

# WILPF Submission to the Belém Mission to 1.5

## Practical Recommendations for Strengthening the Implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions and National Adaptation Plans

### Introduction

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) welcomes the Belém Mission to 1.5 and its focus on accelerating implementation of the Paris Agreement and the outcomes of the first Global Stocktake (GST1).

Our organisation works on the intersections of peace, gender and climate justice. Through our work with communities affected by climate change, conflict, environmental degradation or disasters, we have observed the challenges that continue to prevent effective implementation of climate action.

In our experience, many of the solutions needed to address the climate crisis already exist. The challenge is creating the political, financial and institutional conditions that allow these solutions to be implemented at the scale and speed required.

This submission focuses on two implementation issues that we believe deserve greater attention: improving transparency by accounting for military greenhouse gas emissions, and aligning public investment with climate objectives.

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## High-impact action areas and solutions

### 1. Improve transparency and accountability

Effective implementation requires accurate information. Countries cannot develop credible mitigation pathways if significant sources of greenhouse gas emissions remain outside national climate planning and reporting.

Research by the Conflict and Environment Observatory (CEOBS) and Scientists for Global Responsibility (SGR) estimates that military-related activities account for approximately **5.5% of global greenhouse gas emissions**, more than the continent of Africa, making them one

of the world's largest institutional sources of emissions. Yet military emissions continue to be inconsistently reported and are often absent from national greenhouse gas inventories.

Improving transparency would strengthen implementation by enabling more comprehensive mitigation planning, supporting evidence-based policymaking and improving accountability under the Paris Agreement's Enhanced Transparency Framework.

**We encourage the Belém Mission to support:**

- improved reporting of military greenhouse gas emissions;
  - internationally consistent methodologies for estimating military emissions;
  - greater scientific cooperation and data sharing; and
  - the inclusion of military emissions within national climate planning.
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## 2. Align public investment with climate objectives

Implementing ambitious NDCs and National Adaptation Plans requires adequate, predictable and accessible finance. While climate finance remains insufficient, global military expenditure reached a record **US\$2.887 trillion in 2025**, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).

Rising military expenditure has implications for both climate finance and climate mitigation. Increased spending can expand military infrastructure, procurement, operations, exercises and supply chains, all of which are associated with greenhouse gas emissions. Military expenditure therefore represents not only an opportunity cost for climate finance but, unless military emissions are transparently reported and reduced, can also contribute to higher emissions.

The implementation gap is therefore not only a question of mobilising additional resources. It is also a question of how public resources are prioritised.

The United Nations Secretary-General's report *The Security We Need: Rebalancing Military Spending for a Sustainable and Peaceful Future* highlights the opportunity costs of rising military expenditure and calls for greater investment in sustainable development and human security. Analysis by **Transform Defence** also highlights how significant increases in defence spending commitments may place additional pressure on public finances and investment in climate action. Similarly, *The Double Dividend: How Reducing Military Spending Can Finance a Just Transition* explores how modest shifts in public investment priorities could help finance climate action while strengthening resilience.

**We encourage the Belém Mission to support:**

- increased investment in mitigation, adaptation, disaster risk reduction and Loss and Damage;
- improved access to climate finance for local communities;
- consideration of the climate, emissions and sustainable development implications of rising military expenditure; and

- public investment that is aligned with climate objectives and long-term resilience.
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## Strengthening international cooperation

International cooperation is essential for implementing ambitious NDCs and National Adaptation Plans.

This includes:

- strengthening scientific cooperation on military emissions reporting;
  - improving access to climate finance and capacity building;
  - supporting locally led adaptation and resilience;
  - promoting knowledge exchange between governments, researchers and civil society; and
  - ensuring the meaningful participation of affected communities in climate decision-making.
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## Conclusion

The Belém Mission provides an opportunity to identify practical actions that can accelerate implementation of the Paris Agreement.

Improving transparency, aligning public investment with climate objectives and strengthening international cooperation would make a meaningful contribution to implementing ambitious NDCs and National Adaptation Plans while advancing sustainable development and climate resilience.

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