

# NCQG at COP29: Global North Disregarding Responsibilities and Deepening Divisions





### What is the "NCQG"

The New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) on climate finance, a key component of the Paris Agreement, was designed to provide developing countries with the financial support they need for climate action post 2025 as a part of the Paris Agreement. The Parties agreed in 2021 that the objective of the NCQG is to help accelerate progress toward achieving the goals outlined in Article 2 of the Paris Agreement. This includes limiting the global average temperature increase to 1.5°C. Achieving these targets would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change, enhance the capacity to adapt to its adverse effects, and promote climate resilience and achieve climate justice. Additionally, it aims to support low emission economies without compromising food production and ensure that financial flows align with a path toward low-emission and climate-resilient development<sup>1</sup>. Designed to rectify the failure of the 2009 \$100 billion annual goal, which fell short in both scale and speed<sup>2</sup>, the NCQG should seek to meet the estimated \$5-\$6.9 trillion required for climate mitigation and adaptation in developing nations<sup>3</sup>. Ultimately, its success depends on establishing an effective system for mobilizing and distributing public funds, in addition to holding developed countries accountable for their financial obligations. It aims to close persistent gaps in climate finance by offering a more ambitious framework and addressing issues of finance quality and accessibility.

At COP29, debates over the scope of the NCQG persisted, with vehement discussions on who should contribute, how funds would be distributed, and how they would be accessed. While civil society called for the streamlining of climate finance and addressing long-standing inequities, the negotiations were repeatedly hindered<sup>4</sup>.

## **Quantum and Contributions**

COP29's first week highlighted the severity of disagreement between developed and developing countries on climate finance, with little progress on the crucial financial commitments needed to combat climate change<sup>5</sup>. With the clock ticking, the repeated failure to reach a consensus jeopardizes the future of global climate mitigation, adaptation and pushes developing nations and frontline communities in an even graver danger. A major point of contention was the lack of a clear financial commitment from wealthy nations, which is essential for advancing broader climate action. Civil society urgently called for a breakthrough, emphasizing the need for strong political signals, particularly from the G20 summit in Brazil, to resolve the deadlock. The G20's leadership was seen as crucial, as their financial pledges would determine whether COP29 could make meaningful progress. However, the G20 Summit in Rio de Janeiro produced a weak text with minimal reference to

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Paris Agreement (2021). Available at: https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement <sup>2</sup> Abnett, K. (2022) Rich countries failed to meet their climate funding goal | reuters. Available at: https://www.reuters.com/business/environment/rich-countries-failed-meet-their-climate-funding-goal-2 022-07-29/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Hussin, D. and Nguyen, C. (2024) Climate 101: NCQG, the key climate goal behind the acronym, RMI. Available at: https://rmi.org/climate-101-ncqg-the-key-climate-goal-behind-the-acronym/

<sup>4</sup> Worth, K. (2024) 'cut the theatrics': Un climate chief tells cop29 negotiators to focus on solutions as talks enter final Week | UN news, United Nations. Available at: https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/11/1157106

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Four takeaways from cop 29 Week one (2024) The Climate Reality Project. Available at: https://www.climaterealityproject.org/blog/four-takeaways-cop-29-week-one



climate finance. While it called for scaling up finance from billions to trillions, the text also included vague language about "all sources," which suggested a request for contributions from developing countries, and included an endorsement of private finance.

The previous climate finance target of US\$100 billion was not met, but the financing which did occur was largely through loans<sup>8</sup>. Debt-creating finance is critiqued for its lack of consideration of historical responsibility and its results in the form of financial burden in countries that are often bearing the brunt of climate catastrophes<sup>9</sup>. Public spending, including spending on mitigation, adaptation, and loss and damage is usually forsaken in public budgets in lieu of debt repayment. Using debt-creating finance doesn't remedy lack of climate finance nor does it advance the climate agenda in local contexts.

During the negotiations, developing countries strongly opposed proposals to include them as contributors to climate finance under the NCQG<sup>10</sup>. They stressed that the Paris Agreement clearly mandates that financial support must flow from developed to developing nations, and this obligation cannot be renegotiated<sup>11</sup>. Negotiators from the Like-Minded Developing Countries (LMDC) expressed frustration with the push to expand the contributor base, warning that such a shift would be a "red line" they would not accept<sup>12</sup>. Additionally, they criticized the proposed \$200-300 billion quantum for the NCQG, deeming it inadequate to address the climate challenges faced by developing nations<sup>13</sup>, and expressing concern over inflation and other economic challenges occurring globally and in developing countries which might affect the value of financing as is promised now. They accused wealthy countries of evading their financial commitments, which have remained unmet since 2009.

# **Access and Implementation**

Despite the critical nature of climate finance to developing countries, access to funds remained a major issue. Many developing nations struggled to access available finance despite global commitments<sup>14</sup>. While the NCQG's design was vital, another challenge lay in its execution—ensuring that developing countries could effectively access and utilize the funding. Discussions on finance remained slow during COP29, an unfortunate approach to

Fresnillo, I. and Girshova, P. (2024) COP29 and the NCQG: Linking climate, debt and gender, Eurodad. Available at: https://www.eurodad.org/cop29\_and\_the\_ncqg
9 ibid

https://www.climatechangenews.com/2024/11/20/cop29-bulletin-day-9-developing-nations-draw-super-red-line-on-climate-finance-goal/

https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement

https://www.climatechangenews.com/2024/11/20/cop29-bulletin-day-9-developing-nations-draw-super-red-line-on-climate-finance-goal/

https://aps.aucegypt.edu/en/articles/805/climate-finance-and-social-justice-a-prerequisite-for-climate-action

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> G20 Rio de Janeiro Leaders' Declaration (2024). Available at: https://www.g20.org/en/documents/g20-rio-de-janeiro-leaders-declaration

<sup>7</sup> ibid

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> COP29 bulletin day 9: Developing nations deride '\$200bn' finance rumour (2024) Climate Home News. Available at:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Paris Agreement (2016), UNFCCC. Available at:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> COP29 bulletin day 9: Developing nations deride '\$200bn' finance rumour (2024) Climate Home News. Available at:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> ibid

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Mattar, S. (2022) Climate Finance and Social Justice: A prerequisite for climate action, Alternative Policy Solutions. Available at:



an issue of extreme urgency<sup>15</sup>. Negotiators were unable to narrow down key texts on the amount, distribution, and transparency of climate finance, and civil society advocated for strong safeguards to ensure transparency and regular reviews.

The NCQG draft grew from nine to 35 pages, reflecting the complexity and contentious nature of negotiations<sup>16</sup>. The conversation shifted from direct government grants and public finance to "mobilizing" finance, with emphasis on mitigating investment risks and leveraging multilateral development banks, which are all parameters that were heavily criticised for their shortcomings in realizing just climate finance<sup>17</sup>. A finalized 25-page draft of the NCQG was presented at the start of the second week, but it remained fraught with unresolved issues<sup>18</sup>. Key questions, such as how much funding would come from the private sector and how contributions would be divided, remained unanswered. The outcome remained uncertain as discussions moved to the political level despite developing countries demanding at least \$1 trillion annually to meet their needs<sup>19</sup>. Eventually, the negotiations ended with developed countries raising their commitment from \$250 Billion to \$300 Billion, celebrating the increase from the previous goal of \$100 Billion<sup>20</sup>, expanding on the role of Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) despite civil society highlighting the importance of grant-based climate finance in the lead up to COP29<sup>21</sup> and the counterintuitive nature of debt-creating climate finance<sup>22</sup>.

The NCQG also failed to properly acknowledge loss and damage needs. Developing economies face significant loss and damage from both extreme weather and slow-onset events which could cost up to \$894 billion annually by 2030<sup>23</sup>. The case for including Loss

<sup>17</sup> Hodgson, R. (2024) COP29: The Clock is ticking as the money talk intensifies, euronews. Available at:

https://www.euronews.com/green/2024/11/18/cop29-the-clock-is-ticking-as-tensions-intensify-during-climate-finance-talks

https://climatenetwork.org/2024/11/21/ncqg-cop29-text/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> COP29 bulletin day 9: Developing nations deride '\$200bn' finance rumour (2024) Climate Home News. Available at:

https://www.climatechangenews.com/2024/11/20/cop29-bulletin-day-9-developing-nations-draw-super-red-line-on-climate-finance-goal/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> ibid

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> Taaffe, D. (2024) COP29: Climate action network media reaction to latest text for the climate finance goal, Climate Action Network. Available at:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> Hodgson, R. (2024) COP29: The Clock is ticking as the money talk intensifies, euronews. Available at:

https://www.euronewe.com/green/2024/11/18/cop29-the-clock-is-ticking-as-tensions-intensify-during-c limate-finance-talks

 $<sup>^{20}</sup>$  COP29 UN Climate Conference Agrees to Triple Finance to Developing Countries, Protecting Lives and Livelihoods, UNFCCC (2024). Available at:

https://unfccc.int/news/cop29-un-climate-conference-agrees-to-triple-finance-to-developing-countries-protecting-lives-and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> Walsh, D. (2024) COP29: Crucial climate finance deal depends on moral backbones of wealthy countries' leaders, The Global Climate and Health Alliance. Available at:

https://climateandhealthalliance.org/press-releases/cop29-crucial-climate-finance-deal-depends-on-moral-backbones-of-wealthy-countries-leaders/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> Fresnillo, I. (2020) A tale of two emergencies - the interplay of sovereign debt and climate crises in the global south, Eurodad. Available at:

https://www.eurodad.org/a\_tale\_of\_two\_emergencies\_the\_interplay\_of\_sovereign\_debt\_and\_climate\_crises\_in\_the\_global\_south (Accessed: 25 November 2024).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> Schalatek, L. (2024) Last COP success hinders this year's progress, The Asset. Available at: https://www.theasset.com/article-esg/52922/last-cop-success-hinders-this-year-s-progress



and damage was made long before COP29 started. Loss and Damage is an integral component of climate change and its effects, excluding it from the NCQG text only because climate finance includes "mitigation and adaptation" is a failure to realize the real goal of the NCQG which is to fund developing countries' climate change needs<sup>24</sup>. The lack of a strong binding international agreement to address these issues, including adequate finance, risks undermining global solidarity. Developed countries, led by the U.S., have rejected compensation for climate-induced loss and damage, despite the creation of the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD) at COP2825. The FRLD relies on voluntary contributions, with no clear obligation for wealthy countries to provide support, and it fails to distinguish between developed and developing nations, weakening its effectiveness<sup>26</sup>. Predictably, a year after its establishment, the fund has received minimal pledges, including just \$17.5 million from the U.S<sup>27</sup>. Moreover, the creation of the fund which has so far failed to mobilize finance needed for loss and damage in developing countries, has resulted in refusal to add loss and damage to the NCQG text<sup>28</sup>. The failure to provide this finance hinders future climate finance commitments and fails to give a pathway for future negotiations and undermine climate justice efforts.

Chaos ensued in the final plenary, with the group of Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Small Island Developing States (SIDS), and the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) and representatives from civil society left the hall in protest of the gap in finance, the ambiguity of the text, and the lack of accountability. Under the banner of "**No deal is better than a bad deal**" hundreds of civil society organizations urged developing nations and the G77+China to reject the proposal<sup>29</sup>. After closed-door negotiations resumed, the African Group of Negotiators (AGN) issued a statement warning developed countries that they would not accept any deal that crossed their red lines<sup>30</sup>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> Inclusion of Loss and Damage as a Subgoal in the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG), (2024), Loss & Damage Forum. Available at:

https://lossanddamageforum.org/publications/inclusion-of-loss-and-damage-as-a-subgoal-in-the-new-collective-quantified-goal-ncgg/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> Schalatek, L. (2024) Last COP success hinders this year's progress, The Asset. Available at: https://www.theasset.com/article-esg/52922/last-cop-success-hinders-this-year-s-progress

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> Schalatek, L., Is the Loss and Damage Fund Becoming an Empty Promise? (2024), Project Syndicate. Available at:

https://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/rich-countries-undermining-cop29-climate-finance-neg otiations-by-liane-schalatek-2024-11

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> ibid

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> ibid

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> Hodgson, R. (2024), COP 29: Brazil warns no deal unless rich countries raise climate finance target. Available at: COP 29: Brazil warns no deal unless rich countries raise climate finance target <sup>30</sup> COP29 climate finance goal: a flawed process and betrayal for developing nations, Natural Justice, (2024). Available at:

https://naturaljustice.org/cop29-climate-finance-goal-a-flawed-process-and-betrayal-for-developing-nat ions/#:~:text=After%20closed%20door%20negotiations%20resumed,to%20delivering%20the%20Paris%20Agreement.%E2%80%9D



## **Gender Considerations**

The issue of gender justice was central to COP29, with women and girls in the global south bearing the disproportionate share of both climate change and austerity measures tied to debt-creating funding<sup>31</sup>. As climate finance continues to be delivered largely through loans, it exacerbates the economic hardship faced by marginalized communities, particularly women<sup>32</sup>. To address this, civil society groups called for the NCQG to include gender-responsive, non-debt-creating funding, with dedicated sub-targets and transparent monitoring of resources<sup>33</sup>. A feminist approach to climate justice, focusing on women's leadership and rights, is crucial to achieving equitable climate action and dismantling the systems that perpetuate inequality<sup>34</sup>. COP29 should have prioritized these gender-just solutions to ensure a fair and sustainable future for all.

So far, women remain underrepresented in decision-making processes, and their needs overlooked in climate policies<sup>35</sup>. COP29 presented an opportunity to turn rhetoric into meaningful action by integrating gender-responsive commitments into Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) with robust implementation plans and adequate funding<sup>36</sup>. It is essential to mainstream gender-responsive climate finance to ensure that new global finance goals address the needs of the most vulnerable communities, particularly women in the Global South. Additionally, the Gender Action Plan (GAP) and the review of the Lima Work Programme on Gender must be fully implemented to enhance gender equity in climate action<sup>37</sup>.

The NCQG failed to include a clear and equitable approach to financing. From a justice perspective, this means a baseline of at least \$1 trillion USD annually in public, grant-equivalent finance for mitigation<sup>38</sup>, an NCQG that is rooted in human rights and gender equality, ensuring that the needs of marginalized groups are addressed, with mechanisms like direct access to grant-based finance for these communities. The goal must be guided by principles of transparency, accountability, and a commitment to a gender-just transition, with a regular review process to ensure increasing ambition and support.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup> Centering Gender Justice: An Essential Commitment for COP29 (2024) Women & Gender Constituency. Available at:

https://womengenderclimate.org/centering-gender-justice-an-essential-commitment-for-cop29/ <sup>32</sup> Fresnillo, I. and Girshova, P. (2024) COP29 and the NCQG: Linking climate, debt and gender, Eurodad. Available at: https://www.eurodad.org/cop29 and the ncgg

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>33</sup> Centering Gender Justice: An Essential Commitment for COP29 (2024) Women & Gender Constituency. Available at:

https://womengenderclimate.org/centering-gender-justice-an-essential-commitment-for-cop29/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>35</sup>Prioritizing African Women's Voices in Climate Change Decision Making: A Call for COP29 Leaders to Demonstrate Gender Equity. (2024) AGNES AFRICA. Available at:

https://agnesafrica.org/2024/11/20/prioritizing-african-womens-voices-in-climate-change-decision-making-a-call-for-cop29-leaders-to-demonstrate-gender-equity/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>36</sup> Centering Gender Justice: An Essential Commitment for COP29 (2024) Women & Gender Constituency. Available at:

https://womengenderclimate.org/centering-gender-justice-an-essential-commitment-for-cop29/ <sup>37</sup> ibid

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>38</sup> Hussin, D. and Nguyen, C. (2024) Climate 101: NCQG, the key climate goal behind the acronym, RMI. Available at: https://rmi.org/climate-101-ncqg-the-key-climate-goal-behind-the-acronym/



## The Need for an NCQG in MENA

While the parties met to discuss climate finance in Baku, Azerbaijan, the colonial wars raged in the region<sup>39</sup>. Leading up to COP29, activists called for demilitarisation and accountability for the lost lives and the destruction that has continued despite calls from political, religious and cultural leaders worldwide<sup>40</sup>. Militarization significantly contributes to greenhouse gas emissions and environmental damage, not just through emissions from military operations but also through the destruction of ecosystems, soil, and water resources. Governments who have been funding the ongoing genocide are the same countries that negotiated against higher goals for the NCQG. For instance, the US defense budget for 2023 was \$858 billion<sup>41</sup>, while climate finance in the same year totaled just \$44.9 billion<sup>42</sup>. This stark imbalance highlights once again the failure of the Global North to depart from colonial and violent ways towards a collective resilient future. The repeated failure to hold these governments accountable for their lack of commitment and failure to make real progress in mitigation, adaptation and climate finance, is replicated in the lack of accountability for their genocidal politics. Civil society actors and activists repeatedly pointed out the hypocrisy of pouring trillions into the systematic destruction of a city and its civilian population, while arguing lack of availability of financial resources for the NCQG<sup>43</sup>.

Lebanon and Palestine are countries that are suffering from a trifecta of pressures; colonial violence, debt, and climate vulnerabilities. Beyond that, the MENA region is highly vulnerable to climate change due to it being one of the most water-scarce in the world<sup>44</sup> and it is warming faster than the global average<sup>45</sup>. Food security is jeopardised due to the unpredictability of changes in weather patterns and resource availability. Climate change has

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>39</sup> Al-Mughrabi, N. and Al-Masri, H. (2024a) Israeli strikes kill 20 Palestinians in Gaza, some in attacks on tents, medics say I Reuters. Reuters. Available at:

https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/israeli-strikes-kill-14-palestinians-gaza-some-attacks-tents-say-medics-2024-11-18/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>40</sup> Fodor, C.-A. (2024) More than 200 Christian leaders sign letter calling for cease-fire in Gaza, National Catholic Reporter. Available at:

https://www.ncronline.org/news/social-justice/more-200-christian-leaders-sign-letter-calling-cease-fire-gaza (Accessed: 25 November 2024).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>41</sup> Zengerle, P. (2022) U.S. Senate passes record \$858 Billion defense act, sending Bill to Biden | Reuters. Available at:

https://www.reuters.com/world/us/us-senate-backs-record-858-billion-defense-bill-voting-continues-20 22-12-16

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>42</sup> Press Release (2022), President Biden's FY 2023 Budget Reduces Energy Costs, Combats the Climate Crisis, and Advances Environmental Justice, The White House. Available at: https://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/briefing-room/2022/03/28/president-bidens-fy-2023-budget-reduces-energy-costs-combats-the-climate-crisis-and-advances-environmental-justice/

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>43</sup> Democracy Now! (2024) Defund genocide: Activists at COP29 link climate fight to militarism,
 Democracy Now! Available at: https://www.democracynow.org/2024/11/21/cop29\_peoples\_plenary
 <sup>44</sup> Mahmoud, M. (2024) The looming climate and water crisis in the Middle East and North Africa,
 Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Available at:

https://carnegieendowment.org/research/2024/04/the-looming-climate-and-water-crisis-in-the-middle-east-and-north-africa

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>45</sup> Middle East and North Africa warming faster than other regions (2024) Applied Sciences from Technology Networks. Available at:

https://www.technologynetworks.com/applied-sciences/news/middle-east-and-north-africa-warming-faster-than-other-regions-393567



also played a role in exacerbating conflicts<sup>46</sup> as well as creating conflicts in the region<sup>47</sup>. Countries in the MENA region are also economically vulnerable and heavily indebted<sup>48</sup>. In countries experiencing climate-related disasters, such as Morocco, which has dealt with an earthquake and Libya with floods<sup>49</sup>, the burden of debt hampers the ability to adapt to these crises<sup>50</sup>. Vulnerable communities in conflict-affected areas face disproportionate impacts, exacerbating poverty, and displacement<sup>51</sup>. Egypt and Jordan both suffer from extreme climate vulnerabilities, and both have high public debt and debt servicing which causes more budget deficits rather than rectifies them<sup>52</sup>. At the moment, The IMF estimated Egypt's overall debt in FY2022/2023 at 95.8 percent of the GDP<sup>53</sup>, and Jordan's at 114.7% of the GDP<sup>54</sup> by the end of 2022. The NCQG demands that have been made before and during COP29 are a response to these circumstances that are replicated in countries in the global south around the world. Involving MDBs and debt-creating climate finance to the NCQG without taking into account the role of developed countries in creating these debt cycles, their role in funding colonial violence and their role in causing the climate crisis.

<sup>46</sup>Cherrier, J. (2024) Displacement and climate change in the Middle East: Yemen and Syria at the forefront, Alternative Policy Solutions. Available at:

https://aps.aucegypt.edu/en/articles/1400/displacement-and-climate-change-in-the-middle-east-yeme n-and-syria-at-the-forefront

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>47</sup> Climate change, war, displacement, and health: The impact on Syrian refugee camps - syrian arab republic (2022) ReliefWeb. Available at:

https://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/climate-change-war-displacement-and-health-impact-s yrian-refugee-camps

48 Diwan, I. (2023) The new debt crisis of the Middle East: Political economy to the rescue?, Carnegie

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>48</sup> Diwan, I. (2023) The new debt crisis of the Middle East: Political economy to the rescue?, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Available at:

https://carnegieendowment.org/research/2023/08/the-new-debt-crisis-of-the-middle-east-political-economy-to-the-rescue?lang=en&center=middle-east

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>49</sup> Ye, Y. (2024) What the devastating floods in Libya, earthquake in Morocco can teach US, CU Boulder Today. Available at:

https://www.colorado.edu/today/2023/09/19/what-devastating-floods-libya-earthquake-morocco-can-te ach-us

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>50</sup> Morocco: The economic impact of the Al-Haouz earthquake (2023), Oxford Economics. Available at:

https://www.oxfordeconomics.com/resource/morocco-the-economic-impact-of-the-al-haouz-earthquake/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>51</sup> Climate change, war, displacement, and health: The impact on Syrian refugee camps - syrian arab republic (2022) ReliefWeb. Available at:

https://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/climate-change-war-displacement-and-health-impact-syrian-refugee-camps

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>52</sup> Goren, N. and Salem, P. (2024) Is Jordan's public debt on a sustainable path?, Middle East Institute. Available at: https://www.mei.edu/publications/jordans-public-debt-sustainable-path <sup>53</sup> Egypt Government Debt to GDP (2023), Trading Economics. Available at:

https://tradingeconomics.com/egypt/government-debt-to-gdp

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>54</sup> Goren, N. and Salem, P. (2024) Is Jordan's public debt on a sustainable path?, Middle East Institute. Available at: https://www.mei.edu/publications/jordans-public-debt-sustainable-path



# **Conclusion and Recommendations:**

According to multiple organizations and economists, there are many sources through which the world can provide public, grant-based and fair climate finance<sup>55</sup>. However, we have once again watched negotiators fail to make meaningful progress despite the urgency surrounding financial commitments for climate adaptation and energy transition in developing countries. The heavy reliance on MDBs and private finance is indicative of the lack of political will to achieve the NCQG principles that have been demanded by civil society and grassroots organizations in the build up to COP29 and since the conclusion of the Paris Agreement.

In essence, the outcome of COP29 in finance is extremely disappointing. The stall on finance over the years is repeatedly undermining global efforts to tackle the climate crisis, leaving developing countries without the resources needed to meet their climate targets or adapt to the worsening impacts of climate change. The current state of affairs pertaining to the NCQG and the lack of ambition are indicative of the lack of respect for the Paris Agreement and its principles and must be remedied by strong accountability mechanisms to ensure contributions from developed countries. The celebration of "tripling" the goal of \$100 Billion is a false narrative based on a haphazard number which was not rooted in the needs of the most vulnerable countries. Developed countries must pay for their continued preying on our resources without regard to human rights, justice, or planetary boundaries.

# The path to Brazil COP30 must be lined with the following principles:

- 1- Increase public, grant-based, and fair climate finance: Mobilize sources of climate finance that are public, grant-based, and equitable, ensuring developing countries receive adequate support for climate adaptation and energy transition.
- 2- Address the lack of political will: Strengthen political will to meet the climate finance goals, moving beyond reliance on Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) and private finance to implement the NCQG principles.
- 3- Hold developed countries accountable for climate finance contributions: Establish strong accountability mechanisms to ensure developed countries fulfill their climate finance commitments and respect the Paris Agreement principles.
- 4- Align finance with developing countries' needs: Shift the narrative around financial commitments to focus on the actual needs of the most vulnerable countries, ensuring that financial targets are rooted in these countries' climate adaptation and mitigation needs.
- 5- Reject false narratives of financial achievement: Challenge the "tripling" of the \$100 billion goal, as it has been presented without regard to the real needs of vulnerable countries, and demand transparent, needs-based financial solutions.
- 6- Respect human rights and planetary boundaries: Developed countries must address their historical responsibility for climate impacts, ensuring that their actions are aligned with human rights, justice, and the safeguarding of planetary boundaries.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>55</sup> #thereisenoughmoney: We can meet our climate finance goals (2024) UN Climate Summit News - COP29. Available at: https://unclimatesummit.org/thereisenoughmoney/



- 7- Strengthen civil society and grassroots engagement: Ensure that civil society and grassroots organizations are at the forefront of discussions and that their demands are meaningfully incorporated into the outcomes of COP negotiations, particularly around finance and just Transition.
- 8- Improve the design of financial instruments for intersectionality of accessibility: Rethink the design and accessibility of climate finance instruments to better meet the needs of developing countries, avoiding over-reliance on complex financial mechanisms that may not provide timely or adequate support.
- 9- Increase transparency, accountability and public reporting: Develop transparent mechanisms for reporting financial contributions from developed countries and the impact of those resources on climate adaptation and energy transition in vulnerable nations.