

The United Nations Secretary-General's
Climate Action Acceleration Agenda

ROADMAP FOR A LIVABLE PLANET



WHAT?

The Acceleration Agenda sets out the actions that are needed this year from government, business and finance leaders to prevent crossing dangerous climate thresholds and to deliver justice for those on the frontlines of the climate crisis.

Global efforts are far off-track to limit global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius and to protect people from the ever-growing impacts of the climate crisis. We must therefore accelerate climate action and ambition, particularly through international cooperation and collaboration. We all must speed up and scale up to become part of the solution. The climate emergency is a global crisis that requires a global response.

The United Nations Secretary-General's Acceleration Agenda spells out **the actions needed from government, business and finance leaders** to accelerate their efforts to deeply cut emissions and deliver climate justice to protect lives and livelihoods.

CUT EMISSIONS

1 Bring forward net-zero deadlines as close as possible to:
Developed countries → 2040
Emerging economies → 2050

2 Prepare updated Nationally Determined Contributions (national climate action plans) to be presented in 2025 that, at least for G20 countries, are economy-wide, present absolute emissions cuts and cover all gases.

3 Present energy transition plans which include tangible actions to ensure net-zero electricity generation:
Developed countries → 2035
Rest of the world → 2040

Tangible actions must include:

- ▶ No new coal now and coal phase-out:
OECD countries → 2030
Rest of the world → 2040
- ▶ Shift fossil fuel subsidies to renewables.
- ▶ End all licensing and funding (public and private) of new coal, oil and gas.
- ▶ End expansion of existing oil and gas reserves.

4 Speed up decarbonization of high-emitting sectors like shipping, aviation, steel, cement, agriculture, aluminum.

DELIVER CLIMATE JUSTICE

- 1 Protect all people from climate disasters with early warning systems by 2027.**
- 2 Present economy-wide adaptation investment plans for climate-resilient development.**
- 3 Double adaptation finance by 2025, working towards half of climate finance flowing to adaptation.**
- 4 Make good on the US\$100 billion annual promise to developing countries.**
- 5 Reform the international financial architecture so developing countries have the support to turbocharge their climate ambitions and build resilience.**
- 6 Deliver a record replenishment of the Green Climate Fund.**
- 7 Operationalize the new loss and damage fund this year.**

WHY?

Half of the world's population is already living in climate danger zones, and those in climate hotspots are 15 times more likely to die from climate impacts. Close to 70% of all deaths from climate-related disasters in the last 50 years have occurred in the 46 least developed countries, but no person and no country is immune from the climate crisis.

On our current course, we are headed for levels that will destroy countries and economies, and even threaten human survival itself. By limiting temperature rise to no more than 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and providing the means to adapt and protect, we can avoid the worst climate impacts and maintain a livable planet.

The Synthesis Report for the 6th Assessment Report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) – the definitive analysis from the world's top scientists – shows the devastating impacts the climate crisis is already having now, and how woefully insufficient the efforts of governments and industries have been so far, but also gives us cause for hope:

- ▶▶ **THE WORLD STILL HAS A NARROW WINDOW** to avoid dangerous tipping points and secure a livable planet, today and for generations to come.
- ▶▶ **DEEP, RAPID AND SUSTAINED EMISSIONS CUTS** and accelerated implementation of adaptation actions in this decade would reduce projected losses and damages for humans and ecosystems.
- ▶▶ **THE TOOLS TO ADDRESS THE CLIMATE CRISIS ALREADY EXIST.** We have the knowledge, financial tools and technology to cut carbon pollution and protect lives and livelihoods.

WHEN?

The Secretary-General's Climate Ambition Summit on 20 September 2023 will be a global moment for “first movers and doers” to showcase 1) concrete, credible, ambitious and new actions to ambitiously move forward across elements of the Acceleration Agenda and 2) partnerships and concrete solutions that demonstrate that only unprecedented levels of cooperation will deliver on our collective goals.

The Summit is designed around three distinct but interrelated tracks: ambition, credibility and implementation. It aims to show progress in each.

- ▶▶ **Ambition:** The ambition track is aimed at governments, especially major emitters. They are asked to respond to the Secretary-General's Acceleration Agenda by announcing concrete actions and proposals on emissions cuts and climate justice.
- ▶▶ **Credibility:** The credibility track is mostly aimed at leaders of businesses, cities, regions and financial institutions. They are asked to present plans to transition to net-zero emissions with credible targets including a 50% reduction by 2030 and net zero by 2050 or sooner and sustained thereafter. These targets must be backed by concrete transition plans showing how much emissions will be cut by 2025, 2030 and 2035. Pledges and transition plans must meet the UN-backed 1.5°C -aligned net-zero credibility standard set out by the Secretary-General's High-Level Expert Group in its “Integrity Matters” report.
- ▶▶ **Implementation:** The implementation track will showcase partnerships – both existing and emerging – that either accelerate decarbonization in high-emitting sectors, such as energy or shipping, or deliver progress on climate justice in areas such as early warning systems and adaptation financing.



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