
Open Letter to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, Ed Miliband

COP30: The UK must support an ambitious outcome on just transition

Dear Secretary of State,

We write as UK trade unions, climate justice groups, and civil society organisations to urge the UK government to champion a groundbreaking outcome to advance just transition at the UN climate talks, and back the establishment of a **Belém Action Mechanism**¹ at COP30 in Brazil this November. You have stated clearly that this government's climate mission is about better lives for everyone. We are calling for this mechanism as a way to do just that: to embed fairness and a focus on better lives for everyone, in international action as well as in the UK.

The climate crisis is reshaping economies and societies. Oil refineries, coal-powered steel mills, farming and food systems and other high-carbon industries are closing or undergoing profound change, yet too often these transitions are unjust -deepening inequality, excluding workers and communities, and undermining rights. A just transition means the opposite: protecting livelihoods, creating decent work, upholding human rights—including labour, women's and LGBTQIA+, youth and Indigenous Peoples' rights—reducing social and economic inequalities, and ensuring dignity for all within planetary boundaries.² This is as true for communities here in the UK as it is globally, since the transition is a shared global project that must deliver fairness for all.³

The UNFCCC's **Just Transition Work Programme** offers a vital route to make the vision of fair, rights-based global climate action real, and COP30 in Belém presents a unique opportunity to move beyond negotiations and rhetoric to deliver a concrete outcome that will:

- Advance international co-operation by providing the **technical and financial support** necessary for countries and communities to undertake ambitious climate action in line with science.
- Guarantee **meaningful participation** of workers, communities, Indigenous Peoples, women, youth and other affected groups. The people most affected must be at the heart of climate action to deliver fair outcomes and better lives.
- Make climate action **fair** by protecting people's **rights**.

This benefits the UK by catalysing more of the global climate action we need to thrive at home and ensure our communities experience the full benefits of the transition, while at the same time ensuring workers and producers in the UK and around the world are not left behind, but have access to high quality jobs across all sectors of flourishing economies. The Belém Action Mechanism would enable just transition to move from concept to reality across a wide variety of contexts and sectors (steel, energy, agriculture etc.), and catalyse great uptake around the world through knowledge-sharing, institutionalising people's participation, avoiding duplication, and driving investment.

COP30 is the opportunity to make this a reality, with the Brazilian Presidency calling for a demonstration of ambition this year in the Just Transition Work Programme, to agree on the scope and focus for this “dynamic concept of paramount relevance to people's real lives”.⁴ There is growing momentum behind this proposal from countries, trade unions, youth groups, feminist and disability movements, Indigenous Peoples' representatives, and climate justice organisations globally.⁵

1. See here for a more detailed overview of what the Mechanism could look like. This is jointly endorsed by a broad coalition of recognised rights-holder UNFCCC constituencies [WGC_CAN_DCJ_YOUNGO_TUNGO_Proposal_GlobalMechanism_Jun2025.pdf](#)

2. See, for instance: <https://waronwant.org/resources/briefing-global-green-new-deal>

3. <https://policy-practice.oxfam.org/resources/fair-fast-funded-and-feminist-a-pathway-to-a-just-and-transformative-climate-tr-621670/>

4. <https://cop30.br/en/brazilian-presidency/letters-from-the-presidency/third-letter-from-the-presidency>

5. <https://www.jetknowledge.org/news/just-transition-rising-the-grassroots-movement-driving-climate-action/> and <https://www.commondreams.org/news/draw-the-line-climate-protests#:~:text=%22United%20under%20a%20call%20from,Line%20said%20in%20a%20statement.>

At COP29, you said: “the risk is we move from an unfair, unjust high-carbon world to an unfair, unjust net-zero world” and that the UK is “determined to play our part internationally”.⁶ We agree and urge you to stand with those seeking to put better lives for everyone at the heart of international climate action through the establishment of the Belém Action Mechanism at COP30.

We therefore call on you to **publicly call for the establishment of a Belém Action Mechanism at COP30** and for the UK to work constructively towards a strong, inclusive, and well-resourced outcome that includes ensuring the active and equal participation of rights holders in decision-making.

COP30 offers a decisive moment to back the **Belém Action Mechanism** and put people and better lives at the heart of UK and international climate action. The world will be watching.

Yours sincerely,



6. <https://unfccc.int/event/second-annual-high-level-ministerial-round-table-on-just-transition-mandated-event>