

Climate Action Network Canada - Réseau action climat Canada's Expectations for the COP26 Cover Decision



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For the attention of: The Honourable Steven Guilbeault, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Environment and Climate Change

With climate impacts devastating communities around the globe, real action can no longer be delayed. The Glasgow cover decision should not leave developing countries wondering where the resources are for them to implement the Paris Agreement. An ambitious cover decision can set us on a path towards 1.5°C-aligned future and a more just world. But, it won't be possible if there is no clear acknowledgement that some countries are not in the same position as Canada to manage the transition towards a 1.5°C-aligned future.

The drafts [1/CP.26](#) and [1/CMA.3](#) texts fall far short of what is needed to respond to the emergency we face.

COP26 remains one of the most exclusionary COPs ever, with civil society barred from meaningful participation in negotiation spaces. It is therefore more necessary than ever that Canada listen to and bring forward the concerns and advice of civil society. When COP26 ends, the Canadian public will want to know: what was Canada's contribution to secure a safe future and in response to global pressure to urgently tackle the climate crisis.

We recognize that 1/CP.26 and 1/CMA.3 are missing some crucial points, and ask Canada to champion the inclusion of the following elements in the final cover text:

A Glasgow package centered on rights and people

The cover decisions for the COP and the CMA must:

- Commit to consulting with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on ways to promote and ensure that the rights of all delegates are honoured in the multilateral process;
- Require all countries to, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights, the right to health, the rights of Indigenous Peoples, local communities, migrants, refugees, racialized communities, children, persons with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations and the right to development, as well as gender equality, empowerment of women and intergenerational equity, and the right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment;
- Require all countries to support the conditions for a Just Transition internationally, including: 1) Support for workers to transition into new jobs, 2) Social dialogue, 3) Economic strategies, 4) Local, inclusive and decent work - including across supply chains, and 5) Paris agreement reporting on Just Transition.

Canada must also fight to ensure that the following element in the current draft of Decisions 1/CP.26 and 1/CMA.3 is kept and appears in the final version:

- Point 48 in the COP decision and point 76 in CMA decision: the recognition of the need to ensure a just transition towards a low-carbon future and the creation of decent work and quality jobs that benefit low-income communities.

Center Reconciliation

The cover decision must:

- Commit to respectfully and meaningfully include Indigenous Peoples' rights, knowledge, participation and approaches to climate action in the Paris Agreement rulebook.
- Uphold the principle of free, prior, and informed consent, and the broader framework of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Addressing the adaptation gap

The cover decision must:

- Highlight that all countries must increase their ambition, keeping 1.5°C alive by setting stronger adaptation action. Countries need to rapidly implement adaptation plans to adapt to the effects of global average temperature to 1.5°C as reflected in the IPCC Special Report on 1.5°C and the IPCC 6th Assessment report on the physical science basis.
- Support the operationalization of the Global Goal on Adaptation at COP26 and request that the IPCC produce a special report on adaptation progress.

Closing the mitigation gap

The cover decision must:

- Require Parties to revise their Nationally Determined Contributions in 2022 before the Global Stocktake in 2023 in order to urgently close the mitigation gap and annually thereafter.

Addressing the elephant in the room

Canada must fight to ensure that the following element in the current drafts of Decision 1/CP.26 1/CMA.3 is kept and appears in the final version:

- Point 19 in COP decision and 37 in CMA decision: the call upon Parties to accelerate the phasing out of coal and subsidies for fossil fuels.

This is the first-ever mention of the necessity to phase out and stop subsidizing fossil fuels in COP text and would represent a significant achievement.

In alignment with a 1.5°C global energy mix, Canada must also call for:

- A reference to oil and gas phase-out to be included in the text alongside coal phase-out, as well as Paris-aligned timelines and the necessity for parties with higher capacity and historic responsibility, and lower dependency on fossil fuel extraction, to phase out fossil fuels earlier and transition towards renewable and clean energy sources in line with equity and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities with Just Transition as the response measure.

Addressing the finance gap

The cover decision must:

- Make it clear that developed countries have so far failed to respond to the needs of developing countries;
- Go beyond noting the low levels of climate finance flowing and signal the importance of the utmost accountability in the delivery of the 100 billion goal annually until 2025;
- Recognize that to keep 1.5C within reach, it is urgent to scale up financial resources and unlock the trillions of dollars to ensure a rapid and radical transition in developing countries;
- Commit to contributing to closing the gap between adaptation and mitigation finance and commit that developed countries will provide 50% to climate adaptation and prioritize grants-based allocation. Canada must advocate for a feminist climate finance framework and climate finance projects that respect and promote the rights of Indigenous Peoples, the protection, conservation and restoration of biodiversity;
- Deliver climate finance after decades of empty promises. Fundamentally, to help Global South countries contribute to keeping 1.5°C within reach, rich countries like Canada must scale up support both in the context of Canada's fair share obligation under the USD 100 billion, but also by providing additional resources to tackle losses and damages; and
- To enhance trust and provide reassurance to the developing countries, Canada must support the adoption of a process for a new collective quantified, needs-based, science-based transparent goal that fixes the mistakes of current climate finance governance for the post-2025 period. This goal must aim to unlock trillions per year to address mitigation, adaptation and loss and damage, taking into account the needs and priorities of developing countries.

Tackling Loss and Damage Finance

The cover decision must:

- Establish a new stream to provide sufficient new, additional and needs-based Loss and Damage finance, in addition to the USD 100bn per year committed for mitigation and adaptation, on the basis of equity, historical responsibility and global solidarity, applying the polluter pays principle. Women in the Global South - whom Canada is prioritizing in climate finance - are dealing disproportionately with the impacts of climate change.