COP31: Implementation for Whom, and on Whose Terms?

POLICY BRIEF

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CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK
RÉSEAU ACTION CLIMAT
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Photo: NFCCC, COP28, 2023

Table of Contents

Introduction
Our Vision
Key Priorities
- Accelerate implementation, and increase ambition and accountability for climate goals, including electrification
- Make Just Transition a reality in Canada and across the world
- Implement the NCQG and deliver an ambitious finance package
- Put people, lives and livelihoods at the heart of climate action
- Anchor implementation in science, equity and diverse knowledge systems
- Defend civic space and build people power for climate justice

The CAN-Rac Team at COP31

Introduction

COP31 in Antalya, Türkiye comes at a moment of increasing tension. Multilateralism is under pressure, geopolitical tensions are deepening, with continuing devastating genocides in Gaza, Sudan and the Congo, and the climate crisis continues to intensify. Across Canada, wildfires, extreme heatwaves and floods are taking an increasing toll on communities, with mounting human and economic costs. These impacts are not distant threats, they are becoming an increasingly urgent reality that demands decisive collective action.

Yet the political ambition and implementation of commitments remain far behind what science, equity and justice require. Despite important milestones, including the completion of the Paris Rulebook, the first Global Stocktake in 2023 and the New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance (NCQG) in 2024, global emissions remain dangerously high, while the finance and support needed by countries and communities on the frontlines of the climate crisis remain inadequate. The risk of overshooting one of the Paris Agreement limits makes these efforts more urgent, not less. At the same time, escalating

conflicts, militarization, human rights violations and shrinking civic space threaten international cooperation and divert resources from the urgent work of building a just and climate-resilient future.

For Canada, this moment demands greater alignment between international commitments and domestic action. While the federal government continues to speak of climate leadership and the importance of multilateral cooperation, uncertainty around climate targets, the dismantling of climate policies, rollback of environmental laws, renewed investment of political capital and resources in fossil fuel infrastructure, and actions that undermine Indigenous rights, environmental policies and democratic processes are eroding Canada's credibility. As Prime Minister Mark Carney positions Canada as a middle power committed to international cooperation, COP31 will be an important opportunity to demonstrate how that ambition translates into credible climate action, international solidarity and accountability.

Canada cannot claim to defend multilateralism abroad while treating climate commitments, Indigenous rights, and environmental safeguards as negotiable at home. **At COP31, Canada must use its diplomatic influence to defend multilateral cooperation, uphold the role of science, and advance equitable and ambitious outcomes that move beyond negotiated commitments towards meaningful implementation.**

Our Vision

CAN-Rac, alongside our members and allies, is attending COP31 guided by the goal of climate justice and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities (CBDR-RC). Our strategy and negotiation platform is rooted in solidarity with communities, workers, and those most vulnerable to the climate crisis, particularly in the Global South.

As we head toward COP31 in Türkiye, we are navigating a deeply challenging geopolitical context, marked by injustice, violence, and an escalating climate crisis. Trust in multilateralism is at a low point. Across the world, we see deepening divisions and retreat from international cooperation and international law. These are strange and difficult times, which call for our collective response and mobilization. **As civil society, more than ever, we resist, we organize, and we build hope.**

COP31 represents the unique arrangement of two Presidencies. Both Australia and Türkiye face credibility challenges as hosts themselves. Both have long standing coal partnerships and plans for further fossil fuel expansion, raising questions about their ability to build political momentum for a transition away from fossil fuels — particularly for an Annex I country like Australia, which has the responsibility to move first and faster. Their leadership and lack of clear political signals on climate has also attracted criticism.

In this setting, as the world gathers in Antalya to restore trust and sustain multilateralism, **Canada must show up with ambition, foresight, and integrity** — as an enabling force for a global just transition. This means working towards climate targets at home, and delivering climate finance in line with Canada's fair share. It also requires demonstrating a real commitment to advancing adaptation

support and a just transition that uplifts workers, Indigenous Peoples, women, and other marginalized communities — those who bear the heaviest climate burdens and are at the center of climate solutions, both at home and abroad.

CAN-Rac's engagement at COP31 is inspired and guided by this vision: fighting fossil fuel interests, mobilizing with frontline communities, and promoting a vision of global well-being within planetary boundaries. We work to bring together the voices advocating and advancing a just transition for all at home, and to sustain international cooperation as the only viable solution to a collective crisis.

Our work for COP31 centers around three pillars that uphold this vision:

1. **Policy and advocacy:** shaping ambitious outcomes grounded in equity and science;
2. **Membership mobilization:** uniting Canadian civil society and global networks to strengthen collective impact; and
3. **Solidarity and resistance:** aligning with movements and communities fighting for justice on the frontlines of climate breakdown.

Key Priorities

Accelerate implementation, and increase ambition and accountability for climate goals, including electrification

The planet has now entered a new phase of trying to limit overshoot, as the current policies and near-term scenarios make the previous 1.5 ambition unattainable. Our collective best bet at the moment, according to UNEP's Emissions Gap Report 2026, is to limit peak warming around 1.7-1.8°C. Yet, not all is lost, with the UNEP Limiting Overshoot report identifying an 'overshoot, peak, and decline' pathway, attainable through immediate and ambitious climate action. For this scenario to be within reach, the world needs new emissions cuts targets to reach 18% by 2030 and 45% by 2035, a call to action that COP31 must take seriously and address swiftly.

This is not a moment to retract from climate ambition. In addition to the Prime Minister himself stating that emissions would go up in the short term, Canada is dangerously off track to meet its emission targets, with new analysis highlighting that under the current policies and regressive steps, Canada would not reach its 2030 and 2035 emissions target, and its stated 2050 net zero emission goal is now beyond reach. Since COP30, the federal government has continued to dismantle key climate policies and regulations, gut environmental protections to fast-track expansion of fossil fuel production and infrastructure, and heavily subsidize the fossil fuel industry, under the banner of "Canada has what the world wants," the aspirations of becoming an "energy superpower", and the trade diversification imperative. This approach risks deepening Canada's dependence on an extraction-based economy rather than accelerating the transition to a resilient, low-carbon future.

The Alberta–Canada Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which opens the door to new pipeline infrastructure, weakens industrial carbon pricing, and delays methane regulations and the Clean Electricity Regulations, raises serious questions about Canada's ability to deliver on its climate commitments. These decisions create a growing gap between Canada's international climate pledges and its domestic policy direction, while prolonging dependence on fossil fuels and undermining the pace of emissions reductions required this decade.

Ambition heading to COP31 looks like a set of directions with distinct timelines and action points. At COP31, Canada must:

- Support a transition away from fossil fuels in a just, orderly and equitable manner. Canada should ambitiously engage in opportunities to help advance the goals of the Paris Agreement and operationalize the outcomes of the first Global Stocktake, including through contributions to the COP30 Presidency Roadmap on transitioning away from fossil fuels (TAFF).
    - Canada should clearly outline how it is envisaging the implementation of those commitments at home, especially in the context of the current government having significantly departed from the previous regulatory approach.
    - In particular, Canada should provide clarity regarding fossil fuel subsidy reform, tackling the oil and gas sector's disproportionate pollution, the implementation of the Sustainable Jobs Act, and of the Clean Electricity Strategy.
    - Furthermore, it is essential to establish time-bound national transition roadmaps covering fossil fuel production and consumption.
- Accelerate renewables and energy efficiency, in order to deliver on the global goal to triple renewable energy capacity and double energy efficiency improvements by 2030.
    - Canada has an opportunity to demonstrate that economic resilience and energy security can be built through renewable energy, modern electricity grids, storage and efficiency, rather than continued dependence on fossil fuel expansion.
    - Through the Yes Agenda, we highlight real projects and pathways that can be advanced now. Canada should accelerate the deployment of renewable energy and enabling infrastructure domestically, while supporting developing countries through public, grant-based and concessional climate finance, technology transfer and capacity-building.
- Advance a just and renewable-based electrification agenda. Canada should translate the COP31 Presidency's global goal of 35% electrification by 2035 into an ambitious national electrification goal. Modelling by the Transition Accelerator finds that rapid uptake of electric cars and heat pumps is the main lever available before 2035, but that even fast progress on both falls short of 35% on its own.
    - In the Transition Accelerator's high uptake scenario, electric vehicles reach 30% of new car sales by 2030 and 75% by 2035, every new building uses a heat pump from 2030, and three in four furnace and boiler replacements are heat pumps by 2035. That takes

Canada to about 28.5% electricity, up from about 25% today. Closing the rest of the gap would mean electrifying other transport and industry too, alongside the generation, transmission and distribution investment needed to meet growing demand.

  - Essential guardrails on the global target must ensure that electrification is renewable-based, affordable and equitable, directly displacing fossil fuels, and prioritizing energy access and community ownership.

- Push for stronger implementation under the Mitigation Work Program (MWP), including strengthening the MWP beyond 2026, and accelerating its move from dialogues to delivery.
  - This must be matched by credible domestic action: Canada should strengthen its NDC ambition and implementation, address concerns raised by the government's acknowledgement that emissions may rise in the short term, and demonstrate a credible pathway to achieving net-zero emissions by 2050.
- Reject false solutions and fossil fuel lock-in by rejecting gas as a transition fuel, fossil-fuel-dependent CCS, carbon offsets that delay real reductions, and other dangerous distractions. Instead, what is needed is direct public finance towards proven renewable solutions while protecting human rights, Indigenous Peoples, communities and energy sovereignty.

Make Just Transition a reality in Canada and across the world

COP30 ended on a high note on just transition, with the final text comprising a historic recognition of rights by the UNFCCC the Just Transition Work Program committing Parties to develop a Just Transition Mechanism. SB64 at Bonn advanced text to Antalya, where countries should cooperate in fully establishing the Belém-Antalya Mechanism on Just Transition (BAM). At COP31, Parties must define the BAM's scope and core functions, address the quantitative, qualitative and governance gaps associated with finance for just transition, and mandate the UNFCCC Secretariat's support. They must also adapt early governance guidelines covering the contact group, provide the BAM's institutional arrangement with three co-chairs and constituency seats, the Just Transition Assembly and the resource mobilisation group, while establishing a Transitional Committee to advance technical work.

Canada must:

- Support the full establishment of the BAM, by agreeing on scope, purpose and full range of functions from coordination, knowledge-sharing, and international cooperation and support;
- Support governance arrangements for the mechanism (a contact group/ agenda item) that include full participation and decision-making of right-holders and civil society, including trade unions, employer, parties, and other relevant UN and international bodies (JT Assembly);
- Support an explicit reference to the mechanism providing technical and financial support for the delivery of just transition strategies and a concrete modality associated to it (the resource mobilisation group); and

- Use the upcoming Just Transition Work Programme review as a way to set a clear timeline and process to inform the work of BAM (developing draft terms of reference for each body, composition, among others), and get it operationalised by COP32.

Defending environmental protections, Indigenous rights, and labour rights: Bill C-39

Canada cannot credibly champion a just transition internationally while advancing legislation at home that dismantles environmental protections and undermines Indigenous rights in the name of building major projects. Bill C-39 threatens to dismantle years of progress on environmental protection, impact assessment and meaningful consultation. If passed, it would represent the most significant weakening of Canada's environmental law safety net in its history.

Bill C-39 would allow the Cabinet to designate "Regions of National Interest" where mega-projects such as pipelines can be approved automatically. The bill cuts across First Nations' inherent, Treaty and constitutionally protected rights, weakens environmental safeguards, and abdicates Canada climate commitments. These "Regions of National Interest" would essentially create new sacrifice zones across vast swaths of the country which would bypass parliamentary processes and override Indigenous consultation and consent.

Rights cannot be fast-tracked. Indigenous Peoples are rights-holders, not stakeholders. Their rights are rooted in treaties that predate Canada, are embedded in the Canadian Constitution and are recognized by the Supreme Court. The reforms risk violating Section 35 of the Constitution Act and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), specifically Articles 3 and 4, and raises the likelihood of litigation.

Canada must:

- Withdraw Bill-C-39, strengthen rather than weaken environmental protections and impact assessments and acknowledge that stability is built when workers and employers bargain and reach a fair deal, not when the government puts its thumb on the scale for employers;
- Uphold Indigenous Peoples' inherent, Treaty and constitutionally protected rights including meaningful consultation and Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) consistent with Section 35 of the Constitution Act and the UNDRIP; and
- Ensure project approvals respect democratic accountability and cannot be used to bypass parliamentary processes or override Indigenous rights.

Delivering just transition through domestic action

Canada must align and back its negotiating position with serious domestic progress in the implementation of the now-adopted Sustainable Jobs Act. The federal government must deliver meaningful skills training with long-term career pathways for the next generation at home.

Canada must:

- Continue to invest in workers and communities at home, by strengthening just transition principles and support, and expanding their reach to emerging industries such as renewable energy and transition minerals, providing real and direct pathways for workers and communities;
- Create a permanent, large-scale Youth Climate Corps (YCC) backed by a $1 billion annual investment that meets the scale of the crises facing young people. The YCC should be structured as a public jobs program that would support 20,000 full-time, living-wage jobs for youth aged 35 and under, with priority access for Indigenous and systematically marginalized youth;
- Support social dialogue, as defined by the International Labour Organization, as central to just transition; and
- Focus on delivering outcomes, including social dialogue; creation of decent jobs paid at living wages; green industrial policies; meeting health and safety standards; promoting gender equity and inclusion; comprehensive social protection, including pensions, unemployment insurance and income support; research into the impacts of climate change on employment and livelihoods to inform social policy; skills development and retraining; negotiated job or income guarantees for affected workers; a commitment to work for the retention, reclamation and expansion of public ownership of energy infrastructure and services; universal, affordable and reliable energy access; and the economic diversification of affected regions, with new quality jobs created in time to replace jobs that are transformed or lost.

Implement the NCQG and deliver an ambitious finance package

Tensions have been steadily rising across climate finance negotiations and seeping into other negotiations. As Global North parties delay and reduce their climate finance pledge and countries fail to reach consensus on credible pathways to implement the new collective quantified goal on climate finance (NCQG) goal to mobilize at least US 300 billion annually by 2035 with developed countries taking the lead, predictability of climate finance flows that enables climate action is impacted, further delaying action. With these issues left unresolved and without addressing the ever smaller fiscal space for climate action, finance remains the key issue preventing progress across other negotiation items.

In June 2026, Canada updated its international climate finance pledge in the Spring Economic Update, becoming one of the first countries to commit new financing in the context of the NCQG agreed at COP29. As fellow Annex I parties continue to delay their updated pledges, Canada demonstrated a welcome first step in fulfilling its legal obligation to provide climate finance to Global South parties. However, the real test will be demonstrated in the details of climate finance delivery, and how Canada navigates and takes ambitious steps in critical finance negotiations at COP31.

To cement its leadership in international climate finance, Canada must:

- Develop and publish a policy framework for the 2026/7-2030/1 five-year climate finance pledge announced in June 2026, which should:

- Allocate 40% of finance to mitigation, 40% to adaptation, and 20% to loss and damage;
- Maintain an ambitious grant to loan ratio, ensuring appropriate instruments are used for needs, especially the use of high-quality, non-debt-inducing finance for adaptation and loss and damage and for regions most vulnerable to climate change and debt crisis, including Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs);
- Advance gender-responsive climate finance by ensuring women, girls, and gender-diverse communities are meaningfully included in decision-making processes and benefit from climate investments;
- Continue supporting partnerships between Canadian civil society organizations (CSOs), Indigenous Peoples in Canada, and Global South countries to deliver locally-led adaptation, resilience, and sustainable development outcomes;
- Ensure climate finance is new and additional, aligns with biodiversity protection, and complements broader sustainable development priorities funded through Official Development Assistance (ODA), including health, food security, water security, gender equality, and resilient infrastructure; and
- Provide policy guidance in a Statement of Priorities and Accountabilities (SPA) to FinDev Canada to practice a high degree of transparency, collaboration, and accountability with civil society organizations, Indigenous Peoples, and other stakeholders involved in delivering Canada's climate finance commitments.

- Engage constructively and proactively across climate finance negotiation tracks towards implementation of the NCQG and achieving climate targets and goals, through channels including:
  - Working collaboratively across positions to ensure the Climate Finance Work Programme facilitates the full and timely implementation of the NCQG decision. Critical gaps in climate finance delivery must be addressed, including measures to increase access, strengthen transparency, increase predictability of public and concessional finance, and sending strong signals to all external financial actors including multilateral development banks, private sector, and development finance institutions;
  - Demonstrating commitment to implement the tripling adaptation finance goal as agreed in the COP30 Mutirão decision, by working to establish a pathway to achieve the goal and the commitment to be reflected in Canada's Biennial Communications;
  - Committing to updating the Modalities, Procedures, and Guidelines within the Enhanced Transparency Framework to be aligned with the NCQG, including on additionality, concessionality, grant equivalence, and on reporting finance to support responding to loss and damage separately from adaptation. Efforts to improve transparency must be connected to the Standing Committee on Finance (SCF)'s Biennial NCQG Progress Review and Second Global Stocktake (GST-2);

- Encouraging proactive work by the Standing Committee on Finance to prepare for the various key reports to be released by 2028 and the quality of the upcoming Biennial Assessments to include qualitative requirements; and
- Advancing work on Article 2.1c through the Veredas Dialogue by addressing key structural inequities like cost of capital barriers, underdeveloped domestic capital markets, Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS), and greenwashing that slow efforts to ensure financial flows are consistent with a pathway towards climate-resilient low-carbon development in a just, equitable and human rights-compliant manner. Specifically, the Veredas Dialogue must address the harmful role of debt in undermining climate action and raising ambitions for debt restructuring and cancellation.

Put people, lives and livelihoods at the heart of climate action

Adaptation

Adaptation remains the cornerstone of climate justice. The climate crisis is reshaping lives and livelihoods every day—from heatwaves and fires in the Global North to severe droughts, floods and displacement in the Global South. Yet, as the 2026 UNEP Adaptation Gap Report warns, global adaptation efforts remain far behind what is needed. The world has made no progress in closing the gap between adaptation finance flows and the actual costs facing developing countries.

Momentum is now building for COP31 to deliver robust outcomes on adaptation. This will require active support from the Global North, including Canada, to demonstrate seriousness about protecting people, ecosystems, and economies in the face of accelerating climate impacts.

To that end, Canada must:

- Advance implementation of the Global Goal on Adaptation: Canada should support a concrete outcome under the Baku Adaptation Roadmap, particularly on access to means of implementation, including how the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), Green Climate Fund (GCF) and Adaptation Fund will support developing countries in implementing the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience targets and testing the Belém indicators;
- Ensure clarity and accountability under the Belém–Addis Vision (BAV): Canada should support agreement on the mandate and composition of the technical task force and a clear definition of policy alignment to ensure the vision translates into meaningful climate action and finance;
- Support and acknowledge a clear baseline for the target to triple adaptation finance by 2035, at least US$120 billion per year. Prioritise public, predictable, multi-year grant-based funding for adaptation, while facilitating direct access to such funding for the most vulnerable countries and communities, as private finance is unsuitable and insufficient for the type of investments required;
- Embedding Indigenous knowledge, rights, and leadership in national adaptation efforts; and

- Supporting locally-led adaptation initiatives through direct, flexible, and accessible funding channels.

Loss and Damage

Loss and damage is already a lived reality for frontline communities and climate vulnerable countries, yet finance to respond to these impacts remains grossly inadequate and difficult to access. The Fund for responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD) operationalized at COP28 was a major milestone for supporting people on the front lines of the climate crisis. While progress has been made, important decisions that will allow the Fund to actually start supporting people who have experienced climate change-induced harm are yet to be taken. These include how the funds will be allocated, who will be able to access them and how this access can be facilitated and simplified, the triggers for finance release and what financial instruments will be used to provide funding.

Nepal's recent experience, where approximately US$20 million in FRLD support was sought in August following devastating floods, highlights the urgent need to translate commitments into timely support for affected communities, with approval and disbursement still pending. Meanwhile, the Fund remains severely underfunded relative to the scale of loss and damage needs. It has so far just garnered around US$ 820 million in pledges, only a fraction of which is new or additional to existing climate finance commitments.

At COP31, Canada must:

- Engage meaningfully in discussions to sustain political focus on escalating climate impacts and human and economic losses;
- Commit to predictable, grant-based contributions to the FRLD through the publication of its international climate finance policy framework;
- Support participatory, rights-based approaches in the Fund's governance; and
- Ensure domestic and international action are aligned to demonstrate leadership and credibility.

Anchor implementation in science, equity and diverse knowledge systems

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is an essential bedrock to tackle the climate crisis. Its 65th Session, held in Addis Ababa last month, was suspended after countries failed to agree on the timeline and 2027 budget for delivering the Seventh Assessment Reports (AR7). Disagreements over the AR7 timeline have also exposed deeper tensions around equity, representation and the role of science in informing climate action. These issues must not be conflated: scientific integrity and equity are mutually reinforcing, and both are essential to the credibility and relevance of the IPCC.

The next assessment reports must integrate equity analysis along with assessments of diverse knowledge systems, including, best available science, Indigenous knowledge, local knowledge and lived experiences. The next assessment cycle is particularly important as it will inform the GST-2, which

concludes in 2028. The IPCC's three AR7 Working Group reports must be delivered in time to inform this process including decisions on mitigation, adaptation and loss and damage and climate finance.

At COP31, Canada must:

- Respect and adhere to the IPCC principles and procedures and its mandate towards the UNFCCC, and reject the pitting of science against equity, or the weaponization of core principles;
- Work to ensure the delivery of the three AR7 Working Group reports and their Summaries for Policymakers in time to inform the decisions for GST-2 at COP33 in 2028;
- Work to ensure that the decisions on AR7 publishing timelines meaningfully address entrenched inequities, capacity constraints, lack of inclusivity in both process and content;
- Advocate for stronger representation of expertise from developing countries, frontline communities, as well as the ethical engagement of Indigenous Peoples and their knowledge systems across IPCC authorship, review processes and decision-making, and increase financial and institutional support to address the capacity barriers and promote equity-centered pathways;
- Push for the AR7 assessment, particularly Working Group 3, to examine a broader range of climate scenarios that account for historical responsibility, respective capabilities, and the distributional impacts of climate action. This should include models and pathways that improve AR6 flaws in that regard, greater scrutiny of Integrated Assessment Models (IAMs) assumptions and avoid reliance on speculative carbon removal technologies. AR7 must ensure a fair share approach to mitigation efforts and costs, with developed countries leading on mitigation and accounting for global inequalities; and
- In the medium term, support the IPCC to continue building inclusive and representative structures and processes . This includes implementing the recommendations from the IPCC Workshop on Engaging Diverse Knowledge Systems and the IPCC Expert Meeting on Gender, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity. To that end, developed countries should commit to support Global South institutions through financial and technical means, in order to facilitate the production of new models that account for distributional justice and equity which would provide a more inclusive basis for ambitious and equitable global and regional climate action.

Defend civic space and build people power for climate justice

As civil society prepares to gather in Antalya for the "implementation COP", one question guides any claim of progress: implementation by whom, for whom, and on whose terms? Implementation cannot be separated from a world marked by war, militarization, rising inequality, attacks on human rights, and shrinking public resources. As Türkiye's COP31 President-designate has himself argued, wealthy countries should spend far more on addressing the climate crisis than on defence, recognizing that

climate security is fundamental to global security. And if implementation fails to confront these realities, it will reproduce the same injustices that created the crisis.

Civil society movements have spent 2026 organizing around that reality. From mobilizations at Santa Marta for a rapid, equitable, and funded transition away from fossil fuels to September's global week of action across 60 countries, to October actions around the World Bank and IMF meetings, and mobilizations in solidarity with Gaza, movements have connected climate justice with economic inequality, militarization, human rights, democratic erosion and global solidarity, and insisting that implementation addresses them together.

This work will continue in Antalya. The People's Climate Summit, held alongside COP31, and the major mobilization planned for November 14 will create space for local communities, trade unions, Indigenous Peoples, feminist and youth movements, environmental defenders, and international allies to organize on their own terms. The Summit matters precisely because it is not confined by the formal agenda. It allows movements to bring together struggles that negotiations routinely separate, advance their own political demands, and define implementation from the perspective of people already living the consequences of climate breakdown. These independent spaces complement the work of civil society within the UNFCCC, while allowing movements to build beyond its institutional boundaries.

Organizing depends on civic space, and civic space at COP31 cannot be assumed. Visa barriers, high participation costs, unequal access and fossil fuel lobbyists further undermine inclusive participation in the UNFCCC process. Canada must:

- Use its diplomatic influence to insist the COP31 Presidencies, the host country and the UNFCCC to protect civic space, guarantee the safe participation of civil society and human rights defenders, and uphold the rights to organize, protest and speak freely;
- Champion recognition of environmental human rights defenders, Indigenous Peoples, local communities and civil society organizations as essential implementing partners of Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE), backed by dedicated, accessible funding for their participation and climate action work; and
- Support the implementation of the Belém Gender Action Plan, including protection guidelines for women environmental human rights defenders, developed with women defenders and backed by clear timelines, designated responsible actors and dedicated resources.

For CAN-Rac, COP31 is a moment to strengthen the collective power of civil society to turn climate commitments into political reality. That means connecting advocacy at COP with organizing in Canada; working across environmental, Indigenous, labour, youth, and social justice movements; and standing with communities in the Global Majority confronting the consequences of decisions made far beyond their borders.

It also means resisting a version of multilateralism that serves only the interests of the most powerful states. Cooperation has value only when it advances rights, shifts resources, confronts fossil fuel

power, and allows the people most affected to shape the transition. Indigenous Peoples and frontline communities are rights-holders and political leaders whose knowledge, sovereignty, and decisions must shape outcomes from the outset.

The answer to the questions facing this COP cannot be that governments design implementation, wealthy countries finance it on terms they set, and deliver it to communities as a finished product. Implementation must be built with the people already defending land, livelihoods, and a liveable future. That is the measure against which an "implementation COP", and Canada's contribution to it, must be judged.

The CAN-Rac Team at COP31

Caroline Brouillette, Head of Delegation
carolinebrouillette@climateactionnetwork.ca

Soomin Han, Negotiations - Climate Finance
soominhan@climateactionnetwork.ca

Leïla Cantave, Member Engagement Lead
leilacantave@climateactionnetwork.ca

Audrey Robillard, Communications Lead
audreyrobillard@climateactionnetwork

CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK
RÉSEAU ACTION CLIMAT
CANADA

Climate Action Network – Réseau action climat Canada (CAN-Rac) is the farthest-reaching network of organizations taking action on climate and energy issues in what is currently known as Canada. Our membership brings together organizations from coast to coast to coast, including First Nations, unions, local grassroots initiatives, faith groups, and environmental, social justice, development, health, and youth organizations.