

Submission to the Belém Mission to 1.5 on behalf of the MAXimum Ambition Coalition

About

This submission was developed on behalf of the [MAXimum Ambition Coalition](#) (MAX), an action-oriented alliance of Australia's leading industry, energy, finance, civil society and research organisations.

The submission was developed by the MAX secretariat, and while best endeavours have been made, does not necessarily represent the views of all members, either individually or collectively.

We welcome the opportunity to provide inputs to the Belém Mission to 1.5. This submission leverages our collective expertise across capital markets, heavy industry decarbonisation, energy systems, and international policy analysis to outline systemic solutions for strengthening Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs).

Question 1: Action areas and solutions with highest impact potential

A. Priority solutions and innovations (policy, technology, practices, and investments)

- **Science-based, 1.5°C-aligned and “investable” NDCs**

National commitments backed by rigorous, data-driven sectoral pathways provide a foundation for high-impact mitigation. Recent atmospheric modeling reveals a critical gap between political pledges and true alignment: even if all current NDCs and Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategies (LT-LEDS) are fully implemented without backsliding, the planet is still tracking toward a [best-estimate warming of 1.8°C to 2.2°C](#). While this is progress compared to historical trajectories, it highlights that fully executing existing pledges is only a baseline: we must work to implement those pledges and do more to actively close the emissions gap.

To maintain a viable pathway to 1.5°C and avoid catastrophic temperature overshoot, Parties must utilise the best available science, including rigorous climate and emissions data, to structure their 2035 NDCs around absolute, economy-wide emission reductions with clear interim and end-state targets. At the Party level, targets must be translated into explicit, data-driven “investable” national and sector roadmaps that clearly identify policy enablers and capital requirements.

- **Transitioning away from fossil fuels**

A rapid, orderly transition away from fossil fuels is the single highest-impact action area to keep 1.5°C within reach. It is critical that future and revised NDCs incorporate clear national roadmaps with phase-out timelines. This transparency is critical to safeguarding economic stability for Parties and their regional trading partners, and allows institutional investors to confidently reallocate capital toward regional clean energy networks and green supply chains. Unlocking this capital requires that governments lower market risk premiums by publishing granular, long-term climate data and asset closure timelines. Mandating transparent corporate transition plans ensures that financial actors can make forward-looking capital allocations based on empirical risk metrics rather than speculative projections.

- **Accelerating renewable energy & grid architecture**

NDC implementation requires prioritising institutional investment directly into transmission infrastructure, grid-scale storage, and large-scale renewable generation to establish a foundation for reliable, decarbonised energy.

- **Electrification, demand-side decarbonisation and energy efficiency**

To rapidly scale down reliance on fossil fuels, NDCs should explicitly elevate electrification, energy efficiency and demand-side management as immediate, low-cost options. As [electric](#)

[technologies across transport, buildings, and industry are on average three times more energy-efficient than traditional combustion-based alternatives](#), expanding their use inherently drives down total overall energy demand. With roughly [75% of the world's total energy demand able to be met with electricity](#), and [92% of nations possessing ten times more renewable potential than required to power their economies](#), electrification therefore provides the most affordable, efficient and secure economic strategy. Aligning national frameworks with the COP31 Global Electrification Target, including ambitious national targets for industrial and domestic electrification, in addition to renewable energy and energy efficiency, provides a pathway to bridge the current policy-to-implementation gap.

Rapid and cost-effective emissions reduction solutions can also be achieved by embedding strict energy efficiency mandates across industrial, commercial, and residential sectors. Utilising mature, commercially available technology solutions allows Parties to immediately insulate households and businesses from fossil fuel price volatility while alleviating structural pressure on electricity grids. Integrating smart energy grids with distributed renewable assets provides the stability required to accelerate grid decarbonisation.

- **Urgent methane mitigation and high-integrity empirical monitoring**

Methane is a highly potent, short-lived climate pollutant. As highlighted by both the [IPCC AR6](#) and [Global Methane Assessment](#), this makes the rapid reduction of methane emissions one of the single fastest, lowest-cost levers available to limit near-term temperature overshoot and avoid dangerous climate feedback loops. High-ambition NDCs must move beyond broad, process-driven emission factor estimates, which consistently underestimate fugitive emissions from fossil fuel extraction, and commit to national direct-measurement verification frameworks. Parties should explicitly incorporate binding energy-related methane reduction targets backed by modern atmospheric verification technologies, including satellite observations, flyovers, and continuous tower-based monitoring networks. Parties should also incorporate binding targets for other significant sources of methane, including waste and agriculture (livestock and food waste and loss), and policies to drive emissions reductions.

- **Decarbonising emissions-intensive export economies**

For emissions-intensive, export-oriented economies, the highest-impact structural shift is transitioning from exporting raw fossil fuels to low-emissions, green commodities. High-emitting export Parties possess an unprecedented economic opportunity to shift to exporting embedded green energy and materials, such as green iron and green metals, by processing raw materials directly at the source of renewable energy generation. Reducing fossil fuel reliance and decarbonising heavy industry requires closely integrating climate and trade policy. Governments must collaborate with trading partners on tailored green commodity transition plans, mutual green trade frameworks, and proactive climate diplomacy, facilitating the policy and regulatory environment to unlock cross-border capital for hard-to-abate sectors.

- **Collaboration between developed and developing countries**

True alignment with a 1.5°C pathway requires a fundamental shift from transactional climate assistance to deep, structural partnerships. Collaboration between developed and developing countries must be built on the principle of shared value and mutual responsibility. Such partnerships to share value and responsibility would deepen the ability and good faith in the system, and can be a powerful way to address the challenges of the transition. Examples of such cooperation should be incentivised and facilitated as best case examples for implementation, while also building trust across Parties.

- **Integrating ocean-based mitigation into core economic, transboundary ocean governance and NDC pathways**

Restricting mitigation strategies to terrestrial pathways overlooks the critical role of the

global ocean, which [absorbs roughly 30% of anthropogenic carbon dioxide and around 90% of excess heat](#). To align national commitments with 1.5°C pathways, high-ambition 2035 NDCs should explicitly integrate ocean-based mitigation and resilience, including coastal blue carbon, offshore renewable energy, port and fuel infrastructure, and domestic measures that support the decarbonisation of maritime supply chains. This should complement, not duplicate, the IMO Net-Zero Framework by helping create the enabling conditions for clean fuels, green shipping corridors and equitable implementation of a global shipping emissions regime.

B. Finance, technology, capacity building, and institutional opportunities

- **Harmonising sustainable finance architecture:**

Mobilising private capital at scale requires global alignment of sustainable finance architectures. A foundational institutional opportunity lies in the international harmonisation of green and blue finance frameworks. Standardising sustainable finance taxonomies and mandating transparent corporate climate risk disclosures will enable seamless cross-border capital flows and unlock deep institutional investment. Crucially, sustainable finance agendas must move toward international interoperability of taxonomies and mutual recognition agreements (e.g. Australia's deployment of Mandatory Climate Related Financial Disclosure that relies on the internationally accepted IFRS/ISSB framework). This reduces transaction costs for global asset managers and unlocks targeted capital for hard-to-abate sectors, including green mining and materials processing.

- **Strategically deployed public and blended finance**

Public finance should be intentionally structured to "crowd in" institutional private investment to bridge the funding gap for both mitigation and adaptation measures. This includes utilising sovereign green bonds, first-loss guarantees, dedicated blended finance platforms and concessional finance structures to de-risk major renewable generation, transmission infrastructure, and regional adaptation efforts. Governments must design specific catalytic blended finance mechanisms capable of de-risking regional clean energy, resilience, and green manufacturing projects that face high initial risk premiums, thereby clearing a pathway for large-scale institutional private capital.

- **Coordinating regional adaptation finance**

Systemic institutional opportunities are required to coordinate adaptation finance. Developing localised adaptation toolkits and standardised risk metrics will allow institutional investors to confidently allocate capital toward resilient infrastructure pipelines.

- **Institutional alignment and inter-ministerial ownership**

Implementation failures often stem from climate policies being isolated within environment ministries. Instituting inter-ministerial taskforces (uniting finance, treasury, industry, and energy ministries) to treat NDCs and NAPs as core national economic development strategies can help to overcome this, as policy certainty around climate action plans is crucial for maintaining investor confidence.

C. The most significant barriers

- **The capital allocation disconnect**

Despite deep global capital pools, traditional risk-assessment frameworks and high costs of capital create severe barriers to deploying private investment into early-stage green industries and regional adaptation projects. This is exacerbated by a lack of granular data, inconsistent global standards for transition finance, and fragmented definitions of what constitutes a credible transition path in heavy industry.

- **Demand uncertainty in green export markets**
Industrial transitions remain stalled due to a lack of clear demand-side policy signals and long-term purchasing commitments from major global trading partners. The lack of reliable, large-scale green offtake arrangements and robust market mechanisms prevents heavy industries from making multi-billion-dollar final investment decisions on green commodity processing plants.
- **The methane measurement and inventory gap**
Independent atmospheric measurements and satellite data reveal that actual methane emissions from fossil fuel operations are considerably higher than what is officially captured in national process-based inventories. This under-reporting creates a dangerous policy blind spot and a market failure, masking low-cost abatement opportunities and preventing corporate operators from allocating capital toward capturing and processing fugitive emissions.

Question 2: Strengthening international cooperation to enhance ambition and implementation

To deliver an ambitious global action agenda and meaningful outcomes under the Paris Agreement, international cooperation must transition from voluntary diplomatic alignments into binding, market-driven frameworks on trade, climate finance and cross-border engagement.

- **Global investor-to-government policy dialogues**
To bridge the gap between global capital and local project pipelines, international cooperation frameworks can integrate institutional investor coalitions into global climate strategy planning. This ensures that the structures of NDCs and NAPs match the underwriting criteria of large-scale private capital.
- **Regional green value chains**
Cooperation should look beyond domestic borders to build regional decarbonisation networks. Developed Parties with high renewable generation potential can serve as strategic green commodity partners for industrial economies, unlocking cross-border investments that lower global abatement costs.
- **Establishing bilateral and regional joint transition plans to facilitate trade and economic development**
High-level diplomacy should be translated into technical, cross-border reality by establishing Joint Transition Plans between major trading partners. These agreements must align the import-export targets of major economic blocks with robust data and analysis, ensuring that international supply chains shift in lockstep toward a 1.5°C pathway. These plans must be underpinned by a rigorous shared evidence base and deployment metrics out to 2035, ensuring that the heavy industry and energy import requirements of major purchasing economies match the green commodity export capacities of their suppliers.
- **Progressing pluri-lateral trade and carbon accounting frameworks**
Development of "coalitions of the willing" can drive progress on pluri-lateral trade agreements that lower trade barriers for green-listed goods and establish standardised global green rules. This cooperation should constructively align carbon accounting mechanisms so they incentivise decarbonisation without creating punitive trade friction for developing economies. International cooperation should explicitly focus on developing regional green trade frameworks and "climate clubs" among aligned Parties to generate predictable demand and share the cross-border economic upside of the green commodity transition.

- **Leveraging pluri-lateral "coalitions of the willing" to bypass negotiation bottlenecks**
 While consensus-based global negotiations are vital, pluri-lateral "coalitions of the willing" can also serve as critical engines of immediate, high-impact implementation. When ambitious nations unite outside formal gridlocks to coordinate (e.g. on fossil fuel phase out, green trade rules, standardise carbon accounting, or commit to mutual green commodity purchasing), they create powerful market forces. By moving ahead of global consensus, these coalitions demonstrate that a 1.5°C transition is economically viable, paving a clear pathway for the rest of the world to follow.
- **Harmonised regional standards for clean energy trade**
 Establishing clear, transparent, and internationally recognised certification standards for green energy commodities is critical to building liquid, reliable global markets that underpin high-ambition NDCs.
- **Setting ambitious, targeted climate finance goals to mobilise investment**
 Parties must cooperate to establish a strong global climate finance target for 2030 that actively mobilises private institutional investment. Developed Parties must execute a multi-tiered strategy: providing predictable, ongoing bilateral support for developing Parties to address resilience and loss and damage, while simultaneously ramping up targeted capital to drive clean industrial growth.
- **Amplifying troika and presidency collaboration across regional jurisdictions**
 The unprecedented collaboration between the COP Presidencies, particularly the coordination between Türkiye, Australia, Brazil, Azerbaijan, and their close partnership with Pacific Island nations, represents a powerful blueprint for international cooperation. This model bridges the gap between major energy-exporting economies and the urgent adaptation realities of vulnerable regions. Exploring mechanisms to institutionalise and scale this presidency-level collaboration across other regional jurisdictions will be highly valuable. Translating high-level diplomatic alignment into joint, technical transition platforms can ensure that the capital, infrastructure and other resources required to implement ambitious NDCs and NAPs are delivered in lockstep with regional needs.
- **Drive maritime ambition**
 International shipping is a critical, trade-exposed sector where decarbonisation is essential for a 1.5°C pathway. Progress on this issue is at risk while the IMO Net-Zero Framework remains politically contested, however, with concerns about costs, fuel availability, trade impacts and fairness creating pressure for delay or dilution. Resolving the contested sectoral negotiation into a practical implementation agenda, connecting climate ambition with clean fuels, green trade, port readiness, industrial opportunity and support for vulnerable countries is essential to address this. Identifying clean shipping, clean fuels and resilient trade as priority action areas and setting a global fuel standard would send a meaningful economic signal, while building the partnerships, finance, green corridors and implementation confidence needed to land and deliver the framework.
- **Transboundary ocean-climate frameworks and regional blue carbon networks**
 Because marine ecosystems and maritime supply chains are inherently transboundary, international cooperation should transition from localised projects into regional structural partnerships. Parties should actively collaborate to establish harmonised regional blue carbon measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) standards, joint marine spatial planning across shared waters, and bilateral green shipping corridors. In addition, formalising coalitions of coastal states for blue carbon trade would ensure that developing coastal Parties and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) can access global capital markets, transforming NDC implementation into shared regional economic opportunities.