

Youth Contributions to the COP30 Presidency Roadmaps

Just Transition Away from Fossil Fuels | Deforestation

Consultation Process — March/April 2026

About this mapping

To strengthen youth demands, the mandate of the COP30 Presidency Youth Climate Champion (PYCC) developed a mapping form aimed at identifying the contributions of youth organizations and movements within the official Roadmaps process. Based on this exercise, we seek to amplify submissions to the COP30 Presidency, reaffirming the importance of incorporating young people's perspectives into implementation processes.

Executive Summary

This document consolidates contributions from global youth organizations and movements received through the Youth Mapping for the Roadmaps, an initiative of the COP30 Presidency Youth Climate Champion mandate. The submissions analyzed cover the two Roadmaps prioritized by the Brazilian Presidency: (1) Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels in a Just, Orderly and Equitable Manner, and (2) Halting and Reversing Deforestation and Forest Degradation by 2030.

The proposals converge around four central pillars: (1) eliminating fossil fuel subsidies with distributive justice; (2) concessional climate finance accessible to communities and youth; (3) genuine, non-tokenistic youth participation in governance spaces; and (4) holistic protection of biomes, with leadership of Indigenous Peoples, traditional communities and peripheral populations.

Participating Organizations

The table below presents a summary of the organizations whose contributions were received and analyzed in this mapping.

Organization	Region	Roadmap	Main Focus
Engajamundo Youth Association	Latin America	Fossil Fuels	Structural barriers, effective youth participation, FPIC, climate litigation, differentiated CBDR-RC timelines
Entertainment+Culture Pavilion	Europe	Fossil Fuels	—
Rajar	Africa	Fossil Fuels	—
CJ Brasil & REJUMA	Latin America	Fossil Fuels	Just transition principles, decarbonization, green jobs, climate-environmental education, territorial finance
COP30 Committee (Nossa Chance)	Latin America	Fossil Fuels	Territorial transition, extractive reserves, sociobioeconomy, urban peripheries, agroecology

Organization	Region	Roadmap	Main Focus
Puxirum do Bem Viver	Latin America	Deforestation & Forests	Synergistic multilateral governance, holistic ecosystem restoration, hydrological integrity

Roadmap 1: Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels

The organizations that contributed to this Roadmap — Engajamundo, CJ Brasil/REJUMA, COP30 Committee, Puxirum do Bem Viver and Rajar — converge on the urgency of the transition, but offer complementary perspectives on how it must be conducted to be truly just. The analyses below synthesize and articulate these contributions along thematic axes.

1.1 Barriers to the Transition

Financial and Economic Barriers

- The persistence of massive global fossil fuel subsidies creates a deep market distortion, making dirty energy artificially cheaper.
- The high cost of capital for clean energy projects in the Global South results from disproportionate credit risk assessments that do not reflect the real potential of these economies.
- Multi-billion dollar military budgets for wars ignore socio-environmental costs, diverting resources that could finance the transition.

Institutional and Political Barriers

- The lobbying power of the fossil fuel sector infiltrates national delegations and the financing of international fora, paralyzing more ambitious negotiations.
- The absence of a binding international treaty prohibiting the opening of new exploratory frontiers for oil and gas keeps the door open to supply expansion.
- Intellectual property barriers prevent developing countries from producing cutting-edge technologies locally, generating perpetual technological dependence.

Social and Systemic Barriers

- The persistence of socio-environmental and climate racism contributes to maintaining historical inequalities even in the context of the energy transition, disproportionately affecting people of African descent, Persons with Disabilities, Indigenous Peoples, traditional communities, youth, women, children, LGBTQIAPN+ people, and Global South countries.
- Nations with fiscal bases highly dependent on hydrocarbon exports — Gulf countries, the Middle East, North Africa and Latin America — face the risk of systemic economic collapse in the absence of concrete diversification plans implemented in advance.
- Economic dependence on fossil fuels, the maintenance of subsidies and incentives favoring their exploitation, the political influence of economic sectors linked to these activities, and the insufficiency of climate finance to enable sustainable alternatives.
- The UNFCCC and ILO Just Transition framework, although incorporating essential principles such as social dialogue, decent work and worker protection, remains insufficient for the complex reality of Latin America and the Global South, where structural inequalities, dependence on commodity-based economies and social vulnerability demand more than compensation: they require a holistic transformation.

1.2 Levers to Accelerate the Transition

Economic and Financial Levers

- Reform international financial institutions to prioritize grants over loans, aligning all financial flows with the Paris Agreement mandate for a climate-resilient future. The reform must: (i)

recognize the historical responsibility of Global North countries; (ii) acknowledge the growing debt burden of developing countries; and (iii) ensure sufficient flows of concessional and grant-based climate finance, especially for adaptation.

- Implement a Global Carbon Tax or levies on the windfall profits of fossil fuel companies, with resources directed to the Loss and Damage Fund.

Institutional Levers

- Establish a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty, analogous to the nuclear treaty, with formal monitoring mechanisms — recognizing the efforts of the Fossil Fuel Treaty initiative as a model.

Social and Legal Levers

- Strategic Climate Litigation: use the judicial system to transform diplomatic commitments into domestic legal obligations, inspired by the Escazú Agreement. Example: the lawsuit filed by young Brazilians against the federal government in 2019 over the 'climate pedalada' — in 2022, the government lost the case, which was supported by organizations such as Engajamundo and Fridays For Future.
- Direct Youth Pressure: ensure effective youth participation and monitoring, fighting tokenism. It is essential to prioritize authentic engagement of grassroots youth, supporting resource sharing — including financial resources — and avoiding the instrumentalization of youth participation.
- Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) Protocols: expand FPIC protocols developed by traditional peoples and communities themselves — quilombolas and Indigenous Peoples — to ensure self-determination and transparency in the implementation of renewable energy projects.

Technological Levers

- Implementation of compulsory technology transfer regimes for vulnerable nations.
- Redirecting fossil fuel subsidies to renewable energy and nature-based solutions.
- Strengthening public policies to combat deforestation.
- Expanding climate finance with access to territorial initiatives.
- Valuing territorial economies based on sociobiodiversity and bioeconomy.
- Promoting green jobs and professional training for youth in the low-carbon economy.
- Urban peripheries: initiatives such as Cooperativa Revolusolar at Morro da Babilônia (Rio de Janeiro) and the solidarity economy circuits of Rede Favela Sustentável (São Paulo) demonstrate how distributed clean energy generation, social currencies and local markets strengthen neighborhood economies, reduce emissions and create decent jobs.
- Forests and extractive reserves: associations such as the Chico Mendes Extractive Reserve (Acre) and the Association of Extractivist Women Sementes do Araguaari (Amapá) collectively manage products such as rubber, vegetable oils, Brazil nuts and açaí, generating income without deforestation.
- Rural areas and agroecology: Instituto Mapinguari (Amapá) and the Semi-Arid Agroecology Network exemplify how agroecology offers a concrete path of just transition, uniting social justice, environmental regeneration and cultural appreciation.
- Decentralized climate funds, green cooperative incubators and agroforestry training programs are pathways that unite income generation with emissions reduction.

1.3 Good Practices, Experiences and Lessons Learned

- National Roadmap — Colombia: the Colombian government's decision to halt new oil exploration contracts is recognized as a commitment to present and future generations and as a model to be followed. The lesson: it is possible to lead by example, even being an economy historically dependent on natural resources.
- Managing the Transition — EU Just Transition Fund: the European model of funds financing the economic restructuring of regions dependent on coal or gas before plant closures is an essential practice. The lesson: financing cannot come after unemployment; it must prepare the ground for the transition in advance.
- Monitoring and Accountability — Energy Transition Observatory (Repórter Brasil): platforms that allow civil society to monitor the impacts of renewable energy, oil, mining and data center projects on local communities and traditional territories, enabling pressure on governments and companies for the fulfillment of climate justice.
- Brazilian Extractive Reserves as the most concrete and inspiring historical example of Just Transition: born from the collective struggle and organization of forest peoples, they demonstrate that it is possible to reconcile environmental protection, decent work and reduction of inequalities.

1.4 Differentiation Between Countries: CBDR-RC and Equitable Transition

- Developed countries, as the largest historical emitters, must achieve the complete elimination of fossil fuels earlier (2035-2040). This creates the necessary and fair share of the carbon budget for the Global South to carry out an orderly transition without compromising its development.
- Fiscal and Financial Justice: The transition will only be equitable if there are mechanisms for cancellation or exchange of external debt for climate action. In 2023, African nations paid more than US\$ 70 billion in debt service. Examples of debt-for-nature swaps: Belize (2021) reduced its debt by 10% of GDP and secured long-term funding for marine conservation; Ecuador's swap (2023) restructured more than US\$ 1.6 billion in debt, generating US\$ 450 million for Galápagos conservation over 20 years.
- Community Energy over Corporate Dominance: Prioritize decentralized energy models — community grids and microgrids — that empower communities, rather than simply replacing large fossil fuel corporations with large renewable energy corporations. A just transition must also democratize energy ownership and generation.
- From Tokenism to Meaningful Governance: Vulnerable groups, youth, people of African descent and traditional peoples and communities must have a seat at the governance tables of national transition roadmaps. The allocation of resources — national and international — must be conditioned on demonstrated authentic participation and decision-making power of these actors in the design, implementation and monitoring of roadmaps. These groups must have autonomy over a portion of the resources and veto power over decisions that affect them directly.
- Rights-Based Transition: The transition must be grounded in human rights, equity, inclusive participation and intergenerational justice. It must support energy and resource sovereignty, responsible sourcing, greater energy efficiency, and stronger protection of human and labor rights, with transparent supply chains.
- A transition that changes the energy matrix but maintains the extraction of critical minerals such as lithium and cobalt in territories of Indigenous Peoples and traditional communities without FPIC is fundamentally unjust.

- The energy transition is not just an environmental agenda, but an intergenerational ethical imperative. Different levels of dependence on fossil fuels and distinct socioeconomic contexts require transition strategies that respect national circumstances, without compromising the urgency of climate action.
- A Just Transition must serve poverty eradication and the promotion of shared prosperity — understood as forms of economic growth and social development that broadly benefit the population, and not only specific groups that concentrate wealth and power.

Roadmap 2: Halting and Reversing Deforestation by 2030

Puxirum do Bem Viver, as a member of organized civil society, proposes a holistic approach to forest protection, grounded in the understanding that effective forest protection can only be achieved by recognizing the intrinsic link between forests and other ecosystems, through the complex networks of interactions that form the biosphere as a single entity. The proposal is organized in three articulated targets:

Target 1: Promote Synergistic Multilateral Governance

- Strengthen strategic and operational convergence among the Rio Conventions (UNFCCC, UNCCD and CBD) and other Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) to overcome the fragmentation of global governance and optimize means of implementation, in full conformity with the different institutional speeds, capacities and sovereignties of each Party.
- Ensure the integrity of traditional territories and the protection of the knowledge, innovations and practices of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in all regions, using a rights-based approach and guaranteeing their Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC).
- Ensure the full, equitable and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples, local communities, people of African descent, women, youth and children, as well as research institutions, in decision-making processes — safeguarding the fundamental right to an ecologically balanced environment from an intergenerational perspective.
- Create incentive mechanisms that ensure priority access to means of implementation for Parties that demonstrate a high level of adherence and effective compliance with multiple MEAs.

Target 2: Holistic Ecosystem Restoration and Prevention of Maladaptation

- Ensure that restoration actions avoid the risk of maladaptation and negative impacts on local habitats, prioritizing ecological integrity, climate resilience and functional ecosystem connectivity, in conformity with the targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF).
- Ensure that restoration and reforestation interventions prioritize the use of native species culturally and ecologically appropriate to the local context, prohibiting the conversion of high-integrity natural ecosystems — whether forest or non-forest — into tree plantation monocultures.
- Promote the use of Nature-based Solutions (NbS) and/or ecosystem-based approaches grounded in the real functioning of local ecological networks and the cultural practices of the populations that depend on them.
- Target 2 promotes NbS to maximize financial efficiency and systemic resilience of territories, in line with the SDGs, the targets of the UN80 Initiative, IUCN standards, and the recommendations of the UNFCCC Standing Committee on Finance Forum on Financing for NbS.

Target 3: Hydrological Integrity for Forest Resilience

- Reaffirm the inseparable interdependence between the integrity of freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems and the maintenance of the ecological integrity of forests and other terrestrial biomes — recognizing that the loss of wetlands compromises the regulatory functions of water regimes vital to the survival of terrestrial flora and fauna.

- Foster the conservation and sustainable management of aquatic biodiversity as a central strategy for mitigating and adapting to climate change, ensuring resilience not only of human populations but also of adjacent terrestrial ecosystems.
- Ensure the implementation of integrated and participatory management plans that incorporate riparian and coastal zones as priority conservation areas, in conformity with the Ramsar Convention and the KMGBF.
- Encourage transboundary cooperation among Parties sharing the same river basins, ensuring access to water for all peoples and their diverse uses of water resources, aquatic biodiversity and ecosystem services.
- The proposal ensures alignment with the recent IPBES Thematic Assessment on the Interlinkages among Biodiversity, Water, Food and Health, the decisions of the Ramsar Convention, the UN Ocean Conference, and the Agreement on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdictions.

Priority Youth Recommendations to the COP30 Presidency

Based on the integrated analysis of the contributions received, youth formulate the following priority recommendations to the Brazilian COP30 Presidency:

1. Youth Leadership

Ensure formal and substantive non-tokenistic youth participation in all stages of the Roadmaps, including quotas in official delegations, seats in the governance mechanisms of climate funds, and veto power over decisions that directly affect youth and their communities. Institutionalize and finance the PYCC as a permanent mechanism.

2. Eliminate Fossil Fuel Subsidies and Create Just Climate Taxation

Publish a binding timeline for the phase-out of fossil fuel subsidies and tax incentives by 2030, redirecting resources to renewable energy, social protection, and just transition for youth and workers in fossil-dependent regions. Create a Global Carbon Tax with resources directed to the Loss and Damage Fund.

3. Concessional and Accessible Climate Finance

Lead the implementation of the Baku-Belém Roadmap to US\$ 1.3 trillion/year, with specific access windows for youth organizations, traditional communities and urban peripheries. Prioritize grants over loans and mechanisms of debt-for-nature swaps.

4. Differentiated Timelines with Equity

Establish differentiated fossil fuel phase-out targets aligned with CBDR-RC: developed countries (2035-2040) and Global South with a gradual timeline, technology transfer and technical support. Create reindustrialization plans for fossil-dependent regions focused on green jobs for youth.

5. Holistic Protection of Biomes and Forests

Announce a commitment to zero illegal deforestation before 2030, with leadership of territorial youth in monitoring and enforcement. Implement the three targets of Puxirum: synergistic multilateral governance, holistic restoration (prioritizing native species, with mandatory FPIC) and hydrological integrity as a pillar of forest resilience.

6. Rights of Indigenous Peoples and Traditional Communities

Create FPIC mechanisms developed by traditional communities themselves. Ensure that Indigenous, quilombola and peripheral youth have access to climate finance, with criteria adapted to grassroots organizations, and that their knowledge is recognized in bioeconomy policies.

7. Non-Proliferation Treaty and Climate Litigation

Establish a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty with formal monitoring. Support strategic climate litigation as a tool to transform diplomatic commitments into national legal obligations, inspired by the Escazú Agreement.

8. South-South Cooperation with Youth Leadership

Propose a South-South cooperation platform to share Brazilian experiences in territorial transition, extractive reserves, distributed energy cooperatives, agroecology and bioeconomy, and to receive storage technologies and circular design. Integrate young researchers into scientific exchanges.

Reference Documents

The following original submissions underpin this mapping document:

- Engajamundo Youth Association. Submission to the COP30 Presidency Roadmap on the Transition Away from Fossil Fuels in a Just, Orderly and Equitable Manner. Brazil, April 2026. Authors: Gianna Torres, Lorena Muniz, Luan Cazati, Lucas Soares, Thalia Silva and Vinycius Amaral.
- Coletivo Jovem pelo Meio Ambiente (CJ Brasil) and Rede de Juventude pelo Meio Ambiente e Sustentabilidade (REJUMA). Letter of Contribution — COP30 Presidency Roadmap on the Transition Away from Fossil Fuels in a Just, Orderly and Equitable Manner. Brazil, March 2026.
- COP30 Committee (Nossa Chance). Submission by COP30 Committee to the Roadmap for Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels in a Just, Orderly and Equitable Manner. Brazil, 2026.
- Puxirum do Bem Viver. Proposal for the COP 30 Presidency Roadmap for Halting and Reversing Deforestation and Forest Degradation by 2030. Brazil, 2026.

Official *submission* *process:*
<https://cop30.br/en/unfccc-announces-cop30-presidency-consultations-on-roadmaps>