

Peace Boat Submission to the UNFCCC

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

Peace Boat welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the COP30 Presidency Roadmap. As a civil society organisation working at the intersection of peace, disarmament, climate action and education, we emphasise that a just, orderly and equitable transition away from fossil fuels requires addressing the structural drivers of the climate crisis, including militarism.

Militaries are among the largest institutional consumers of fossil fuels and are estimated to account for approximately 5.5% of global greenhouse gas emissions. Modern military systems are highly energy intensive, relying on oil-based fuels across air, sea and land operations. For example, a single F-35 fighter jet can burn approximately 5,600 litres of fuel per hour of flight. At the same time, fossil fuel infrastructure and supply routes are frequently secured through military force, while fossil fuel revenues can finance armed forces and conflict. These dynamics create a self-reinforcing cycle in which militarisation sustains fossil fuel demand and fossil fuel dependence fuels insecurity.

Despite this, militarism remains largely invisible within climate governance. Military emissions reporting under the UNFCCC is voluntary and incomplete, and the role of militaries as major drivers of fossil fuel consumption is not adequately reflected in policy frameworks. Peace Boat therefore calls on the UNFCCC to explicitly recognise militarism as a key driver of the climate crisis, fossil fuel demand and barriers to a just transition.

A central challenge to transitioning away from fossil fuels is the absence of a global framework governing fossil fuel production. Existing agreements focus on emissions reductions rather than extraction, allowing continued expansion of coal, oil and gas even where climate targets are in place. This creates carbon lock-in incompatible with the 1.5°C goal and undermines efforts to achieve an orderly and equitable transition.

These governance gaps are compounded by broader structural barriers. Global military spending, estimated at approximately USD 2.7 trillion annually, increases fossil fuel consumption while diverting critical public resources away from renewable energy, adaptation, economic diversification and social protection. At the same time, fossil fuel extraction and transport are closely linked to conflict and instability. Oil and gas resources and supply routes are frequently securitised, and research suggests that between 25% and 50% of interstate conflicts since 1973 have been linked to oil. These dynamics disrupt development pathways and make cooperative transition efforts more difficult, particularly for countries already facing fragility and inequality.

Addressing these interconnected challenges requires coordinated international action. A Fossil Fuel Treaty offers a pathway to establish a global framework for managing a fair and planned decline in fossil fuel production. Such a treaty could include commitments to end new exploration and licensing, set timelines for phasing down existing production and create mechanisms for international cooperation and accountability. Crucially, by reducing competition over fossil fuel resources and the need to secure infrastructure through military

means, a Fossil Fuel Treaty can also function as a peace treaty for the climate era, helping to break the cycle of fossil fuel dependence, militarisation and conflict.

To ensure that this transition is equitable, a Global Just Transition Fund is essential. This fund should provide predictable and adequate financial support for fossil fuel dependent countries, workers and communities, enabling renewable energy deployment, economic diversification, workforce retraining and environmental remediation. Financing should come from a combination of public contributions, fossil fuel levies and the reallocation of a portion of global military spending. Given the scale of current military expenditure, even modest reallocation could significantly expand resources for climate action and support countries at different stages of development.

Reducing fossil fuel demand from military activities is also a necessary component of an orderly transition. Measures to reduce fossil fuel intensive military operations and shift public spending toward human security priorities such as climate resilience, healthcare, education and sustainable development can lower emissions while strengthening social stability. Integrating military emissions into UNFCCC reporting frameworks would close a major governance gap and support more effective planning and accountability.

Peace Boat also emphasises that not all proposed energy pathways are compatible with a just and peaceful transition. Nuclear power is often presented as a low-carbon alternative to fossil fuels, yet it remains closely linked to militarism and nuclear weapons proliferation. Civilian nuclear infrastructure shares technologies and materials with military nuclear programmes, including uranium mining, enrichment and plutonium reprocessing. Expanding nuclear power risks reinforcing systems associated with militarisation, while diverting investment from renewable energy solutions that are safer, faster to deploy and more aligned with sustainable development. Nuclear energy should therefore not be included as a central pathway in transitioning away from fossil fuels.

Education and public engagement are critical enablers of a just transition. Education that connects climate change, fossil fuels, militarism and peacebuilding can strengthen public understanding of the systemic nature of the crisis and build support for transformative policies. Peace Boat's experience with youth leadership, survivor testimony and cross-cultural exchange demonstrates the potential of education to foster global solidarity, empower communities and support long-term change.

A just, orderly and equitable transition must also reflect the diverse realities of countries with different levels of development and dependence on fossil fuels. Developing countries require financial and technical support to pursue alternative development pathways. Transition strategies must protect workers and communities through labour rights, retraining and social protection, and ensure meaningful participation of Indigenous Peoples, women, youth and frontline communities. Approaches must be grounded in human rights and gender equality, and be sensitive to risks of conflict and instability.

In conclusion, transitioning away from fossil fuels requires confronting the full range of structural drivers that sustain fossil fuel dependence. Militarism is a key but under-recognised driver of the climate crisis, both as a major consumer of fossil fuels and as a system that perpetuates resource competition and conflict. Recognising this within the UNFCCC process is essential for achieving a coherent and effective transition.

A Fossil Fuel Treaty functioning as both a climate and peace agreement, a Global Just Transition Fund supported in part by reallocated military spending, improved transparency including military emissions, the exclusion of nuclear power as a false solution and strengthened education and public engagement together provide a pathway toward a just, orderly and equitable transition. Peace Boat stands ready to support the COP30 Presidency Roadmap and contribute its experience in advancing climate action, disarmament and peace.