

Views of the Republic of Armenia in response to the Invitation of the COP30 President to Submit Contributions to:

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

(b) What potential levers exist for accelerating the implementation of the transitioning away commitment?

Armenia considers that accelerating the transition away from fossil fuels requires a broader set of enabling levers that integrate climate mitigation, adaptation, and biodiversity objectives. In this regard, Armenia proposes that the roadmap explicitly recognize ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) as a core implementation pathway.

EbA offers a cost-effective and scalable lever that simultaneously:

- strengthens climate resilience;
- protects biodiversity and ecosystem services;
- sustains livelihoods and local economies; and
- delivers social and economic co-benefits.

Nature-based approaches such as the protection and restoration of forests, grasslands, wetlands, river basins, and mountain ecosystems can accelerate the transition by reducing climate risks while generating employment and supporting food and water security.

Key enabling levers include:

- **Policy and planning integration:** Promoting coherence across national frameworks (NDCs, NAPs, NBSAPs, and development plans) to ensure that climate mitigation, adaptation, and biodiversity goals are mutually reinforcing.
- **Ecosystem-based economic diversification:** Supporting livelihoods linked to sustainable land use, ecosystem restoration, and nature-based tourism as alternatives to fossil fuel-dependent economic activities.
- **Institutional strengthening and governance:** Enhancing capacities of national and local institutions to design and implement EbA-based transition strategies, including participatory and community-based approaches.
- **Finance and investment frameworks:** Ensuring access to predictable, grant-based, and highly concessional finance to support community-level and landscape-scale interventions, particularly in countries with limited fiscal space.
- **Knowledge-sharing and cooperation:** Using the roadmap as a platform to compile best practices, promote South–South and triangular cooperation, and build on existing work under relevant international processes to scale up EbA solutions (relevant also to Question (c)).
- **Technological and methodological tools:** Mapping and deploying tools that support ecosystem restoration, climate resilience, and integrated land-use planning.

Through these levers, EbA can serve as a catalyst for accelerating implementation while ensuring that the transition contributes to sustainable development and poverty reduction.

(d) How can a just, orderly and equitable transition best reflect diverse national realities?

Armenia emphasizes that a just, orderly, and equitable transition must reflect countries' diverse geographic, socio-economic, and ecological contexts. For mountainous countries such as Armenia, ecosystem integrity is central to both climate resilience and economic stability.

In this regard, Armenia highlights the importance of integrating mountain-specific ecosystem-based approaches into just transition pathways. Healthy ecosystems underpin:

- water regulation and hydropower reliability;
- disaster risk reduction (including landslides, floods, and erosion);
- sustainable agriculture and agrobiodiversity; and
- tourism and cultural heritage.

To reflect these realities, Armenia suggests that just transition pathways should:

- Integrate ecosystem-based approaches tailored to mountain systems, including watershed management, forest landscape restoration, and climate-resilient pasture management.
- Recognize nature-based livelihoods as essential for sustaining rural and remote communities during economic and energy transitions.
- Promote diversified income opportunities that are compatible with ecosystem conservation and reduce vulnerability to climate and economic shocks.

Furthermore, Armenia underscores that just transition frameworks should:

- Ensure social inclusiveness and equity, adopting rights-based approaches that actively benefit local communities and avoid exacerbating inequalities.
- Avoid trade-offs between climate mitigation, adaptation, and biodiversity conservation, promoting integrated solutions that deliver co-benefits across these areas.
- Align climate and biodiversity agendas, ensuring coherence between national and international commitments.

Armenia also highlights that EbA can play a critical role in ensuring that climate action contributes to poverty eradication and sustainable development, rather than creating additional socio-economic burdens.

Finally, Armenia proposes that the roadmap serve as a platform to:

- facilitate continued dialogue among diverse stakeholders;
- support voluntary pilot initiatives reflecting different national circumstances; and
- strengthen capacity at all levels to design, implement, and monitor ecosystem-centered just transition strategies.

Through these approaches, the roadmap can better accommodate differentiated national pathways while advancing a globally coherent and inclusive transition away from fossil fuels.

Part II — COP 30 Presidency Roadmap for Halting and Reversing Deforestation and Forest Degradation by 2030

(a) What are the most critical barriers preventing the halting and reversing of deforestation and forest degradation?

Armenia notes that barriers to addressing deforestation are multidimensional and particularly pronounced in mountainous and climate-vulnerable contexts.

Key challenges include:

- Physical and climate-related pressures: Increasing frequency of droughts, pests, wildfires, and extreme weather events exacerbate forest degradation and reduce regeneration capacity, especially in fragile mountain ecosystems.
- Economic and livelihood constraints: Rural communities often depend on fuelwood, grazing, and land conversion due to limited alternative income sources, contributing to unsustainable forest use.
- Financial limitations: Insufficient access to predictable and concessional finance constrains large-scale forest restoration, reforestation and afforestation efforts, as well as long-term forest conservation initiatives.
- Institutional and governance gaps: Limited enforcement capacity, including challenges related to law enforcement and organized crime repression at the national level, can enable illegal logging and unsustainable practices.
- Fragmented policy frameworks: Lack of coherence across climate, biodiversity, land-use, and development policies reduces effectiveness and may create trade-offs between conservation and economic objectives.
- Technological and data limitations: Gaps in monitoring systems and access to modern technologies hinder effective forest management and tracking of degradation.
- Social dimensions: Insufficient recognition of the role of Indigenous Peoples, local communities, forests and climate change—including their knowledge systems and rights—can undermine sustainable forest stewardship.

Addressing these barriers requires integrated solutions that simultaneously tackle ecological, socio-economic, and governance dimensions.

(b) What potential levers exist for accelerating implementation?

Armenia considers that accelerating progress requires scaling up integrated, ecosystem-based approaches alongside strengthened governance and finance frameworks.

Key levers include:

- Ecosystem-based approaches (EbA): Promoting restoration and conservation of forests, grasslands, and watersheds as part of climate adaptation and mitigation strategies, ensuring synergies across sectors.
- Integrated policy alignment: Enhancing coherence between national strategies (e.g., climate, biodiversity, and development plans) to support sustainable forest management, bioeconomy and agroforestry pathways.

- Economic diversification and sustainable value chains: Supporting nature-based livelihoods, eco-tourism, and sustainable agricultural practices to reduce pressure on forests while contributing to rural development.
- Strengthened governance and enforcement: Improving transparency, monitoring systems, and institutional capacity to address illegal activities and strengthen law enforcement and organized crime repression at the national level.
- Innovative finance mechanisms: Expanding access to international forest finance, carbon markets and sustainable value chains, including results-based payments and concessional funding, to support conservation and restoration at scale.
- Capacity building and knowledge sharing: Enhancing technical and institutional capacities through forests, climate change, international cooperation and capacity building, including South–South and triangular cooperation.
- Technological innovation: Leveraging remote sensing, digital monitoring tools, and climate-smart forestry practices to improve decision-making and implementation.
- Monitoring and assessment frameworks: Where applicable, Armenia suggests considering the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) indicators adopted at CMA7 in Belém, Brazil, which include both quantitative and qualitative indicators. These indicators where applicable may support a comprehensive assessment of progress toward targets under the “COP 30 Presidency Roadmap for Halting and Reversing Deforestation and Forest Degradation by 2030”. This may include relevant indicators under GGA target 9(d) on reducing climate impacts on ecosystems and biodiversity, and accelerating the application of ecosystem-based adaptation and nature-based solutions.

(d) How can forest-related actions reflect diverse national realities?

Armenia emphasizes that forest conservation and restoration efforts must be tailored to national circumstances, particularly for countries with limited forest cover and mountainous terrain.

Key considerations include:

- Context-specific ecosystem approaches: Recognizing that in mountainous countries, forests play a critical role in water regulation, disaster risk reduction, and sustaining rural livelihoods, requiring targeted approaches to forest conservation, restoration, and watershed management.
- Inclusive and rights-based frameworks: Ensuring that policies fully integrate the knowledge, rights, and participation of Indigenous Peoples, local communities, forests and climate change, and deliver tangible socio-economic benefits.
- Balanced and integrated land-use strategies: Promoting approaches that align forest restoration, reforestation and afforestation with agricultural needs, including agroforestry systems that support both livelihoods and ecosystem health.
- Avoiding trade-offs: Designing policies that minimize conflicts between climate mitigation, adaptation, biodiversity conservation, and development objectives.
- Differentiated financial and technical support: Recognizing varying national capacities and ensuring access to finance, technology, and capacity-building tailored to country needs.

Armenia also underlines the importance of strengthening forests, climate change, international cooperation and capacity building frameworks to enable countries to share experiences, scale up solutions, and implement context-appropriate actions.

Through these approaches, the roadmap can support equitable and effective pathways for halting and reversing deforestation and forest degradation globally, while respecting national specificities.