

Keep Frontlines First: COP30 Advocacy Brief

Climate and Environment Charter
Signatory Advocacy and COP30 Priorities



Purpose

As we prepare for the 30th Conference of the Parties (COP30) in Belém, Brazil, the nearly 500 signatories to the Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organizations reaffirm our commitment to address the escalating impacts of climate change on vulnerable communities – especially those in conflict, fragile, and protracted crisis settings. This Advocacy Brief links the Charter’s COP30 Statement with the 2025 Advocacy Priorities, offering practical guidance and example actions to help integrate humanitarian perspectives into climate policy discussions at COP30.

How to use this brief

This brief helps signatories link humanitarian priorities to key COP30 policy debates, providing shared language and clear advocacy entry points. It serves as a tool to connect humanitarian concerns with the broader climate agenda.

Signatories are encouraged to use these messages in COP30 engagements – such as in panels, meetings, and media – to highlight the unique challenges and opportunities for climate action in humanitarian contexts. These messages can be adapted to local or organizational priorities and/or complemented with technical inputs from other initiatives.

The brief includes:

1. **Quick Reference Guide: Linking Messages to Priorities:** A quick-reference table connecting the Charter’s COP30 Statement with the outcomes we want to achieve related to Signatories’ 2025 Advocacy Priorities.
2. **Deep Dives: Turning Messages into Action** Short deep dives on each core message, outlining key COP30 policy debates, the distinctive humanitarian perspective, and practical examples of advocacy actions.

Section 1. Quick Reference Guide: Linking Messages to Priorities

Signatory COP30 Statement Core Message	Desired COP30 Outcomes	Related Signatory Advocacy Priorities
Keep Frontlines First. Center perspectives of communities most impacted by the climate crisis, including those in conflict and fragile settings.	Humanitarian perspectives, marginalized communities, and locally led priorities are reflected in COP30 planning, outcomes, declarations, and implementation frameworks.	<i>Inclusive Climate Response</i> <i>Humanitarian Role and Expertise in Climate Response</i>
Integrate Humanitarian and Conflict-Sensitive Approaches. Embed humanitarian and peace-positive measures across NDCs, NAPs, and relevant frameworks.	Humanitarian, conflict-sensitive and peace-positive approaches are integrated into national and global climate frameworks.	<i>Inclusive Climate Response</i> <i>Humanitarian Role and Expertise in Climate Response</i> <i>National and International Policy Frameworks</i>
Redouble Efforts to Get back on track to 1.5°C and Enable a Just Transition. End fossil fuel expansion and support equitable, inclusive mitigation.	COP30 outcomes commit to ambitious mitigation in NDCs aligned with 1.5°C and to just economic transition pathways that safeguard vulnerable populations.	<i>Greening the Sector</i> <i>Aligning Donor Priorities</i>
Prioritize, Scale and Simplify Access to Adaptation and Loss & Damage Finance for frontline communities. Ensure risk-tolerant, flexible finance for crisis-affected communities and diverse local and national actors.	COP30 delivers a new, equitable adaptation finance commitment prioritizing the most vulnerable. Communities and actors are included in decision making.	<i>Access to Climate Financing</i> <i>Humanitarian Financing</i> <i>Inclusive Climate Response</i>
Rapidly scale-up locally led, gender responsive early warning and anticipatory action systems. Ensure that no one—especially in fragile and conflict-affected settings—is left behind.	New commitments at COP30 advance early warning and anticipatory action systems that are inclusive, locally led, gender responsive and conflict sensitive.	<i>Early Warning and Anticipatory Action</i>

Section 2. Deep Dives: Turning Messages into Action

Keep Frontlines First	
COP30 Agenda & Initiatives	Charter Signatory Perspective
At COP30, Parties are expected to advance implementation pathways for the Paris Agreement and operationalize funding mechanisms under the Global Goal on Adaptation and Loss and Damage Fund. Yet, populations living in conflict, fragility, and crisis are often excluded from these processes. COP30 is marked by a lack of a dedicated conflict and peace-day, a departure from the past five years of increasing attention on humanitarian perspectives within the COP world. Humanitarian actors who work directly with these communities, can help ensure that climate action genuinely reflects the priorities of those most affected by climate and environmental shocks.	The 2025 Advocacy Priorities call for an <i>Inclusive Climate Response</i> that prioritizes needs and capacities of the most vulnerable populations, leveraging the humanitarian sector’s relationships with these communities within national and international fora such as COP30. The 2025 Advocacy Priorities call for highlighting the <i>Humanitarian Role and Expertise in Climate Response</i>, sharing best practices and community-knowledge from the humanitarian sector in its response to climate impacts.
Example Actions for Advocacy: • Call for humanitarian and local actors to be represented in COP30 negotiations, side events, and national delegations, recognizing the humanitarian sector’s bridging role in connecting emergency response, loss and damage, and long-term adaptation through sectoral expertise and community-led knowledge. • Advocate for mechanisms that enable affected communities to co-design adaptation and mitigation measures • Advance peace-positive and inclusive climate action that addresses the human and environmental costs of war and the intersecting vulnerabilities of women, youth, older people, people with disabilities, Indigenous peoples, LGBTQI+ individuals, migrants, refugees, and displaced and marginalized groups.	

Integrate Humanitarian and Conflict-Sensitive Approaches	
COP30 Agenda & Initiatives	Charter Signatory Perspective
At COP30, Parties are expected to advance new and updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), and operational details for the Global Goal on Adaptation. Importantly, operationalizing the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) will be a major point for COP30, whereby countries will plan on how to achieve the \$300 Billion in climate financing for global south countries by 2025. Yet, few of these frameworks explicitly address how climate interventions intersect with conflict dynamics, fragility, or displacement. Without this lens, well-intentioned policies risk deepening inequalities or exacerbating instability. Humanitarian actors and frontline communities—who work daily in fragile and conflict-affected settings—bring essential experience in risk management, inclusion, and crisis sensitivity that can make climate action more effective and peace-positive. Climate and humanitarian action are mutually reinforcing when grounded in <u>protection, inclusion, and do-no-harm</u> approaches.	The 2025 Advocacy Priorities call for an <i>Inclusive Climate Response</i> that prioritizes needs and capacities of the most vulnerable populations, leveraging the humanitarian sector’s relationships with these communities within national and international fora. The 2025 Advocacy Priorities call for highlighting the <i>Humanitarian Role and Expertise in Climate Response</i>, sharing best practices and community knowledge from the humanitarian sector in its response to climate impacts. The 2025 Advocacy Priorities call for better integration of humanitarian concerns within <i>National and International Policy Frameworks</i>, supporting humanitarian organizations in their efforts to assisting national authorities in including humanitarian perspectives in national plans, goals, indicators (NAPs, NCQGs, L&D) and engaging in country specific processes and policy development.
Example Actions for Advocacy: • Urge governments and negotiators to embed conflict-sensitivity and peace-positive indicators into NDCs, NAPs, and adaptation frameworks. These frameworks should also take crisis-affected communities such as displaced, refugee and migrants into consideration. • Promote stronger coordination mechanisms linking humanitarian, development, and peace actors in national climate governance processes. • Encourage recognition of humanitarian expertise and data within UNFCCC and COP30 technical dialogues.	

Redouble Efforts to Limit Warming to 1.5 °C and Enable a Just Transition

COP30 Agenda & Initiatives	Charter Signatory Perspective
COP30 marks a crucial milestone for countries to submit enhanced Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) aligned with the 1.5 °C goal. Without bold mitigation efforts, humanitarian crises driven by extreme heat, droughts, and displacement will intensify. At the same time, transitions to low-carbon economies can bring new vulnerabilities if they fail to protect livelihoods or widen inequalities. A just transition must therefore balance climate ambition with social justice, ensuring that communities most affected by climate change and economic shifts are supported through the transformation.	The 2025 Advocacy Priorities call for an <i>Inclusive Climate Response</i> that prioritizes needs and capacities of the most vulnerable populations. The 2025 Advocacy Priorities call for highlighting the <i>Humanitarian Role and Expertise in Climate Response</i>, affirming that human-driven climate change is a humanitarian emergency, leading to loss of life and livelihoods, food and water insecurity, and overstretched systems. The 2025 Advocacy Priorities call for <i>Greening the Sector & Aligning Donor Priorities</i>, supporting advocacy and common donor standards that promote more environmentally sustainable practices that reduce the humanitarian sector's footprint
Example Actions for Advocacy: • Support COP30 outcomes that include ambitious, 1.5 °C-aligned emission reduction commitments in NDCs. • Call for a phase-out of fossil fuel expansion and subsidies, prioritizing investment in renewable energy, sustainable livelihoods, nature-positive and sustainable humanitarian operations that do not compromise the delivery of live-saving needs. • Embed Just Transition and protection measures in national planning by ensuring that NDCs and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) incorporate principles of equity and mechanisms to monitor and address impacts on mobile, displaced, and conflict-affected populations.	

Prioritize and Simplify Access to Adaption and Loss & Damage Finance

COP30 Agenda & Initiatives

As COP30 advances the operationalization of the Loss and Damage Fund and revisits a new, equitable adaptation finance commitments, access for local and humanitarian actors remains limited.. Complex procedures, high administrative thresholds, and short-term funding cycles also often exclude organizations operating in fragile or conflict-affected settings. Humanitarian organizations have demonstrated how localized, flexible funding mechanisms—such as financing anticipatory action, forecast-based financing and micro-grants—enable timely, context-sensitive action. Just and inclusive climate finance must reach and prioritize those most vulnerable, ensuring resources flow to the community level where adaptation can take place.

Charter Signatory Perspective

The 2025 Advocacy Priorities call for ***Access to Climate Financing***, scaling up climate finance that is accessible to at-risk and vulnerable communities impacted by climate change in conflict, complex emergency, fragile and humanitarian contexts.

The 2025 Advocacy Priorities call for ***Humanitarian Financing***, for increased investments in climate-related initiatives delivered by humanitarian actors, including scaling up on climate risks and impacts, and feeding into climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction, and other Charter priorities via climate-sensitive humanitarian responses.

Example Actions for Advocacy:

- Advocate for direct access of crisis-affected communities and local and national actors (and civil society, where suitable) to adaptation and loss and damage funding mechanisms
- Showcase successful localized financing, such as forecast-based financing, anticipatory action financing, community micro-grants, or pooled funding models.
- Integrate adaptation finance targets by linking the NCQG to the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) through a clear adaptation-finance target that supports multi-year, predictable, and lifesaving locally- ed adaptation in crisis contexts

Scale Up Locally Led Early Warning and Anticipatory Action	
COP30 Agenda & Initiatives	Charter Signatory Perspective
Climate-related disasters are increasing in frequency and intensity, but early-warning systems often fail to reach communities in fragile and conflict-affected areas. Limited local capacity, data gaps, and insufficient coordination delay life-saving responses. The global Early Warnings for All initiative aim to close these gaps by 2027, yet humanitarian actors highlight the need to ensure these systems are inclusive, locally led, gender-responsive and conflict-sensitive. Investments in anticipatory action—grounded in local and indigenous knowledge, protection principles, and pre-arranged financing—can dramatically reduce losses and humanitarian costs.	The 2025 Advocacy Priorities call for Early Warning and Anticipatory Action, scaling up early warning and anticipatory action systems for faster, efficient and more dignified responses to climate shocks.
Example Actions for Advocacy: • Promote COP30 outcomes and national commitments that expand inclusive early-warning coverage for all populations, including those in fragile and conflict-affected settings. • Advocate for greater investment in forecast-based financing and anticipatory action systems integrated into humanitarian coordination structures. • Support local partnerships that combine indigenous knowledge, technology, and meteorological data to strengthen community preparedness.	

The **Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organizations** is a set of seven commitments designed to help organisations systematically respond to climate and environmental crises. The Charter was **developed by humanitarian organizations for the humanitarian sector**, and addresses the unique challenges and responsibilities of humanitarian action on climate and environment.

Acknowledgements:

This advocacy brief was developed based on priorities defined by inputs from Charter Signatories and partners, including the IASC Sub-Group on Climate; Ecosystems for Peace; the Advisory Group on Human Mobility and Climate Change; Loss and Damage Collaboration, the Climate, Migration & Displacement Platform; among others.

Gratitude to Nicolas Dominguez Carrero for the development of this resource.



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