

CALL FOR INPUTS FOR THE BELÉM MISSION TO 1.5

Submission from Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) Germany

Pursuant to the Global Mutirão Decision and the establishment of the Belém Mission to 1.5, aimed at enabling ambition and implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), to reflect on accelerating implementation, international cooperation and investment, WILPF Germany is pleased to provide the following submission to inform discussions and jointly shape the Belém Mission to 1.5.:

(1) What is required to enhance ambition and enable the effective implementation of NDCs and NAPs?

WILPF Germany recalls President Lula's introduction to COP30:

„Strategic rivalries and armed conflicts divert attention und drain the resources that should be channelled to confronting global warming. Climate change is the result of the same dynamics that over centuries have fractured our societies between rich and poor and split the world between developing and developed countries. It will be impossible to contain it without overcoming inequalities within and between nations.”

WILPF Germany encourages

1 Mandatory inclusion of military emissions in the national reporting and The inclusion of military emissions within national climate planning.

Improving transparency strengthens the implementation of the Belém Mission to 1.5 by improving accountability under the Paris Agreement's Enhanced Transparency Framework, it supports evidence-based policymaking in all aspects of mitigation, adaptation and loss&damage.

2 Move the money! From spending less and less on the military and wars to more and more in mitigation, adaptation and loss&damage.

Money invested into causes of conflict (such as climate disasters or injustice) prevents spiralling climate catastrophes and armed solutions. Finance must be public and grant-based so that no private (profit) interest diverts attention from focussing on the recovery of nature/natural resources and comply with human rights.

3 Stop the wars!

Consider the impact of war emissions when deciding final COP documents:

Fossil fuels fuel wars. And vice versa, wars are fought for gaining control of fossil fuel sources and transport corridors. Therefore:

4 Stop fossil fuels now!

Decide on a time-bound, binding, globally coordinated phaseout of coal, oil, and gas.

Last but not least

Support women, indigenous people and local communities in decision-making and by entrusting them with the necessary public grant-based money.

They are knowledge and rightsholders. They have preserved the earth and nature until today, are often affected the worst by climate catastrophes and armed conflict. They ARE already doing their very best to cope with the grievances and could do better if the Belem Action Mechanism towards a JUST climate change would be implemented.

Many women bear life, nourish life and preserve life through their care-work. Entrust them with opportunities to take the survival of humanity and our planet in their hands.

(2) Why do we see these requirements?

What action areas and solutions have the highest impact potential to support the submission, ambition and implementation of NDCs and NAPs?

From a WILPF Germany perspective, the highest impact action areas and solutions are:

A) the portion of **military-related activities** in global greenhouse gas emissions = **5.5 %**

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 all countries of the continent of Africa together. If the world's militaries were a country, it would have the fourth highest carbon footprint, after China, the USA and India. (<https://ceobs.org/estimating-the-militarys-global-greenhouse-gas-emissions/>).

B) the **continuation of wars** that cause further immense CO2 emissions.

Examples:

A team of UK and US based researchers found out: Emissions from the approximately 15-months of the **Gaza war** (October 2023 – January 2025), construction and fortification activities, and emissions from future reconstruction. We estimate the total carbon emissions due to direct war activities to be 1,898,330.9 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO2e). This figure rises to 32,275,089 tCO2e when pre-conflict and post-conflict related construction activities are included. This final figure ranks higher than 102 individual countries' annual emissions, highlighting the significant carbon footprint of arisings from armed conflict. (https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=5274707).

Russia's full-scale **invasion of Ukraine** drove greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) up by 75 million tonnes of CO2 equivalent (tCO2e) in the war's fourth year, bringing the total since 24

February 2022 to 311 million tCO₂e. This large figure is comparable to the annual emissions of France or half of Germany's yearly emissions. (https://en.ecoaction.org.ua/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Climate-Damage-Caused-by-War-48-months_ENs.pdf).

2024 marked a **historic peak in state-based conflicts**, with 61 active conflicts across 36 countries – the highest number recorded since 1946. (<https://www.prio.org/publications/14453>).

C) Global **military expenditure** reached a record US\$ 2.887 trillion in 2025, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) (<https://www.sipri.org/media/press-release/2026/global-military-spending-rise-continues-european-and-asian-expenditures-surge>).

At the 2025 NATO Summit in The Hague, Allies committed to investing 5% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in defence. (<https://www.nato.int/en/what-we-do/introduction-to-nato/defence-expenditures-and-natos-5-commitment>).

Higher expenditure means more military, means more CO₂ emissions. If applied in further wars it means more destruction and even more emissions. This is also money that is NOT spent on climate mitigation, adaption and loss&damage, on reaching the Sustainable Development Goals 2030 (SDGs).

D) Research shows the Middle East and North Africa region (MENA) is **warming 1.5 to 3.5 times faster** than the global average, **armed conflicts add** to this acceleration.

Some sub-regions like the Arabian Peninsula experience temperature increases up to triple the global rate. Climate models indicate that parts of MENA will reach 3° – 4° C of warming decades earlier than most of the world. (<https://www.preventionweb.net/news/staggering-temperature-rise-predicted-middle-east-and-north-africa>).

Climate change drives conflicts and violent solutions (e.g. proved in the case of the war in Syria (2011-24)). The application of arms drives carbon missions and adds to the warming of a region more sensitive already by nature.

About one third of all wars since 1945 have occurred in West Asia, their duration being exceptional (e.g. occupation of Palestinian territories), (e.g. Lebanon civil war 1978-90, war 1982 ff., 2006, 2024 ff.)

E) Military activities, in particular wars, **impact reproductive health** and thus the survival of humanity.

Research linking perinatal death (PD) or birth defects (BD) to wartime: A total of 50 papers treating 8 countries and 4 major and medically documented conflicts were included in the final analysis. An increase in BD and PD during and after the end of the conflicts was reported through all the conflicts analyzed. <https://karger.com/fdt/article/51/6/559/910677/Pregnancy-in-Times-of-War-What-Are-the-Fallouts-A>



Examples:

By late 2024, women in Gaza were three times more likely to die in childbirth and three times more likely to miscarry compared with pre-war levels, while newborn deaths also increased, OHCHR reported. (<https://www.ungeneva.org/en/news-media/news/2025/12/113879/gazas-maternal-and-newborn-health-system-decimated-un-warns>).

The US Department of Veterans Affairs presumes that certain birth defects in biological children of women Vietnam Veterans were caused by military service when the birth mother served in Vietnam between February 28, 1961 and May 7, 1975. These diseases are not tied to herbicides, including Agent Orange, or dioxin exposure, but rather to the birth mother's service in Vietnam. (<https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/birth-defects/children-women-vietnam-vets.asp>).