org, *Human rights abuses by fossil fuel companies*, 2020, https://drive.google.com/file/d/1k-aQMpzKPINeelr9Ar_w6iR3JOVQ44rR/view.

²⁷ Amnesty International, *Urgent Action: Environmental Rights Defender killed*, 29 February 2019, www.amnesty.org/en/documents/amr41/9893/2019/en/

²⁸ Amnesty International, *Guatemala: Amnesty International declares Bernardo Caal Xol a prisoner of conscience*, July 2020, www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2020/07/guatemala-bernardo-caal-xol-presos-conciencia/

²⁹ Amnesty International, *Human rights defenders under threat*, 16 May 2017, Index: ACT 30/6011/2017, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/act30/6011/2017/en/>;

Amnesty International, *Laws designed to silence: the global crackdown on civil society organizations*, 21 February 2019, Index: ACT 30/9647/2019,

www.amnesty.org/en/documents/act30/9647/2019/en/; Civicus, *State of Civil Society report 2019*, www.civicus.org/index.php/state-of-civil-society-report-2019

³⁰ Amnesty International UK, *Extinction Rebellion blanket ban chilling and unlawful*, 15 October 2019, www.amnesty.org.uk/press-releases/extinction-rebellion-blanket-ban-chilling-and-unlawful

³¹ Amnesty International, *India: Government must stop crushing farmers' protests and demonizing dissenters*, 9 February 2021, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2021/02/india-government-must-stop-crushing-farmers-protests-and-demonizing-dissenters/>; The Guardian, “Disha Ravi: the climate activist who became the face of India's crackdown on dissent”, 18 February 2021, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/feb/18/disha-ravi-the-climate-activist-who-became-the-face-of-indias-crackdown-on-dissent>

In order to achieve ambitious and human rights-consistent climate action, it is imperative that human rights defenders, in line with human rights law and standards,³² are able to defend and promote human rights without fear of punishment, reprisal and intimidation, and they are able to exercise their human rights, including to freedom of expression, association, assembly. This also means that those affected by climate change and proposed climate measures, are provided access to information and meaningful participation in environmental decisions. In addition, all people whose rights are affected by climate change or climate-related measures, as well as environmental human rights defenders who have suffered human rights violations, must have access to effective remedy. In addition, public recognition of the important role of environmental human rights defenders will help strengthen their safety and participation.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO ALL STATES

- Respect, protect and fulfil the right to information, participation and remedy, as well as to freedom of expression and assembly in all climate policies and strategies in line with human rights law and Sustainable Development Goal 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions) by:
 - Putting in place transparent and inclusive processes to ensure everyone, including women, Indigenous peoples, communities affected by discrimination based on work and descent, minorities, children, persons with disabilities and other groups facing marginalization or discrimination are provided with equal opportunities to meaningfully participate in climate decision-making;
 - Allowing all environmental human rights defenders, including climate activists and those working to protect land, livelihoods and the environment to continue their legitimate work without fear of reprisals in a safe and enabling environment, their role and contribution publicly recognized, with particular attention to those who face intersecting forms of discrimination, such as women human rights defenders and Indigenous human rights defenders;
 - Bearing in mind the high level of deadly attacks on environmental human rights defenders and reigning impunity, states must also take all necessary measures to ensure such attacks are prevented, including by responding to threats, harassment, intimidation, and ensuring such attacks are thoroughly, promptly and independently investigated and those responsible brought to justice;
 - Ensuring access to domestic and international administrative, judicial, legislative or other appropriate means to adjudicate claims of and provide effective remedies for human rights violations resulting from climate change or climate-related projects and measures, including when conduct within their jurisdiction harms the rights of people outside their borders.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO G7 AND G20 COUNTRIES

Ahead of the G7 and G20 Leaders' Summits, Amnesty International is calling on G7 and G20 countries to:

- Adopt a commitment to ensure transparency concerning climate, energy and recovery plans and facilitate diverse and public participation in shaping and influencing climate action, the recovery and the transition towards a zero-carbon economy, paying particular attention to the needs and voices of the most marginalized and/or those most impacted by the effects of the pandemic and the climate crisis.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO STATES PARTIES TO THE UNFCCC

Ahead of COP26, Amnesty International calls on UNFCCC state parties to:

- Adopt a new Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) Work Programme on climate education, public participation and access to information, capable of promoting the effective implementation of human rights-consistent climate policies, including by:
 - Ensuring that the new ACE Work Programme is rooted in human rights law, principles and standards and contains clear references to and is consistent with each state's human rights obligations and include relevant indicators, targets and benchmarks;
 - Adopting a detailed work plan for the new ACE Work Programme and providing for regular reporting obligations from state parties;
 - Establishing a mechanism to ensure better information sharing among parties and better inclusion and implementation of all the elements of ACE across all the workstreams under the UNFCCC.

³² UN Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, 1998, UN Doc. A/RES/53/144. See also *Recognizing the contribution of environmental human rights defenders to the enjoyment of human rights, environmental protection and sustainable development*, 2019 UN DOC. A/HRC/RES/40/11; and *Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean*, 2018.

REJECT ANY MULTILATERAL MECHANISMS FOR CARBON TRADING WHICH DO NOT LEAD TO GENUINE EMISSION REDUCTIONS AND DO NOT INCLUDE HUMAN RIGHTS SAFEGUARDS.

Multilateral mechanisms for carbon trading, such as those envisioned under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement countries, are intended to help states to meet the targets included in their NDCs by purchasing carbon credits (emission reductions) from another country, while allowing the purchasing country to continue to emit within its borders. However, if specific safeguards are not adopted, such a process risks undermining the necessary levels of ambition to make genuine emissions reductions and could also lead to violations of the human rights of individuals and communities affected by projects set up by such mechanisms.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO STATES PARTIES TO THE UNFCCC

Ahead of COP26, Amnesty International calls on all UNFCCC state parties to reject any multilateral mechanisms for carbon trading which do not lead to genuine emission reductions and do not include human rights safeguards. In particular states must:

- Ensure that the guidelines developed for the implementation of Article 6 of the Paris Agreement prioritise rapid, genuine emission cuts and recognize the importance of respecting, protecting and fulfilling human rights when engaging in carbon markets and other co-operative approaches.
- Ensure that the guidelines for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Mechanism include sufficient human rights safeguards. Such safeguards must include:
 - Provisions obliging parties to carry out human rights impact assessments before adopting a project, policy or programme under Article 6;
 - Access to information for and adequate public participation of affected individuals and communities, in particular minority communities;
 - Respect of the right of free, prior and informed consent of Indigenous Peoples, including when states can make use of Indigenous Peoples' experience and knowledge in climate change measures;
 - An independent, accessible and effective grievance mechanism to ensure that communities can seek remedy for any harm caused by projects carried out under Article 6.
- Ensure that co-operation between states under Article 6 mechanisms leads to genuine emissions reduction, rather than the creation of an additional barrier to effective climate action, by:
 - Guaranteeing that clear rules are put in place to secure a robust accounting mechanism to prevent double-counting, including rules dictating the implementation of corresponding adjustments;
 - Establishing a clear supervisory tool and independent review mechanisms that allow for civil society scoping, monitoring and verification of projects to ensure that emission reductions deriving from Article 6 are correctly calculated to mirror the actual mitigation outcome produced;
 - Preventing the accounting of Kyoto-carryover or CDM carbon credits towards the emission reductions targets set by states under the Paris Agreement;
 - Including safeguards for both the sale and purchase of carbon credits, including a limit on the amount of carbon credits that a country can buy and sell.