



## **COP30 Presidency Roadmap for Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels in a Just, Orderly and Equitable Manner**

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### **About us**

CEOBS is a UK charity which provides a voice for our environment - and those who depend upon it - when it faces harm from armed conflicts and military activities. We work with a range of stakeholders to research and publicise environmental data, develop methodologies to improve data collection and analysis, and scrutinise and contribute to developments in law and policy intended to reduce the environmental harm caused by conflicts and military activities. CEOBS has been an UNFCCC observer organisation since COP28.

In collaboration with our academic partners at the universities of Durham, Lancaster, and Queen Mary University of London, we have examined national reporting of military greenhouse gas emissions to the UNFCCC, making the reported data available in one place for the first time: [www.militaryemissions.org](http://www.militaryemissions.org). Collating the data submitted by the top 60 countries by military expenditure has highlighted numerous gaps in what data is collected, and how it is reported.

### **(a) What are the most critical barriers — whether physical, economic, financial, institutional, technological or social— preventing a transition away from fossil fuels?**

#### **Carbon Intensive Militaries**

Militaries are responsible for an estimated 5.5% of global emissions, and yet the sector is consistently missing from coordinated climate action and its emissions remain underreported to the UNFCCC. As a result, the sector's decarbonisation progress is close to non-existent despite the fact that for many governments, defence will be its largest source of fossil fuel consumption; in the UK, the Ministry of Defence is responsible for over half of central government's emissions, and in the US, the Pentagon is the world's largest institutional user of fossil fuels. Current levels of military fuel use is a barrier for transforming fossil fuel supply and demand.

Following current trends, the world could be spending up to \$6.6 trillion on its militaries by 2035. While lower carbon technologies remain underdeveloped, militaries are committing to equipment which will lock them into fossil fuel consumption for decades to come. This presents a barrier to fossil fuel phase out due to locked in demand. Furthermore, governments are deprioritising climate action to fund increasing military spending. For example, last year the EU opened up its Just Transition Fund to allow member states to use funds previously earmarked for support the continent's neutrality goals, for defence capabilities instead.

## **Conflicts and militarism**

The world is facing the highest level of conflict since WWII, which is a barrier to strengthening international cooperation as well as transforming fossil fuel supply and demand. Directly, conflicts can drive fossil fuel use up through carbon intensive military equipment and supply chains, and dramatically impact supply if targeted, as we have seen recently in Iran.

Indirectly, conflicts can hamper multilateral negotiations and international collaboration, as has been witnessed within the UNFCCC in recent years where conflicts between Russia and Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Armenia, and Israel's attacks on Gaza have all impacted COP planning and proceedings.

## **(b) What potential levers, whether economic, financial, institutional, social or technological, exist for accelerating the implementation of the transitioning away commitment?**

### **Military decarbonisation**

A fossil fuel phaseout roadmap would be incomplete without military decarbonisation. This means clear and transparent military emissions mitigation strategies with strict targets, held accountable by an international body.

However, it is important to note that military decarbonisation should not be solely achieved by the development of low carbon technologies. While a level of military decarbonisation can and should be achieved through pre-existing technologies such as heat pumps and electric vehicles on military bases, a business as usual approach to modern day defence replaced with 'greener' tech is not achievable, nor should it be desirable.

Ultimately, military fuel use can be reduced by cuts to military spending, reducing military size and deprioritising military interventions, and therefore a holistic approach to defence must consider investment in peacebuilding and conflict prevention as well as diplomacy and multilateralism.

There are instruments which can support the development of military decarbonisation. For example, on a national and regional level, militaries must be integrated into national net zero policies and legislation. Regulations across the defence industry would be needed to prevent the development of further fossil fuel reliant equipment and military organisations like NATO would need to update and implement standards and guidelines to transition away from fossil fuel use. Globally, there would also need to be multilateral coordination to support the implementation of decarbonisation.

### **Fossil Fuel Treaty**

A Fossil Fuel Treaty could become a climate tool for peace by addressing the supply-side of fossil fuels and promoting international cooperation for a global just transition — complementing the Paris Agreement, which focuses only on emissions. The Treaty's Just Transition pillar offers an opportunity to challenge the structures behind fossil fuel extraction and use, as they relate to violence, insecurity, human rights violations, war and militarism.

A Fossil Fuel Treaty has the power to disrupt systems of extraction, exploitation and colonialism that may continue into the renewable energy transition if not considered. The movement uplifts the leadership of affected communities, women, Indigenous peoples, and Global South communities on the frontlines of extraction, climate impacts, militarism and broader structural violence.

A Treaty could implement cooperative financial mechanisms and incentives to allow states to make commitments on fossil fuel supply. Additionally, a Treaty could include provisions to annul, revoke, or terminate ISDS provisions in international investment agreements, as well as support national phase-out and just transition plans through increased transparency and improved governance architecture.

### **Global Just Transition Fund**

A Global Just Transition Fund would provide predictable financial support for fossil fuel-dependent developing countries, workers and communities to transition away from fossil fuel production.

The fund could be financed through a combination of public finance contributions from developed countries, levies on fossil fuel production or exports, windfall taxes on fossil fuel company profits and the reallocation of a portion of global military spending, which currently exceeds USD 2.7 trillion annually.

Redirecting even a small share of military expenditure toward climate action would significantly expand the financial resources available to support renewable energy deployment, worker retraining, community-led economic diversification and environmental remediation of fossil fuel extraction sites.

A Fund could be established under a Fossil Fuel Treaty framework, utilising public finance commitments from developed countries and governance systems ensuring transparent and equitable allocation of funds.