Belém Mission to 1.5

Earth4All submission in response to the call of the COP29, COP30, and COP31 Presidencies

June 27, 2026

1. Executive summary

About Earth4All

Earth4All welcomes the invitation from the COP 29, 30 and 31 Presidencies to contribute to the Belém Mission to 1.5. Our submission sets out an integrated pathway to raise ambition, structured around the Presidencies' two core questions. We have chosen to focus our proposals on the higher-level systems change dimensions as opposed to technical solutions.

Earth4All is an international initiative that combines planetary-boundaries science with transformative economic thinking, new narratives and global policy outreach to drive systemic change toward a just and sustainable future. We explore solutions to the systemic crises the world faces by examining how environmental risks can be minimised while human wellbeing is maximised for the global majority throughout the 21st century.

We bring together economists, scientists and multidisciplinary thought leaders to accelerate the shift toward wellbeing and prosperity for all on a stable planet. Our work draws on economic-systems transformation, system-dynamics modelling, data-driven narrative framing, policy advocacy and citizen movement-building. Earth4All's work on economic systems reform focuses on fundamentally reorienting the global economy toward outcomes that serve people, planet and shared prosperity rather than short-term financial gains.

Economic systems change as the starting point

We assert that the central challenge for NDC 3.0 and NAP implementation is not a lack of climate-policy innovation, but the serious shortcomings of the financial, fiscal, monetary and corporate systems within which climate policy operates. Ambition cannot be achieved or elevated unless it is anchored in broader economic, financial and governance systems change. Yet current systems still channel capital toward short-term profit, fossil dependency and asset inflation instead of toward resilient communities, universal basic services and long-term ecological stability.

Earth4All's five turnarounds: a critical anchor for this submissioin

Earth4All's five turnarounds are a critical anchor for this submission because they define the minimum integrated conditions under which climate ambition and human wellbeing can both be secured in a world of tight planetary limits. Taken together, they form our "Giant Leap" framing, which offers a practical basis for strengthening NDCs and NAPs through justice-centred, system-wide transformation.

- **Poverty turnaround**: eradicating extreme poverty and ensuring income security for all, so households are no longer trapped in survival mode and can participate in, rather than be harmed by, climate transitions.
- **Inequality turnaround**: reducing extreme income and wealth concentration and strengthening fair distribution, because societies fractured by inequality cannot sustain the coalitions needed for bold climate policy.
- **Empowerment turnaround**: deepening democracy, gender equality and civic voice so that those most affected by climate impacts and economic restructuring hold real power in decisions about investment, policy and development pathways.
- **Food turnaround**: transforming food systems from extractive, fossil-dependent unsustainable agricultural models toward regenerative, food resilient systems that secure healthy diets, protect ecosystems and buffer communities from climate shocks.
- **Energy turnaround**: rapidly phasing out fossil fuels and building a clean, affordable and reliable energy system that underpins wellbeing economies and massively scales up the electrifrication of everything" as the primary engine of the energy turnaround. Electrification is not just a technology swap; it is the fastest way to eliminate fossil fuels and drastically reduce global energy waste.

Poverty eradication as the most effective climate policy

Our system-dynamics modelling shows that climate ambition will not succeed unless action on inequality and poverty advances at the same time. These are not parallel agendas; they are structurally interconnected, and failure to address them together will continue to weaken and undermine NDC and NAP implementation.

Earth4All's modelling and scenario work, presented in *Earth for All: A Survival Guide for Humanity*, our two flagship reports on SDG progress and our five national engagement reports, consistently shows that the most effective climate policy is poverty eradication. The modelling also demonstrates that ambitious climate outcomes depend on simultaneous progress across the five interconnected turnarounds: poverty, inequality, empowerment, food and energy.

Our submission therefore calls for a shift from siloed climate action to integrated economic-systems change. We identify priority action areas, finance and investment opportunities, key barriers, and options for stronger cooperation that can raise both ambition and delivery. While other submissions may focus mainly on technical options and solutions, we deliberately foreground the systems-change imperatives without which climate action will continue to miss the mark.

We note that whilst other submissions will have provided technical options and solutions, we have chosen to highlight the broader systems change imperatives, without which climate action will continue to miss the mark.

2. Earth4All key learnings for elevating climate ambition

Moving beyond extraction-based economic models

Economic systems change begins with recognising that the economy is embedded in social and ecological systems and must operate within planetary boundaries while upholding robust social foundations. This requires moving beyond extraction-based and colonial models toward regenerative and circular approaches that respect ecosystems, value care and centre the perspectives of Indigenous Peoples and the Global South.

In this paradigm, equity, equality and justice are core design principles, not add-ons. Those most affected by climate change, environmental degradation and austerity must be meaningfully involved in shaping policies and investments.

Measuring economic success through multidimensional wellbeing

Planetary boundaries define hard ecological limits to growth, making clear that material and energy throughput cannot rise indefinitely and that many ecosystem functions cannot simply be replaced by technology or human-made capital. Healthy ecosystems, a stable climate, biodiversity and functioning biogeochemical cycles are the foundation of human wellbeing.

Economic success must therefore be measured primarily through multidimensional wellbeing indicators, including life expectancy, income and wealth distribution, poverty, environmental quality and access to essential services, rather than treating GDP as the main proxy for progress. In the Beyond Growth framing, a safe and stable planet is not a constraint on prosperity but its core foundation. Climate policy should thus be treated not as a narrow environmental agenda, but as a wider economic-development strategy for building fairer and more secure societies.

The role of regenerative and circular economies

Within this framework, economies are intentionally designed to be regenerative and circular. They shift from “take–make–waste” models to systems that extend product lifetimes, reward repair and sharing, design out waste and regenerate soils, water and biodiversity. Properly implemented, regenerative and circular models can expand fiscal space, create quality employment and strengthen resilience while keeping activity within scientifically defined ecological limits.

What it takes to move beyond extraction-based systems

Moving beyond extraction-based capitalism and colonial mindsets means challenging structures that reproduce hierarchies rooted in colonial history, unequal trade, debt and investment patterns, and concentrated decision-making power, and affirming an economic order compatible with human rights, social justice and ecological sustainability.

Economic systems change also demands stronger democracy and social enfranchisement through participatory and deliberative processes that give real influence to workers, communities and civil-society organisations over budgets, investment and development pathways.

Freeing fiscal space for human wellbeing

Aligning the macroeconomic operating system with these aims through reforms in fiscal, monetary, trade, financial and intellectual-property regimes is indispensable to freeing fiscal space for universal social protection, quality public services and a just transition, while curbing short-termism and harmful rent-seeking.

Against this backdrop, it is clear that incremental and fragmented adjustments in economic, financial and political systems will not suffice. Transformational, interdisciplinary and complexity-aligned change pathways are needed to move from commitment to action and to elevate ambition and implementation of NDC 3.0 and NAPs.

3. Action areas and solutions with highest impact potential

Question 1(a): Priority action areas for NDC and NAP ambition and implementation

Earth4All maintains that four clusters: fiscal policy, monetary policy, corporate governance, and the social and solidarity economy provide the strongest foundation for catalysing economic systems change and delivering greater economic wellbeing on a stable planet. These are the structural levers for transforming outdated, extractive-based economic systems and the structural conditions under which NDC 3.0 ambition becomes credible.

Concrete policy proposals for each cluster were developed by Earth4All for the chapter on economic systems change in the UN‑backed *Roadmap for the Eradication of Poverty Beyond Growth*, led by UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights Olivier De Schutter. Our modelling and analysis confirm their mutually reinforcing character: each cluster amplifies the others, and none delivers in isolation.

We set out the clusters and map them to the specific demands of NDC 3.0 and National Adaptation Plans:

- Fiscal policy generates public revenue for the transition and aligns price signals with the carbon budget; without it, NDC ambition is unfunded.
- Monetary policy directs capital toward green industrial policy, adaptation infrastructure and the just transition; without it, private finance continues to over‑allocate to emitting assets.
- Corporate governance ends fossil‑incumbent lock‑in and the lobbying drag that has weakened every previous NDC cycle; without it, ambition is captured before implementation.
- The social and solidarity economy in service of community wellbeing provides the enabling environment for community‑led adaptation, just‑transition delivery and local resilience; without it, transitions remain top‑down and politically fragile.

Placing equity at the core of NDCs and NAPs

Traditional climate policy often treats climate change as an isolated environmental issue rather than a symptom of wider economic‑system failure. We argue that NDCs and NAPs should place social equity at their core, because public resistance rises when people face insecurity, exclusion or unfair distribution of transition costs. Integrating fairness directly into climate planning strengthens political feasibility and improves implementation.

We highlight three levers:

- Build NDCs and NAPs around an equity‑ambition loop, where reducing inequality lowers resistance to climate policy and enables stronger action.
- Ensure cross‑sectoral financial coherence so that climate plans are linked to fiscal, labour, industrial and macroeconomic policy rather than treated as stand‑alone environmental strategies.
- Use a Giant Leap investment lens that evaluates NDCs and NAPs not only by climate metrics but by their contribution to wellbeing, resilience and social stability in the face of future shocks.

Aligning decarbonisation with economic security

Earth4All emphasises that climate ambition must be connected to tangible improvements in people's lives. Policies that protect household incomes, create decent work and expand access to essential services are more durable politically and more effective in practice.

Priority approaches include:

- Fee-and-dividend carbon pricing, where carbon revenues are returned equally to citizens, protecting lower-income households and strengthening legitimacy.
- Just energy-transition funds financed through progressive taxation and wealth shifting, linking climate action to green jobs and domestic industrial renewal.
- Binding targets on materials use, throughput and waste, extending ambition beyond carbon accounting to support circular-economy transitions.

Anchoring climate resilience in equality

We maintain that genuine resilience cannot be built in deeply unequal societies. NAPs should therefore go beyond managing climate impacts and strengthen the social and economic foundations that enable communities to absorb shocks and recover fairly.

Priority actions include:

- Restructuring food systems toward regenerative agriculture, with support for local farmers and more resilient domestic supply chains.
- Ensuring gender-equal adaptation governance, including equitable access to land, finance and decision-making.
- Treating healthcare, education and energy access as core resilience measures, given that social protection increases adaptive capacity.

Reframing ambition around systems change

Earth4All's modelling suggests that credible ambition now means more than Paris-aligned emissions targets. But it requires integrated transformation across energy, food, inequality and governance systems. Climate ambition should therefore be assessed through a "safe and just" lens that combines planetary-boundaries science with equitable access to resources and opportunities.

Question 1(b): Finance, technology and investment opportunities

Question 1(b) asks what finance, technology, capacity-building and institutional opportunities can support NDC and NAP ambition and implementation. Earth4All's answer, developed in our Baku–Belém Roadmap submission and validated in our SDG reports and national engagements, rests on a simple throughline: finance must be redirected from extraction to wellbeing, from short-term return to long-horizon security, and from sovereign-debt accumulation to grant-based public investment.

We argue that the Bretton Woods institutions were designed for a world that no longer exists and are not fit for current climate and development risks; reform of the global financial architecture is therefore a condition for delivering NDC 3.0, not a secondary concern. Key propositions include:

- Linking investment to wellbeing outcomes, judging climate finance by its impact on resilience, equity and long-term prosperity rather than by capital volume alone.
- Moving MDB reform beyond incremental capital-adequacy tweaks to wholesale recapitalisation and mandate reform that prioritise climate, biodiversity and inequality reduction.
- Rebuilding IMF surveillance and conditionality around the recognition that austerity and rapid liberalisation foreclose public investment for adaptation and just transition.
- Strengthening regional-currency cooperation and monetary sovereignty so low- and middle-income countries can finance climate investment in domestic currency.
- Establishing a new global tax architecture under the UN Tax Convention to deliver progressive taxation of multinationals and high-net-worth individuals on inclusive terms.

5. Question 1(c): Key barriers to effective climate action

The most significant barriers are structural features of the political economy in which NDCs are negotiated, financed and implemented, rather than technical gaps. We highlight:

- Geopolitical fragmentation and a legitimacy crisis in climate negotiations, driven by unmet finance commitments, weak implementation, fossil lobbying and institutional designs that under-represent the Global South.
- Concentrated corporate and financial power, particularly among high-carbon and extractive actors, exercised through lobbying, regulatory capture, legal threats and narrative shaping.
- Path dependency in fossil infrastructure, with sunk costs, stranded-asset risk and workforce dependence creating powerful constituencies for delay.

- Sovereign debt overhang, which crowds out public investment in adaptation and transition and must be addressed through cancellation, SDR reallocation, conditionality reform and mandatory private‑creditor participation.
- Fragmented governance and policy incoherence, where ministries and institutions operate with different metrics and objectives, producing contradictions such as fossil subsidies alongside renewable targets.
- Narrative capture, in which GDP‑centred growth, austerity and narrow market‑led reform are treated as unavoidable, even as they fail to address inequality, ecological instability and political backlash.

6. Question 2: Options for strengthening cooperation

We maintain that cooperation must be reorganised around delivery rather than perpetual renegotiation, with the COP process and wider regime geared toward solving implementation problems and coordinating institutional reform. Cooperation should be organised around the five Giant Leap turnarounds—poverty, inequality, empowerment, food and energy—through integrated, justice‑centred action.

Core options include:

- Using the COP more strategically as a leaders' forum for implementation, benchmarking delivery, convening solution‑focused meetings and tracking finance and outcomes.
- Strengthening accountability and representation through enhanced reporting, peer review, independent scientific oversight, transparent finance tracking and meaningful participation by Indigenous Peoples, youth and climate‑vulnerable communities.
- Connecting climate cooperation directly to economic governance, aligning MDBs, the IMF, tax cooperation, debt reform and development institutions with NDC and NAP implementation.
- Building whole‑system cooperation platforms that bring parties, UN institutions, financial actors, scientists and communities together around common goals, shared evidence and coordinated reforms, treating climate cooperation as a lever for wider transformation toward wellbeing economies within planetary boundaries.

Earth4all publications in this submission

Earth for All: A Survival Guide for Humanity ; Executive summary, 2022

SDGS FOR ALL: STRATEGIC SCENARIOS EARTH4ALL SYSTEM DYNAMICS MODELLING OF SDG PROGRESS, 2023 ; SDGS FOR ALL: AFRICA , 2024

Earth4All: Brazil, Five turnarounds towards wellbeing for all within planetary boundaries, 2025

Earth4All: Argentina, Turnarounds towards wellbeing for all within planetary boundaries, 2026

Earth4All: Germany Towards a future for all, 2024

Earth4All: Kenya Five turnarounds towards wellbeing for all within planetary boundaries, 2024

Earth4All: Austria Five turnarounds towards wellbeing for all within planetary boundaries, 2024

Investing to reconnect financial value with people, nature, and the real economy, an interactive blueprint for capital markets actors, policy makers and regulators, 2025