



**JOINT STATEMENT:
CLIMATE–JUST CELAC–EU
PRESIDENTIAL SUMMIT,
9–10 NOVEMBER 2025
COLOMBIA**

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The 2025 CELAC-EU Presidential Summit, positioned between the UNFCCC COP30 Leaders¹ segment and COP30 itself, is a key opportunity to redefine bi-regional cooperation on the basis of shared rules, mutual accountability, and multilateral action. EU-Latin American and Caribbean relations have historically been shaped by colonial legacies, unequal trade, and structural dependencies. This Summit can establish a new partnership model –one that strengthens both multilateralism² and sovereignty, advances climate justice, and addresses structural inequalities. This joint statement by Climate Action Network Latin America and Climate Action Network Europe lays out key expectations toward CELAC and EU leaders.

Civil society, Indigenous Peoples, women, youth, disabled people, Afro-descendants, local communities, and environmental defenders will convene separately for the Civil Society Forum in Santa Marta (6–7 November), but our exclusion from the Summit itself unfortunately risks turning it into a closed diplomatic event rather than a platform for equitable, inclusive and accountable decision-making.

Key moment: *Between 23–26 September, the Bi-regional Dialogue of CELAC Ministers of Foreign Affairs with the EU will take place in New York (during the 80th UN General Assembly), hosted at the EU Permanent Mission³. This Ministerial is a critical moment for determining the Summit declaration/ cooperation priorities.*

1. Just Transition

- The summit declaration must commit to a whole-of-society transition: all GHGs, all sectors (energy, minerals, agriculture, transport, care).
- Inclusive dialogue with workers, women, Indigenous Peoples, youth, disabled people, and rural communities.
- Recognise care work, social protection, labour rights, biodiversity, and public services as essential for climate resilience.
- Fully implement Escazú and Aarhus; guarantee FPIC⁴ and equitable benefit-sharing (including universal energy access and affordable food for all).
- Put decolonial and intersectional approaches at the heart of EU external action, as it responds to the IPCC's call for just, equitable, enabling pathways.
- Champion a UNFCCC-hosted global Just Transition mechanism that operationalises Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities, and the goals of the Paris Agreement.
- Following the recommendations of the UN International Resource Panel, the EU must prioritise transforming its economy towards one based on circularity and sufficiency, with limits on the consumption of certain raw materials for each sector⁵.

2. Energy Access & Fossil Phase-Out

- Energy transition must be just, equitable and universal - technological swapout alone is insufficient.

- The summit must centre on a just, 100% renewable energy transition and universal energy access (eradication of energy poverty) aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Champion international initiatives like the Global Energy Transition Forum, Beyond Oil & Gas Alliance, and Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty.
- Reaffirm global goals to triple renewable capacity and double energy efficiency globally by 2030; and commit to a fossil fuel phase-out with differentiated timelines (according to the regional and country circumstances): EU coal by 2030⁶, gas by 2035, and oil by 2040; support LAC countries' just transition pathways with a view of phasing out fossil fuels by 2050⁷
- End fossil fuel subsidies as soon as possible (and immediately for the EU).
- Include a methane reduction target of 75% by 2030, linked to a full fossil fuel phase-out.
- Ensure emerging renewable exports from Latin America, such as renewable hydrogen, benefit domestic energy systems and local community dignity/resilience.
- Cooperation framework for the production and trade of renewable energy, including renewable hydrogen and its derivatives, based on fair and sustainable conditions, as well as the implementation of high social and environmental standards, developing regional value chains that catalyse industrialization and job creation in Latin America.
- Implement mandatory financial regulation and fiscal-monetary that directs both public and private finance out of fossil fuels and into a just (energy and economic) transformation.
- Rapidly scale resilient energy infrastructure: regional grids, mini-grids, and decentralized systems.
- Commit to prioritise public transport systems that benefit not only greater swathes of the population, but also drive down resource use and emissions.

3. Climate Commitments & Finance

- The summit declaration must commit to aligning national policies with 1.5°C-compatible pathways, including emissions reductions, net land-based removals⁸, and permanent removals, also considering the recent Advisory opinions of the International Court of Justice (July 2025), and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (May 2025).⁹
- State clearly that continued reliance on fossil fuel imports is incompatible with 1.5°C and undermines both EU and LA commitments under the Paris Agreement.

¹United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

²Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Children Rights Convention, SDGs, among others

³Colombian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. CELAC pages: <https://www.cancilleria.gov.co/Comunidad-de-Estados-Latinoamericanos-y-Caribenos-CELAC>

⁴Free, Prior and Informed Consent (as recognised in the International Labour Organization Convention No. 169 concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries and reflected in UNFCCC Decision 1/CP.16, Appendix I (Cancun Agreements) on REDD+ safeguards)

⁵Europe, with just 6% of the world's population but up to 30% of metal use, bases its approach on unsustainable growth assumptions, and despite steps toward circularity, current measures remain insufficient (A Green and Fair Transition For Whom? EU-LAT Network. Feb 2025)

- Recognise that the adverse effects of climate change significantly impact the health and livelihoods of individuals and may significantly impair the enjoyment of certain human rights, as stated by the International Court of Justice; and that urgent climate action is needed to protect these rights.
- Commit to building and implementing child-sensitive NDCs guided by the best interests of the child.
- Reject the use of international carbon credits for national mitigation compliance due to integrity concerns.
- Promote cooperation between the regions on NDC implementation¹⁰, recommitting to the NDC enhancement process and implementation of the Global Stocktake.
- Developed countries must scale up new and additional public, grant-based finance for mitigation, adaptation, and loss & damage, responding to developing country needs, which could be at least \$1 trillion annually in grant-equivalent terms.¹¹
- Triple adaptation finance from developed to developing countries by 2030 based on 2025 levels.
- The EU should contribute new and additional grants to the Fund for Responding to Loss & Damage.
- Implement polluter-pays taxes/levies and a UN Convention on International Tax Cooperation aimed at closing tax havens.
- Support the UN Sovereign Debt Convention, to address the necessary reforms for the prevention and resolution of debt crises and support coordinated and unconditional debt cancellation for Global South countries to be able to comply with the 2030 agenda, the Paris Agreement and fulfil fundamental human rights obligations.
- Phase out fossil fuel and other harmful subsidies, and ensure predictable, grant-based finance, technology transfer, and capacity-building for LAC development.

⁶The International Court of Justice was clear about fossil fuels in its Advisory Opinion on Climate Change (Par. 427): Failure of a State to take appropriate action to protect the climate system from GHG emissions – including through fossil fuel production, fossil fuel consumption, the granting of fossil fuel exploration licences or the provision of fossil fuel subsidies – may constitute an internationally wrongful act which is attributable to that State. The Court also emphasizes that the internationally wrongful act in question is not the emission of GHGs per se, but the breach of conventional and customary obligations identified under question (a) pertaining to the protection of the climate system from significant harm resulting from anthropogenic emissions of such gases.

⁷This must reflect developed countries' historical responsibility to lead fossil fuel phase-out in a just, orderly, and equitable way, while supporting LAC countries to pursue just, rights-based transition pathways that address poverty eradication and economic diversification.

⁸IPCC Climate Change 2023: Synthesis Report

⁹Inter-American Court of Human Rights Advisory Opinion AO-32/25 of May 29, 2025

¹⁰CAN Europe Letter: European Climate Law Amendments and Nationally Determined Contributions

¹¹CAN International Submission on the New Collective Quantified Goal, Aug 2024

- Streamlining access to climate finance by reducing bureaucratic barriers and simplifying procedures that hinder its availability¹²
- Reaffirm the central role of public finance, including developed countries' obligations to provide public climate finance to developing countries, which remains central under Article 9.1 of the Paris Agreement and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities (CBDR-RC)
- Accelerate the closure of the adaptation finance gap and meet the needs of developing countries. The resources for adaptation actions must be mainly grant-based, predictable, gender-responsive, accessible and locally led, aligned with the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA).
- Operationalise adaptation as a priority, securing a dedicated share of at least USD 300 billion annually for adaptation, and ensuring that the resources are grant-based, predictable and accessible to the most vulnerable countries.
- Increase fiscal space not only by raising revenues but also by improving expenditure management, particularly debt servicing.
- Prioritise concessional and grant-based instruments for climate finance, reversing the current overreliance on loans that exacerbate debt vulnerabilities.
- Promotes mechanisms and alternatives for responsible management, cancellation, or exchange of debt, according to the capacities and realities of Parties.
- Promote further exploration and implementation of international and domestic taxes. This includes considering global taxes on activities with a high climate impact, such as fossil fuels, aviation, maritime transport, and financial transactions.
- Provide a clear mechanism to track the financial flows towards the USD 1.3 trillion, clarifying the role of the UNFCCC's Standing Committee on Finance (SCF) in the reporting mechanisms, as it was established in the NCQG decision.

4. Ecosystems, Mobility, Adaptation & Loss and Damage

- Recognise Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework goals, linking biodiversity conservation and restoration to climate mitigation and adaptation pathways.¹³ Specifically, using Nature-based Solutions/Ecosystem-based Approaches to foster positive impacts of climate action on biodiversity.
- Support a joint Rio Convention mandate to address ecosystem collapse and restore nature

¹² See also the Submission on views regarding the "Baku to Belém Roadmap to 1.3T," submitted on 10 September 2025 to the UNFCCC. REDFIS 2nd Submission - B2B Roadmap.docx

¹³ Decision 22 of the 16th Conference of the Parties (COP16) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) focuses on identifying and maximizing potential synergies between biodiversity and climate actions, including by prioritizing the full, equitable, inclusive, effective, and gender-responsive participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in biodiversity/climate change-related decision-making. This includes securing their free, prior, and informed consent and safeguarding their traditional knowledge, innovations, and practices.

5. Trade & Equitable Supply Chains

as a living system, prioritising Indigenous and local stewardship over offsets or carbon markets.

- Uphold the Glasgow Declaration's commitment to halt and reverse deforestation by 2030, recognising and supporting the critical role of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in forest stewardship, and integrating this effort with sustainable development, considering rural economies.
- Protect people facing climate-induced mobility or immobility, rather than deploying political scapegoating, violent pushbacks, or unlawful detentions.
- Scale up joint adaptation efforts with predictable and direct grant-based funding for vulnerable communities and Indigenous peoples. Decentralized energy access supports resilience.
- End extractive trade and investment practices that undermine sovereignty and climate goals. Promote efforts to reduce material and mineral demand.
- Submit Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations to democratic scrutiny through transparent public participation at every stage of the process, from drafting of the mandate to ratification (includes publishing draft negotiation texts).
- Reject unsustainable and climate-damaging FTAs, including EU-Mercosur and EU-Mexico FTAs.
- Civil society organisations (including communities, trade unions and environmental, health, consumer and human rights organisations) must be given the opportunity to initiate dispute settlement proceedings via FTAs independently of the contracting parties. This includes mechanisms for vulnerable communities in Latin American countries impacted by FTAs.
- Embed enforceable sustainability provisions and accountability mechanisms in FTAs.
- Reject Investor State-Dispute Settlement provisions in FTAs and remove them from existing FTAs.
- Ensure clarity on the legal nature of Clean Trade and Investment Partnerships (CTIPs), align CTIPs and Global Gateway initiatives with climate justice and human rights. The transfer of clean technology and support of domestic industrial development must be at the core of CTIPs and Global Gateway in LAC, with a horizontal exclusion list covering all fossil fuels. These instruments must be transparent, allowing for the participation of civil society, and public and parliamentarians throughout.
- Mandatory human rights and environmental due diligence in mineral supply chains should be embedded in FTAs, CTIPs, and Global Gateway projects, in line with UNGPs and OECD Guidance.

¹⁴See International Court of Justice Advisory Opinion on Climate Change, para 376.

¹⁵As expressed by the International Court of Justice in its Advisory Opinion on Climate Change, para 393.

- Redirect Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanisms (CBAM) revenues to support LAC's just transition.
- Commit to ensuring that supply chains for extractives are transparent - that beneficial ownership of concessions is publicly available knowledge, as well as contracts and tax regimes.
- **6. Human Rights & Civic Space**
 - Recognise that the adverse effects of climate change significantly impact the health and livelihoods of individuals and may significantly impair the enjoyment of certain human rights, as stated by the International Court of Justice¹⁴; and that urgent climate action is needed to protect these rights.
 - Reaffirm the right to a clean, healthy, sustainable environment, as a precondition for the enjoyment of other human rights such as the right to life, the right to health and the right to an adequate standard of living - including access to water, food and housing¹⁵
 - Acknowledge that future solutions for decarbonisation are neither climate neutral, nor human impact neutral, and therefore mining for the minerals for the transition, as well as other parts of the supply chain, should be subject to transparent environmental and social impact assessments.
 - Ensure remediation mechanisms and safeguards for environmental defenders, women, and communities impacted by climate projects, including Article 6 carbon markets.
 - Ensure implementation of General Comment No.26 (2023) of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.
 - Zero tolerance approach on illegal extractive and conflict-fueling trade practices, both on the ground in LAC and in the supply chains leading to the EU; and ensure the full implementation of Escazú and Aarhus, and the principle of free, prior and informed consent and Article 169 of the ILO Convention.
 - Respect, promote and consider the rights of indigenous peoples, local communities, migrants, children, persons with disabilities, women and people in vulnerable situations when taking action to address climate change.

Conclusion

The 2025 EU-CELAC Summit is a turning point: it can demonstrate that bi-regional cooperation can be equitable, transformative, and resilient, setting a global precedent for foreign relations with climate justice at the centre - and building momentum towards COP30. CELAC and EU Leaders must now show vision, accountability, and leadership that deliver hope for people and the planet