

Advocacy Webinar

January 2025
Toby Walker – Senior Manager: International Advocacy



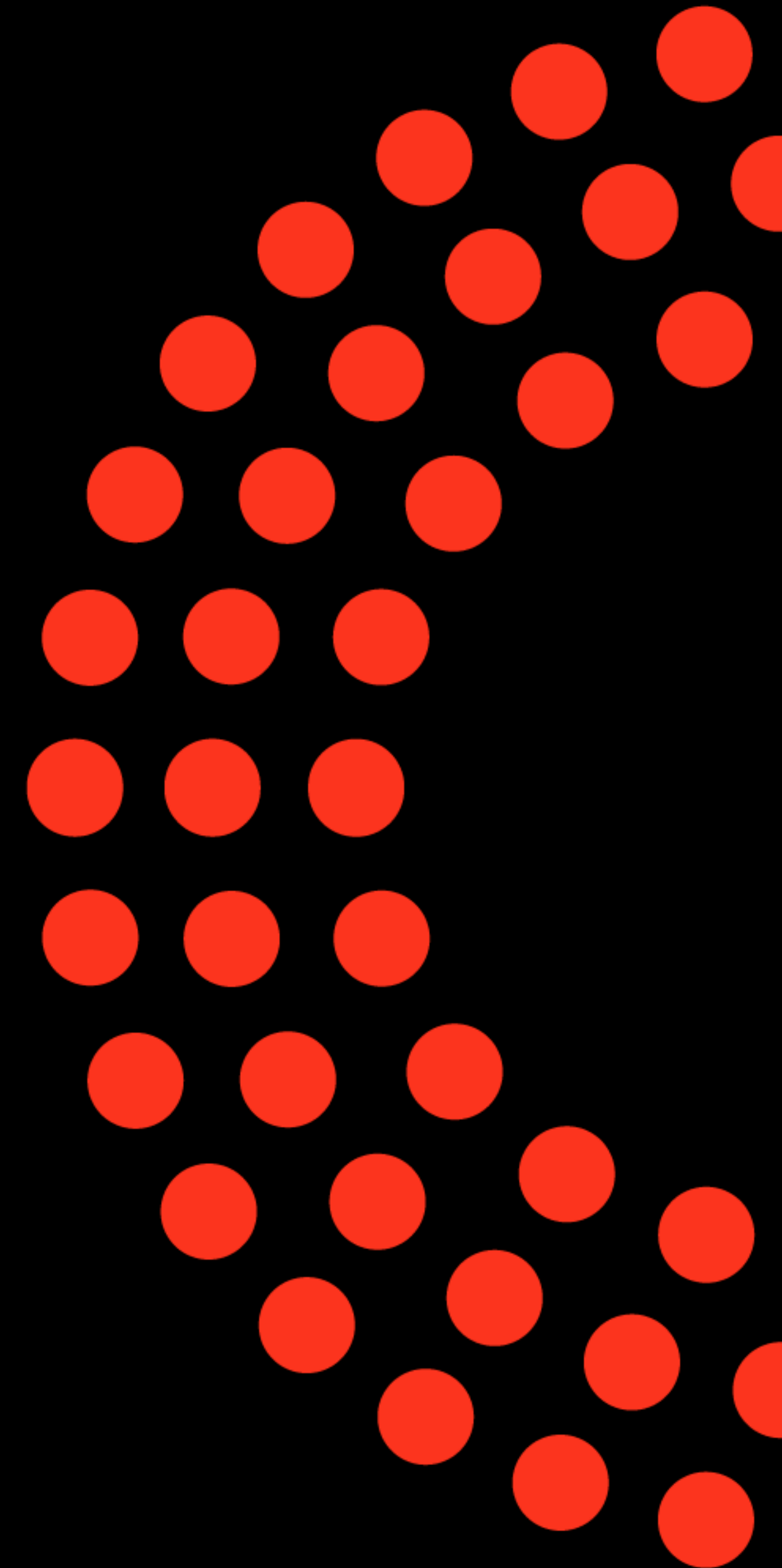
1. 2024 Highlights

2. Outcomes of COP29

3. Accountability

4. Advocacy: priorities and overview in 2025

5. Discussion



2024 Highlights



China's historical emissions overtake the EU's. **EU per capita emissions still 3x higher.** China emissions likely to never overtake US – [Carbon Brief](#).

South Korea landmark **constitutional court ruling** on Carbon Neutrality Act. The first nation in Asia to do so – [IDEA](#).

The USA could achieve 54-62% emissions reductions by 2035, even in the context of **federal inactions or rollbacks** – [CGS](#).

2024 'Virtually Certain' to Be **Hottest in History**, Marking 'New Milestone' in Temperature Records. – [WMO](#).

Investment in clean energy this year is set to be **twice the amount** going to fossil fuels – [IEA](#).

Subnational govts account for **~40% of total public expenditure** and **55% of total public investment** on average in OECD countries – [OECD](#).

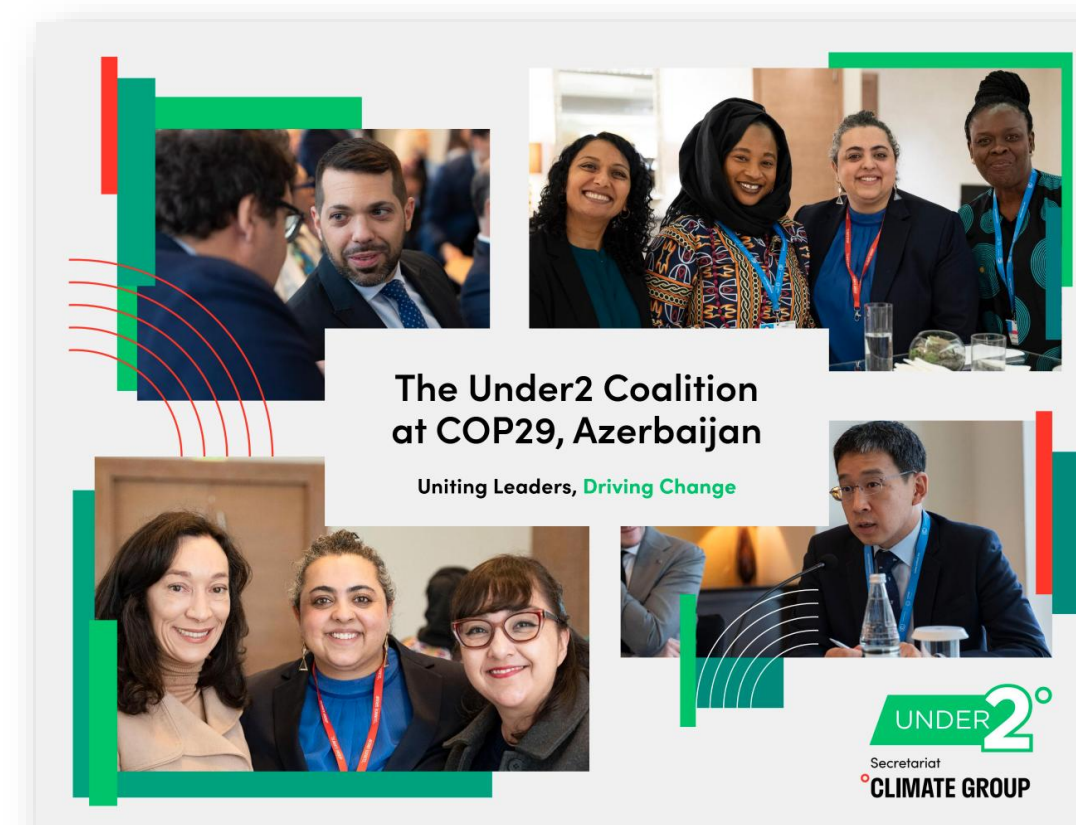
WITH 60+ NATIONAL ELECTIONS IN 2024, SUBNATIONAL CLIMATE ACTION DID NOT FALTER



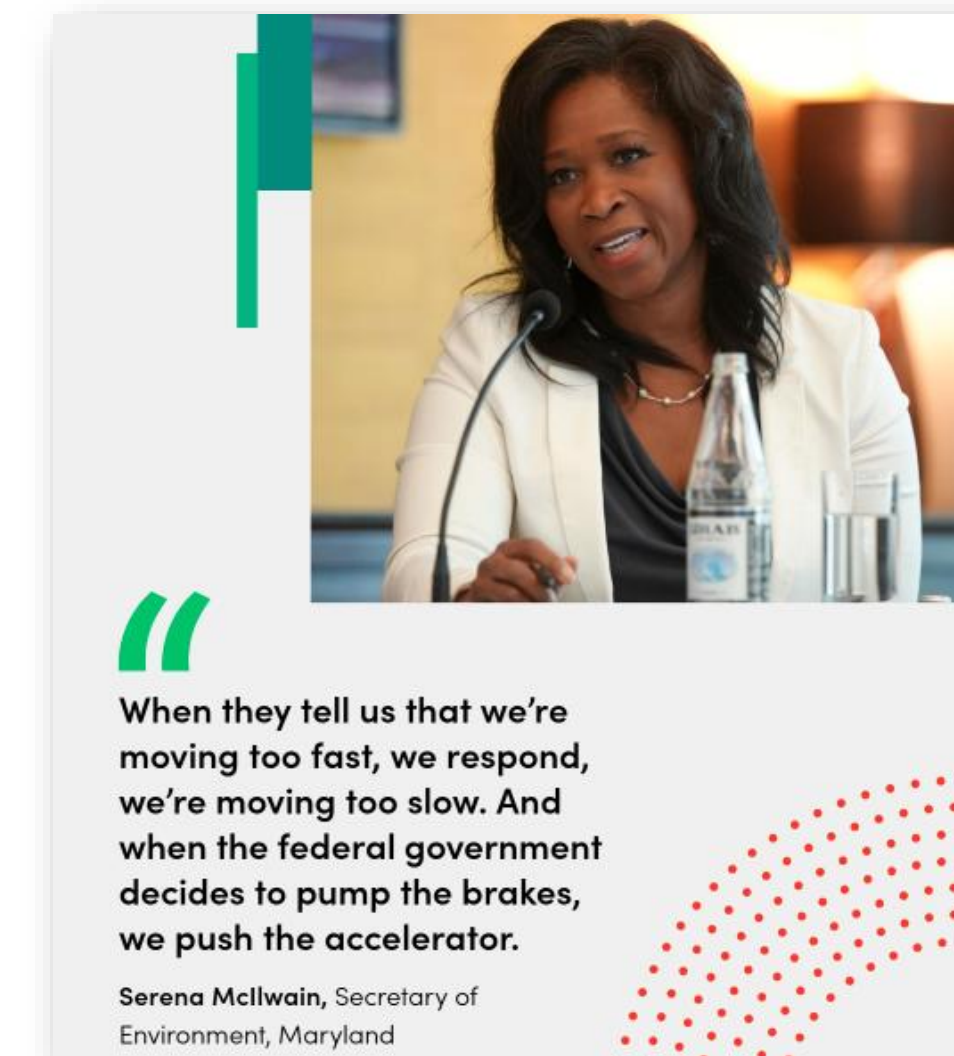
Climate Week NYC, **Under2Coalition Global Ministerial – FF phaseout letter** and convening power.



Next Generation Budgets with 11 EU/USA states and regions & **Mobilising Green Investments** in Brazilian states.



States and regions showed bold **climate leadership** at COP29 and G20



States, regions, provinces have continued to drive action despite competitive national agendas.

LGMA Constituency Position Papers

Key asks for COP29 from the LGMA

As implementation partners to the Paris Agreement, the LGMA Constituency is committed to supporting the development, financing, and execution of ambitious NDCs and other key strategies leading up to 2025. For COP29, the LGMA has therefore three main asks:

1. Accelerate inclusive, multilevel, gender-responsive and cooperative action, through new Nationally Determined Contributions developed in partnership with local and other subnational governments.
2. Finance sustainable urbanization and climate action at all levels.
3. Align the climate, nature, pollution and sustainable development agendas.



It helped us to:

- Respond to draft COP text quickly and coherently with a united front;
- Respond to different requests quicker and in high quality with confidence in network;
- Prepare speaking points for leadership.



The LGMA COP29 Joint Position

Access the full version of the position along with the supporting documents.
The final endorsers list is now available.

[DOWNLOAD THE POSITION](#)

What can be improved:

- More time for feedback from subnational governments;
- Translation into different languages to increase usability.
- Streamlined additional documents

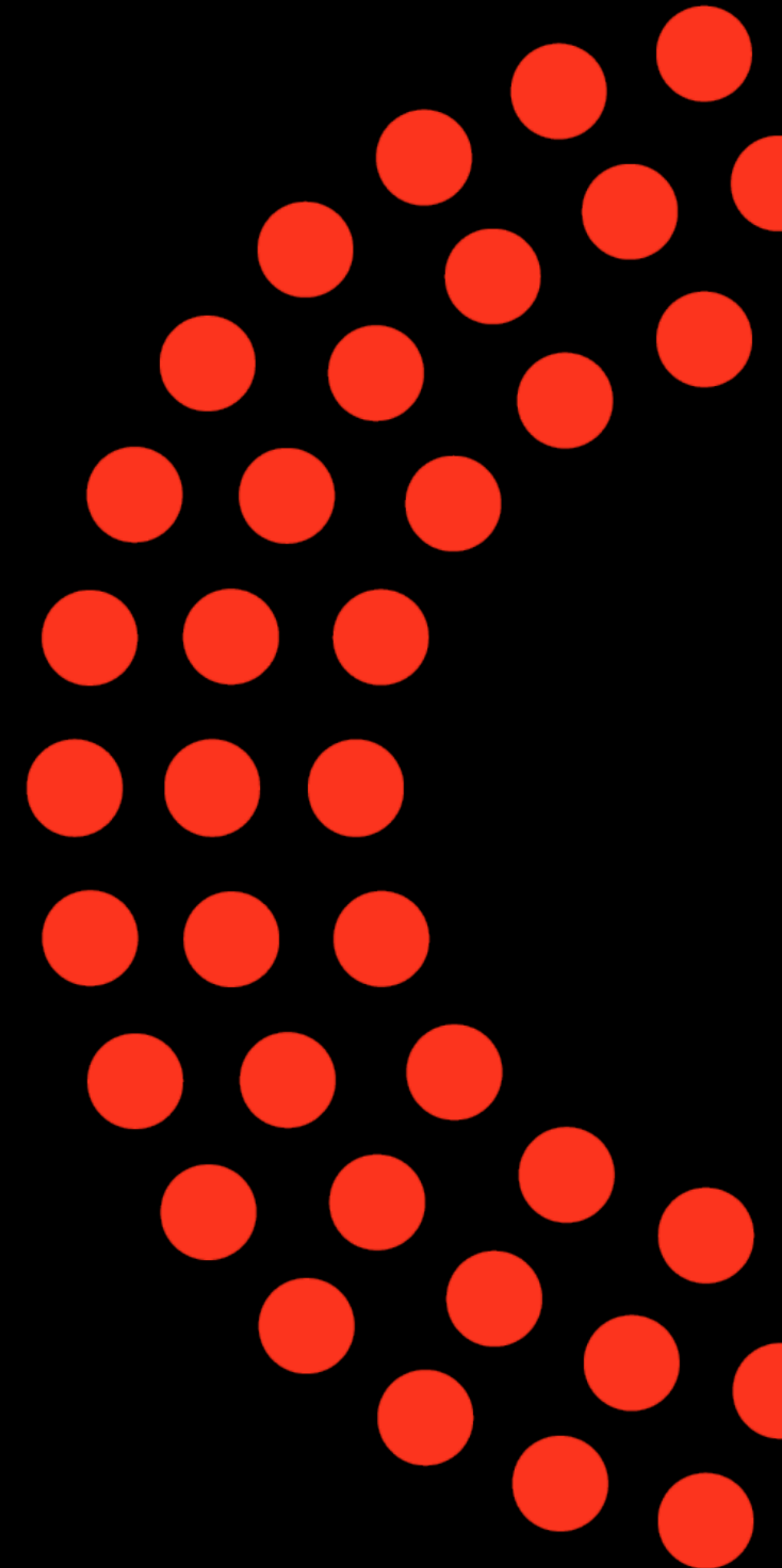
It helped us to:

- Under2 is an implementation partner for CHAMP in South Korea. In the run up to their NDC development, we've engaged on (1) Chungnam International Conference, (2) identified champions in the national and subnational governments to take forward CHAMP, and (3) soon completing a policy brief on subnational climate action barriers.
- During Climate Week NYC hosted a breakfast roundtable to spotlight CHAMP's importance for our network.
- Championed CHAMP as a framework for subnational and national govt communication at COP/G20.



COP29 Outcomes

and what they mean for states and regions



COP29 Snapshot

Three key indicators for success:

1. **Finance:** A new global Climate Finance Goal.
2. **Multilateralism:** Strong commitment to multilateralism and the COP system not breaking down after minimal outcomes at COP16, global conflicts, and 60+ national elections in 2024.
3. **Fossil Fuels:** Build upon ambition set at COP28 in the Global Stocktake to transition away from Fossil Fuels – which took 28 years to achieve.



1. Finance: An agreement sets the pathway to mobilise much more funding.

Status: Ministers agreed on the bare minimum in the new global climate finance goal at the heart of COP29. A small increase in support for developing countries from \$100bn per year to at least \$300bn per year over the next 10 years. A “Baku to Belem roadmap” of ways to mobilise at least \$1.3 trillion provides some confidence that the true scale of finance needs could be met.

To Watch: Carving out a defined percentage for loss and damage and adaptation finance (missed in NCQG text); States and Regions working with cities at scale; Nature and Climate being addressed in unison e.g Denmark 2024 [Green Tripartite](#), or Brazil ‘[country platform](#)’ for mobilising nature/climate finance.

Under2 Role: Continue to push for direct access to finance for subnationals alongside the LGMA; Outside global spaces Under2 is driving implementation work on the ground; In 2025, exploring additional options for access with MDBs etc is a focus.



2. Multilateralism: Signals have been sent but 2025 is the test bed.



Simon Stiell, Executive Secretary of UNFCCC, emphasised subnationals critical role, urging mayors and governors to continue to "show up and shout."

Status: The next 12 months to COP30 — where we celebrate and reflect on 10 years of the Paris Agreement — will be the ultimate test of whether the world is serious about avoiding the worst climate impacts. Countries' new national plans are due before COP30 and need to drastically improve on the 2.5-3.1 degrees of global warming we're currently on track for.

To Watch: Strong leadership needed but anticipating 2025 to be the year of pushing back on people pushing back on climate; Increased focus on subnational level of govt to deliver where national governments are backsliding; China's role.

Under2 Role: Subnational Advocacy within crucial spaces of G20, Climate Week NYC, COP and other UNFCCC related forums in 2025; a big subnational agenda at COP30.

3. Fossil Fuels: Emissions must begin to start falling, fossil fuels are the key.



Now, keeping 1.5 degrees within reach means breaking our addiction to fossil fuels, making a fair, just and equitable shift to renewables, and delivering climate justice.

But our success will not be measured in conference rooms like this one.

It will be measured in towns, cities, regions and states everywhere.

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres
Local Climate Action Summit at COP28
1 Dec 2023

Status: Fossil Fuels. These two words accounted for roughly 91% of global emissions in 2022. Yet central COP29 documents – Finance (NCQG), Mitigation Work Programme (MWP), and Global Stocktake (GST) – failed to mention them. That is 21 pages of text, outlining the path to curbing global warming, without touching upon the number one driver of global temperature rises. The climate crisis is a fossil fuel crisis and COP29 failed to recognise that.

To Watch: Global Solidarity Levies work on the FF industry; PPCA work on no new unabated coal; Creating a focused dialogue on implementing the Global Stocktake.

Under2 Role: Under2Coalition increasing ambition on FFs through focussed engagement with our network; Driving regulatory progress on renewables with business/subnational collab; Encourage subnational transition plans.

Was COP29 a
failure or disaster?



Reflections & Questions



Under2 Coalition Accountability

2025 update

Thyla-Jay Quickfall



Background

As the largest network of state and regional governments committed to achieving net zero by 2050 the Under2 Coalition is committed to transparent practices at the subnational level. As a network responding to global standards related to credible and accountable net zero targets by non-state actors.

A two-fold approach, the Under2 Coalition maintains an internal process to support accountability and transparency, referring to items such as the **Under2 MoU** and **Under2 Ambition Tracker**. While also closely monitoring external developments on expectations set for subnational governments for credible net zero targets.

2024: Dedicated webpage on Under2 accountability efforts, projects, tools and partners: [Accountability | Climate Group](#)

Method

Global Trends

UNFCCC

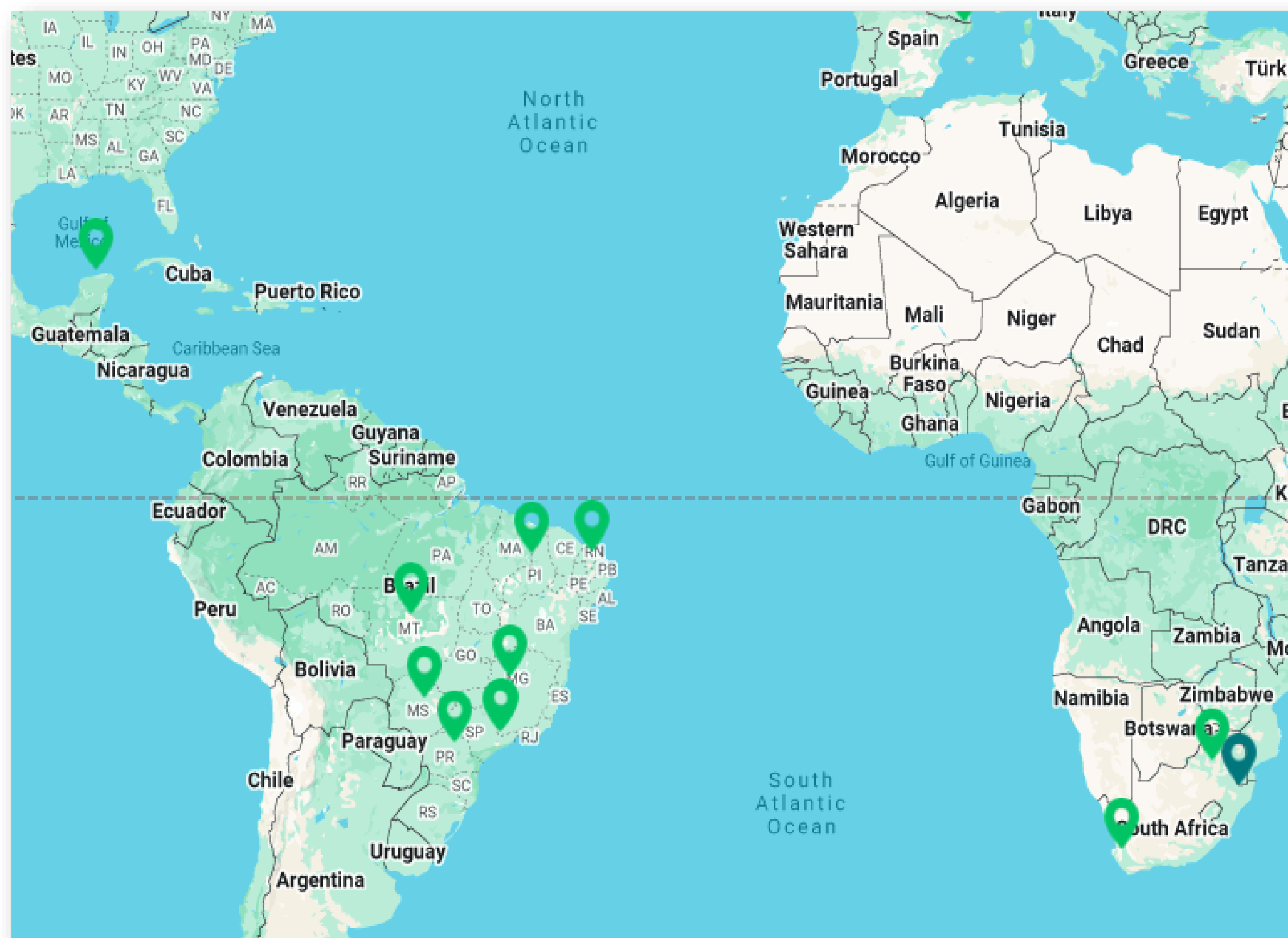


- 2022 **Transition Plans**: Develop clearer standards for net zero emissions pledges by non-state actors. HLEG released a set of recommendations; guiding principles on what constitutes a credible net zero target. Transition plans being central
- **Coordinated approach**: Working with partners CDP, Race to Zero, recommendations were adopted and communicated across parties. Race to Zero extended criteria of the 5 P's and CDP updated annual questionnaire including questions related HLEG recommendations.
- **Policy Paper**: Under2 Coalition produced its first accountability policy summary, analysing data from state and regions against the HLEG recommendations. The aim of this paper, set to ask one critical question: ***do the global climate leadership standards work as a framework for states and regions?***
- Based on these recommendations, the UN Climate Change Secretariat in partnership with the UN High Level Champions, released a **Recognition and Accountability Framework**. This outlines the next steps for voluntary action taken by non-party stakeholders

Snapshot: Under2 Global Members Map

Using data from the Under2 Ambition Tracker, we developed the Under2 Global Members Map. Explore our members map to discover more about our global network and each member's work and climate commitments.

Global Map, green location icons signifying members climate action data



Member Profile



Western Cape

South Africa

Joined the Under2 Coalition in 2017

 Net zero government 

GDP: US\$ 34,776 billion

Population: 7,43 million

The Premier of the Western Cape
Alan Winde

Further, faster, together: 2030 commitments

- Inter-governmental Cooperation and Planning
- Energy
- Environmental Justice
- Nature-Based Solutions
- Waste
- Agriculture

 Net Zero Target by 2050

INTEGRITY MATTERS

FOR CITIES, STATES AND REGIONS



GHG Target Setting Guidance for Cities, States and Regions

Draft Version 1.0 for Public Consultation

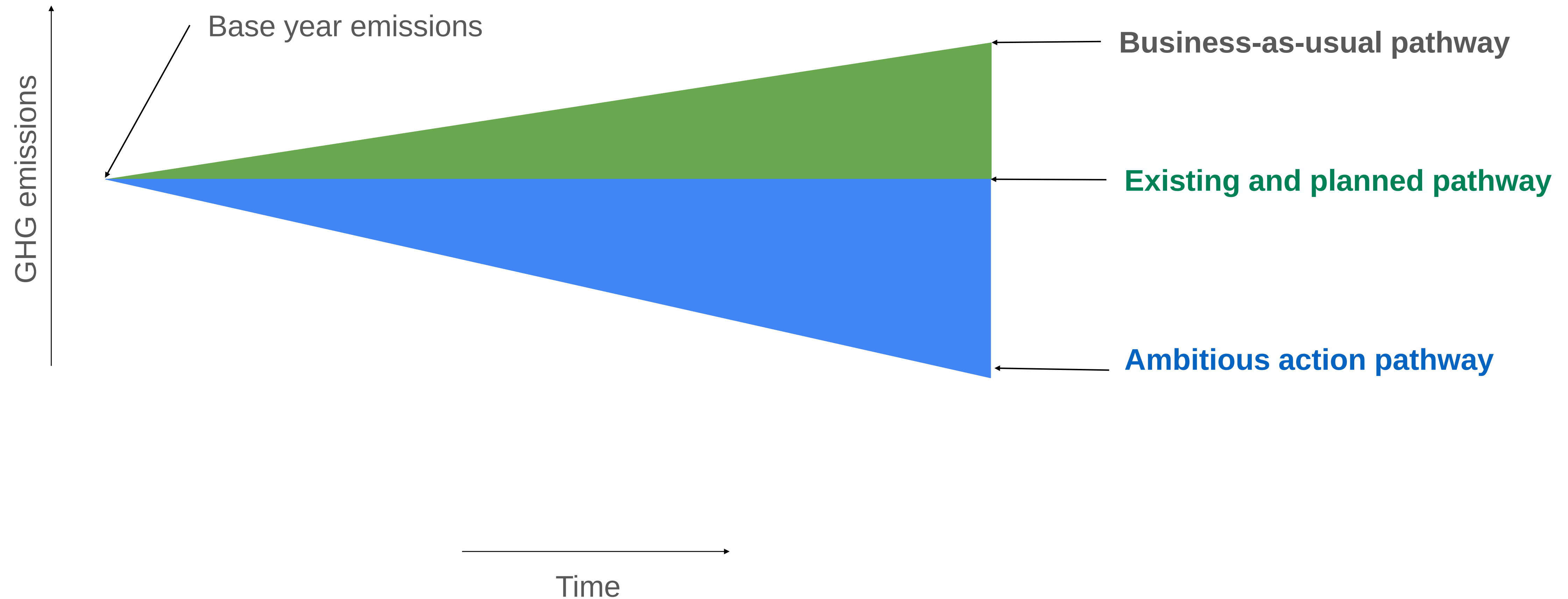
- IM4CSTARs (2023) states that to be considered ‘net zero’ or ‘net zero aligned’, cities, states, and regions must have targets that are **“consistent with limiting warming to 1.5°C with no or limited overshoot according to a fair-share approach” (GCOM and WRI, 2023).**
- *Integrity Matters: GHG Target Setting Guidance for Cities, States and Regions* builds on these recommendations and sets out what this means in practice. Drawing on good practice from cities, states and regions around the world, this document presents a high-integrity fair-share approach for setting, updating, or stress-testing emissions reduction targets, that align with the ambition, and principles, of the Paris Agreement.



- In 2022, the United Nations Secretary General-convened High Level Expert Group published Integrity Matters: Net Zero Commitments by Businesses, Financial Institutions, Cities, and Regions, a set of recommendations to strengthen integrity, transparency, and accountability around net zero commitments for non-state entities.
- In 2023 the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy (GCoM) and WRI Ross Center for Sustainable Cities (WRI) convened experts from select net zero initiatives, alliances, and other partner institutions to consider how Integrity Matters can be applied by local, state, and regional governments.
- Their report, Integrity Matters for Cities, States, and Regions (hereafter “IM4CSTARs (2023)”), published in November 2023, sets forward recommendations that are fundamentally aligned with the Integrity Matters report while accounting for the varying capacity, resource, and knowledge considerations of cities, states and regions that are committed to a net zero future.



3c. Pathways: Action pathways



INTEGRITY MATTERS
FOR CITIES, STATES AND REGIONS



Target-setting principles

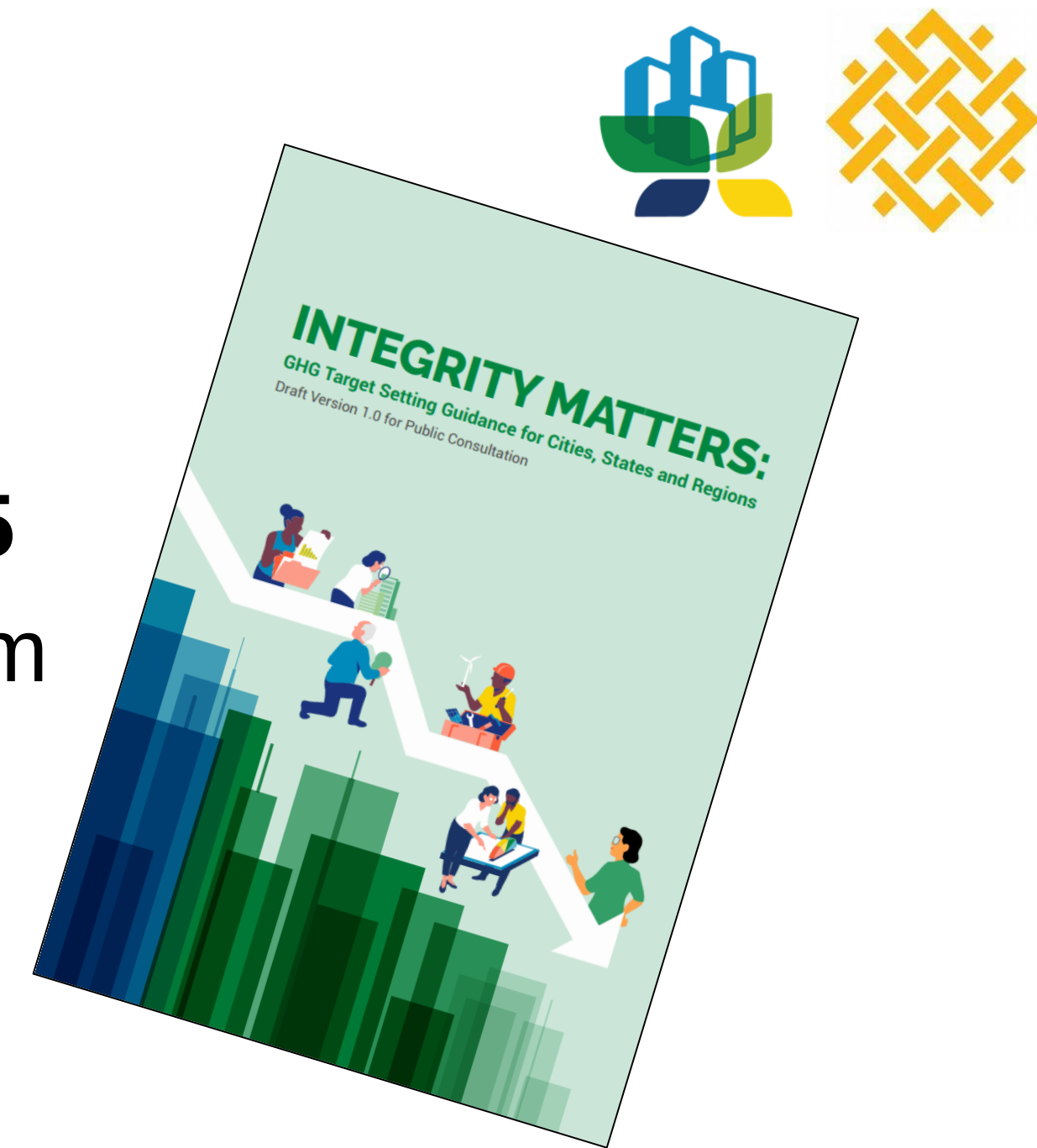
This guidance adopts the same principles as IM4CSTARs (2023), carried through from the original *Integrity Matters: Net Zero Commitments by Businesses, Financial Institutions, Cities, and Regions* report from the United Nations High-Level Expert Group on net zero commitments of non-state entities.

1. **Ambition** which delivers significant near-, and medium-, term emissions reductions on a path to global net zero by 2050
2. Demonstrated **integrity** by aligning commitments with actions and investments
3. Radical **transparency** in sharing relevant, non-competitive, comparable data on plans and progress
4. Established **credibility** through plans based in science and third-party accountability
5. Demonstrable commitment to both **equity and justice** in all actions

Consultation

This [guidance](#) will be available for public consultation until **28 February 2025** via an online [survey](#). GCoM and WRI are seeking perspectives and input from a wide range of stakeholders including subnational governments of all sizes and in all countries, net zero initiatives and alliances, NGOs, consultants, academia and other practitioners working in the climate action space. Additional comments may be sent to info@globalcovenantofmayors.org.

Responses will be used to refine the guidance, ensuring it supports actionable, high-integrity climate commitments for cities, states and regions globally. This feedback will be integrated from March-May 2025 and an updated guidance document will be released between May and June 2025.



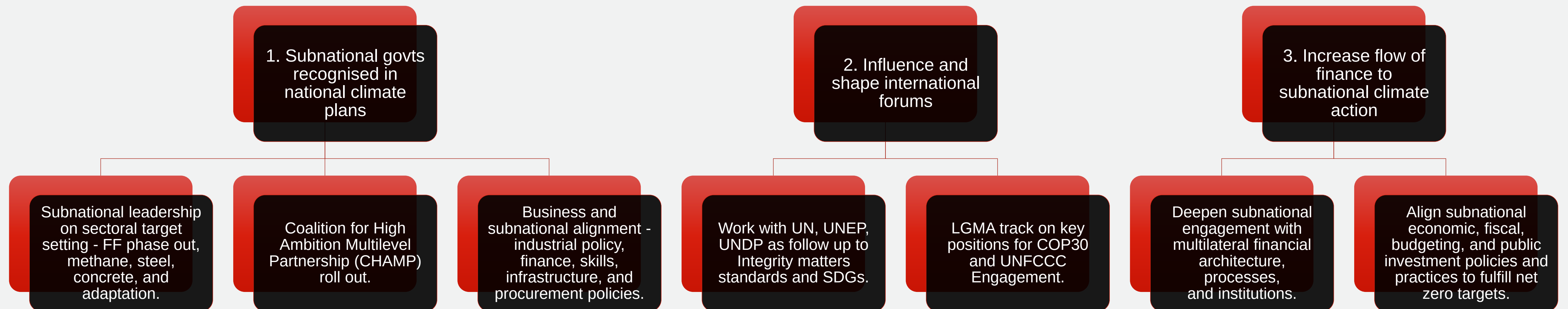
Consultation survey

INTEGRITY MATTERS
FOR CITIES, STATES AND REGIONS

Policy Advocacy: priorities & overview of 2025



Key advocacy priorities in 2025



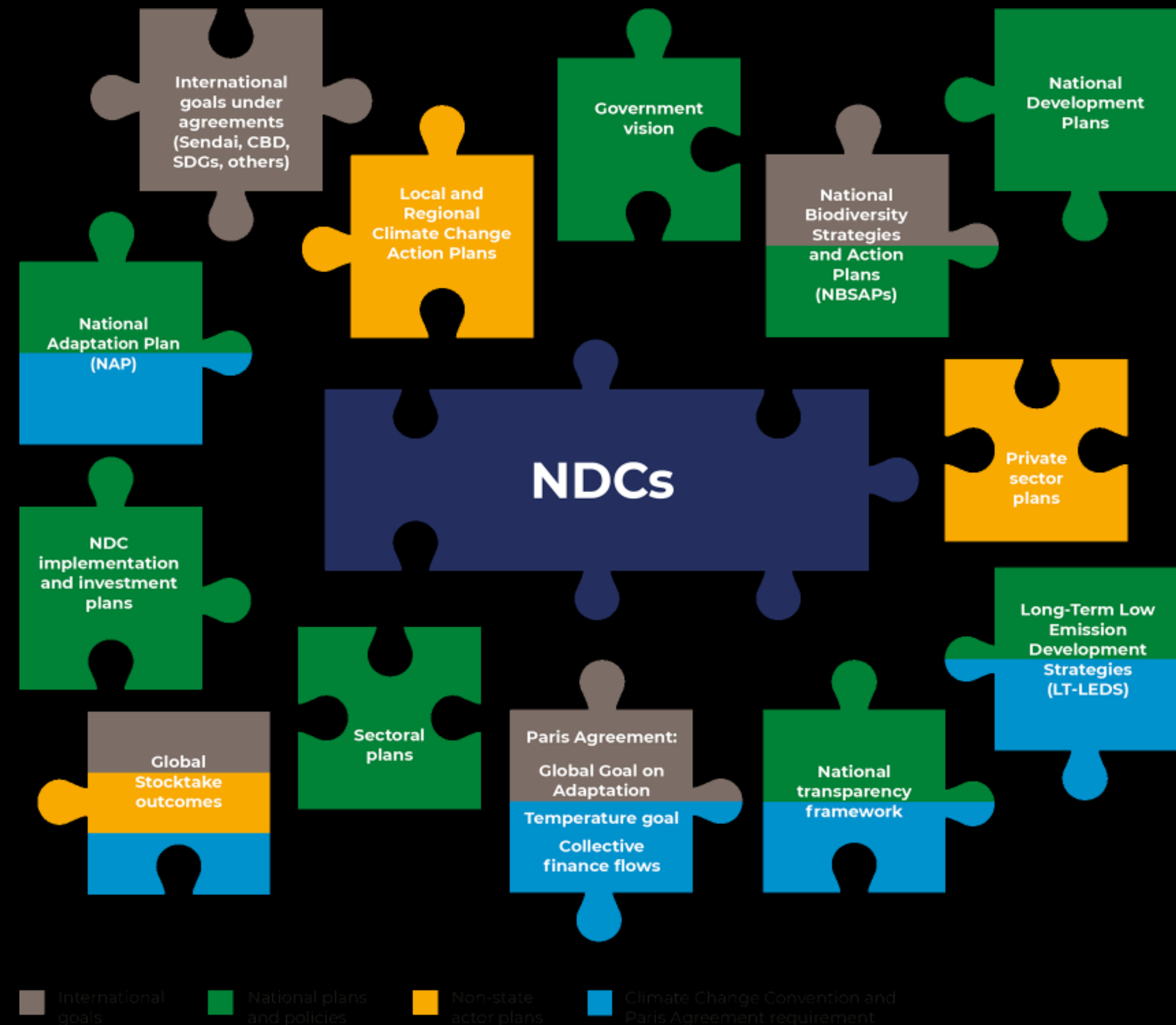
Facilitate states and region's ability to drive climate impact at scale

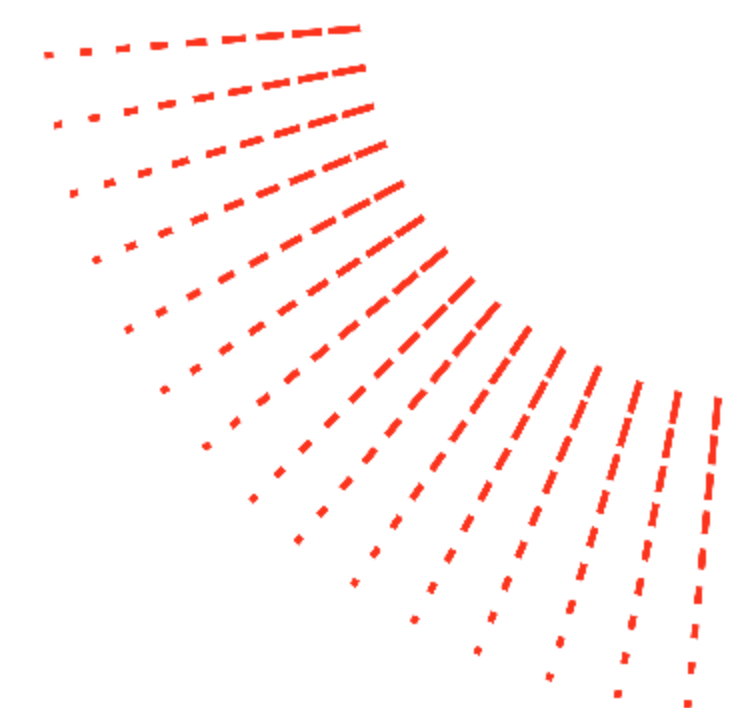
2025 Diplomacy Calendar

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
GLOBAL		NDC Deadline – 12th Feb COP16 – CBD talks resume, Rome – 25-27th Feb	Petersburg Dialogue – Berlin – 26-27th Mar SE4ALL Global – Bridgetown – 11-14th Mar			SB62 Intersessionals – UNFCCC, Bonn – 16-26 Jun G7 Summit - Canada – 15-17th Jun		G20 Climate & Finance Ministerials – G20 South Africa – Jul-Oct BRICs+ Summit – Brazil –TBC			COP30 – UNFCCC, Belem – 10-21st Nov G20 Summit – Joburg – 27-28th Nov	UN Enviro Assembly – Nairobi– 8-12th Dec
NATIONAL	USA - Govt Inauguration - 20th Jan Croatia – 2nd round election – 12th Jan	Germany – Federal Election – 23rd Feb	Brazil – Finance Forum , Rio – 12-13th, Mar	UK – Energy Security Summit, IEA – 24-25th Apr	Australia – Federal Election – 17th May Philippine – General Election – 12th May	EU Ministerial – Under2 Coalition - Jun		Bolivia – General Election – 17th Aug	Malawi – General Election – 16th Sept Norway - Parliamentary Election – 8th Sept	Argentina - Legislative Election – 26th Oct Canada - Federal Election – 20th Oct		
EVENTS	WEF – Annual Meeting, Davos – 20-24th Jan	AGES – Africa Summit, Cape Town – 19-21st Feb GTF- Meeting, Barcelona – 17-21st Feb	World SD summit – New Delhi – 5-7th Mar Africa Energy Indaba – Cape Town – 4-6th Mar	USCAS – US Climate Action Summit, Washington – 22nd Apr WB/IMF – Meet, DC – 25-27th Apr	CGAAS – Asia Action Summit, Singapore – 8th May	Global NDC conf – Berlin – 11-13th Jun FfD – Fourth Intl Conferenc, Seville – 30-3rd Jul	HLPF– Political Forum on SDG session, UNHQ –14-23rd Jul		Climate Week NYC – Climate Group – 21-28th Sept Chungnam Intl – South Korea– 7th Sep	WB/IMF – Meet, DC – 18-19th Oct	Under2 Coalition General Assembly - Belem – TBC	

NDC Strategy

“The next round of NDCs are the most important climate documents of this century so far”, UNFCCC, Executive Secretary, Simon Stiell.





Outcome and Objectives

What are we trying to achieve with this project?

Outcome		Enhance the role of subnational governments and leading businesses in setting national NDCs 3.0 that are implementable, 1.5 degrees aligned, sector specific, and investable.
Objectives		
	1.	Capacity Building: Highlight the significance of NDCs to businesses and subnationals. And the role these players can play to national governments.
	2.	Analysis: Define the role of business and subnational governments in supporting a sectoral strategy for NDCs that would make them 1.5 aligned e.g. policy barriers to address, financing needed, how many projects needed.
	3.	Advocate: Amplify the implementation role of States and Regions in NDCs and investment role of large businesses in adaptation/mitigation projects/infrastructure to national govts and UNFCCC. Adapting style per the country's conditions.

In other news...

- Climate Group and partners through technical dialogues with many of you, were able to publish **two T20 policy papers**, one on energy and the other subnational climate finance. Report highlighted existing leadership work of states and regions and their importance.
- On CHAMP, we saw Brazil specifically mention CHAMP as a framework for climate federalism, on page 6 of their NDC.
- Vanessa Power, Senior Communications Manager, Under2 will be hosting a communications roundtable webinar in the not-too-distant future. Reach out with your comms contact.

Sub-national governments and solidarity levies

Tom Evans, Senior Associate, Secretariat of the Global Solidarity Levies Task Force

tom.evans@europeanclimate.org

Solidarity levies are a critical new source of public finance

Examples:

- A levy on fossil fuel production
- A global maritime shipping levy
- An aviation fuel levy
- A frequent flyer levy
- A financial transaction tax
- A plastic polymers production levy

Benefits:

- Polluter pays principle
- Undertaxed sectors of the economy
- New and additional to ODA
- Predictable streams
- Debt-free finance
- Price signal on negative externalities

Global Solidarity Levies Task Force

- **Co-chairs:** Barbados, France, Kenya
- **High-level expert group**
- **Partner organisations**, e.g. World Bank, IMF, UN, AU etc.
- **Secretariat** based at European Climate Foundation – chaired by Laurence Tubiana and Ismail Momoniat

Coalition for Solidarity Levies

Launched at COP29 with 17 member governments committing to:

- **Support solidarity levies** as part of the solution to close the climate & development finance gap
- **Consider the solidarity levies proposed by the task force for introduction** at domestic level (according to local tax regulations) and are ready to redistribute part of the funds collected to support international solidarity for climate and development action
- **Designate an official sherpa** to engage with the task force's proposals for solidarity levies, represent their country at meetings of the coalition and consult with other coalition members on what they believe are the most appealing levies

Barbados, France, Kenya, Antigua & Barbuda, Colombia, Denmark, Djibouti, Fiji, Marshall Islands, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Spain, and Zambia with the EU, AU & Germany as observers.

Roadmap to COP30

2024

Establishment of the Task Force
Literature review of solidarity levies
Publication of interim progress report
Launch of Coalition for Solidarity Levies

Jan-June

From FiCS to Spring Meetings

Develop concrete levy proposals with governments and via open consultation
Publish expert design recommendations and impact analyses
Refine focus to a priority set of proposals

FfD4

Initial champion governments step forward supporting specific proposals for solidarity levies
Agree principles of revenue allocation

COP30

Launch of coalitions of the willing committing to implement a levy at domestic level or in a relevant international forum

The Under2Coalition and Global Solidarity Levies Task Force are currently exploring how best to link sub-nationals into this work, and we are keen to hear from you as a part of this

Discussion



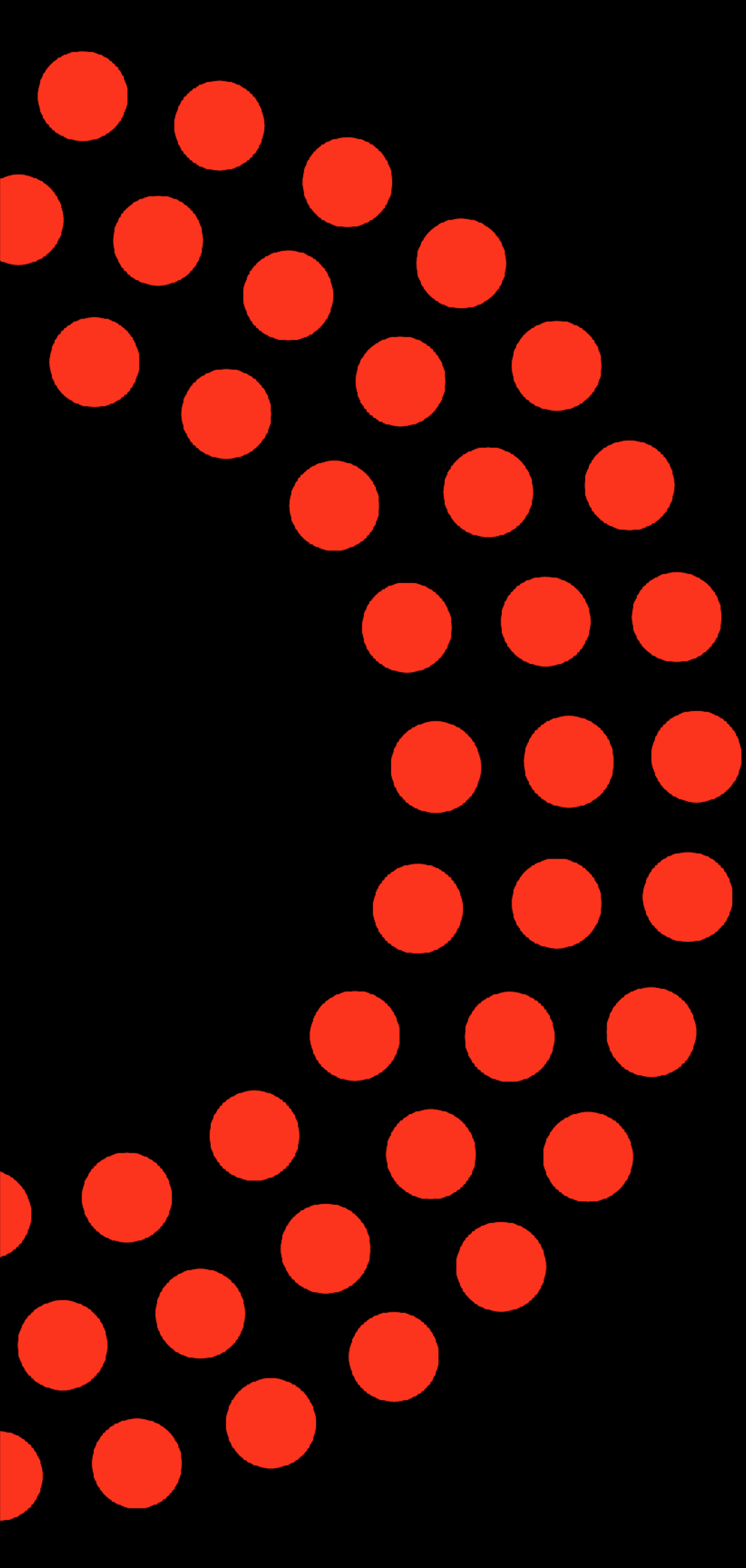
[CLICK] Advocacy Webinar **- Follow Up Survey**

Five questions:

1. Under2 Policy advocacy priorities
2. NDC strategy involvement and focus
3. Global Solidarity Levies
4. Any missing key events
5. Business collaboration

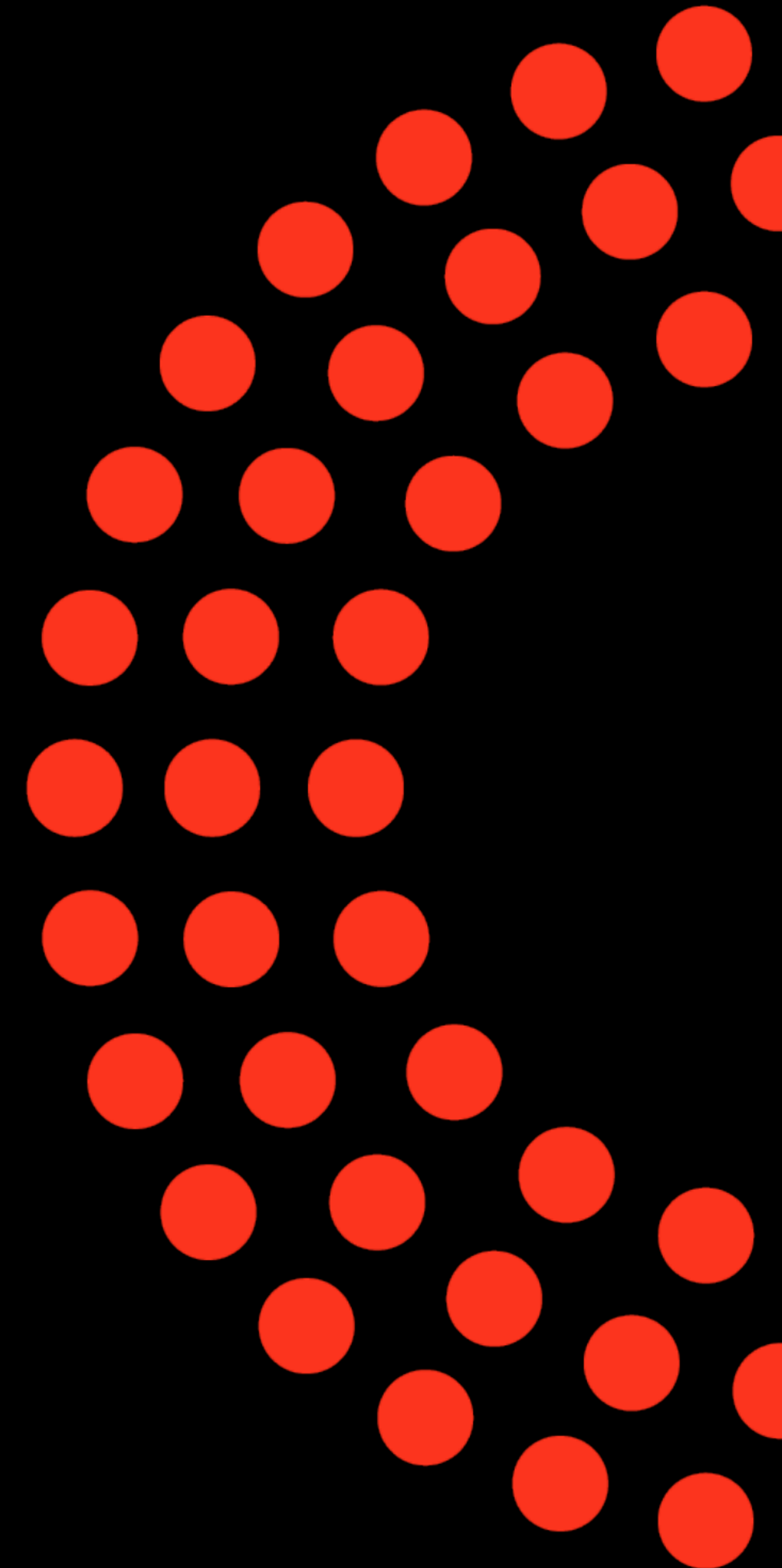
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Thank you

Appendix



Useful Summaries & Resources

Carbon Brief [Summary](#) of COP29

Under2Coalition [expert insights](#) on COP29.

NRDC [explainer](#) on scaling climate finance post 2024.

LGMA [interventions](#) at COP29.

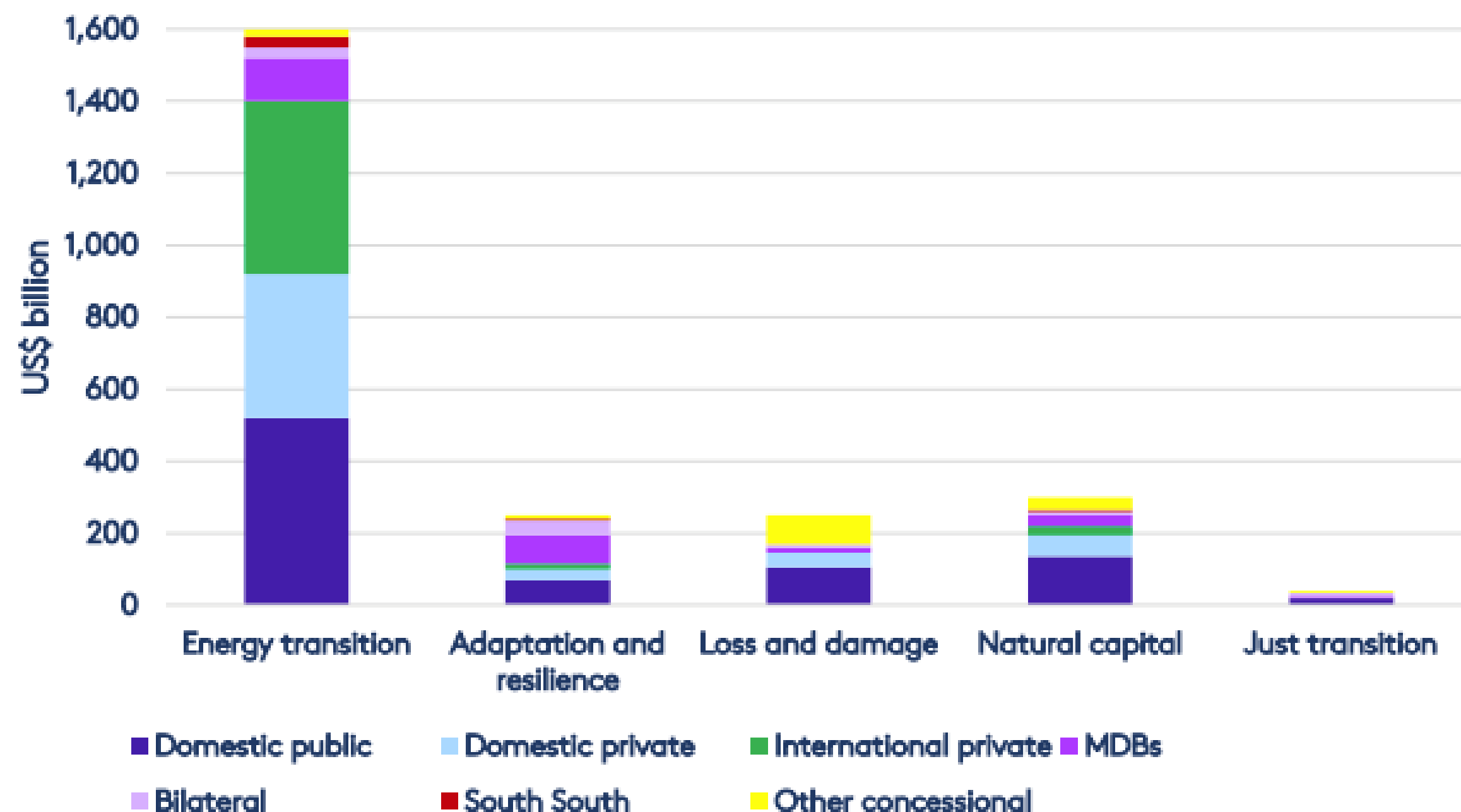
LGMA [joint position](#) for COP29.

[Oxford Climate Policy Monitor](#) reveals net zero regulations surge globally but implementation gap remains.

Under2Coalition [Year In Focus](#) for 2024.

We need to significantly scale up climate and development finance

Figure 2.1. Financing climate action in EMDCs other than China by 2030 – matching sources to needs



The new collective quantified goal

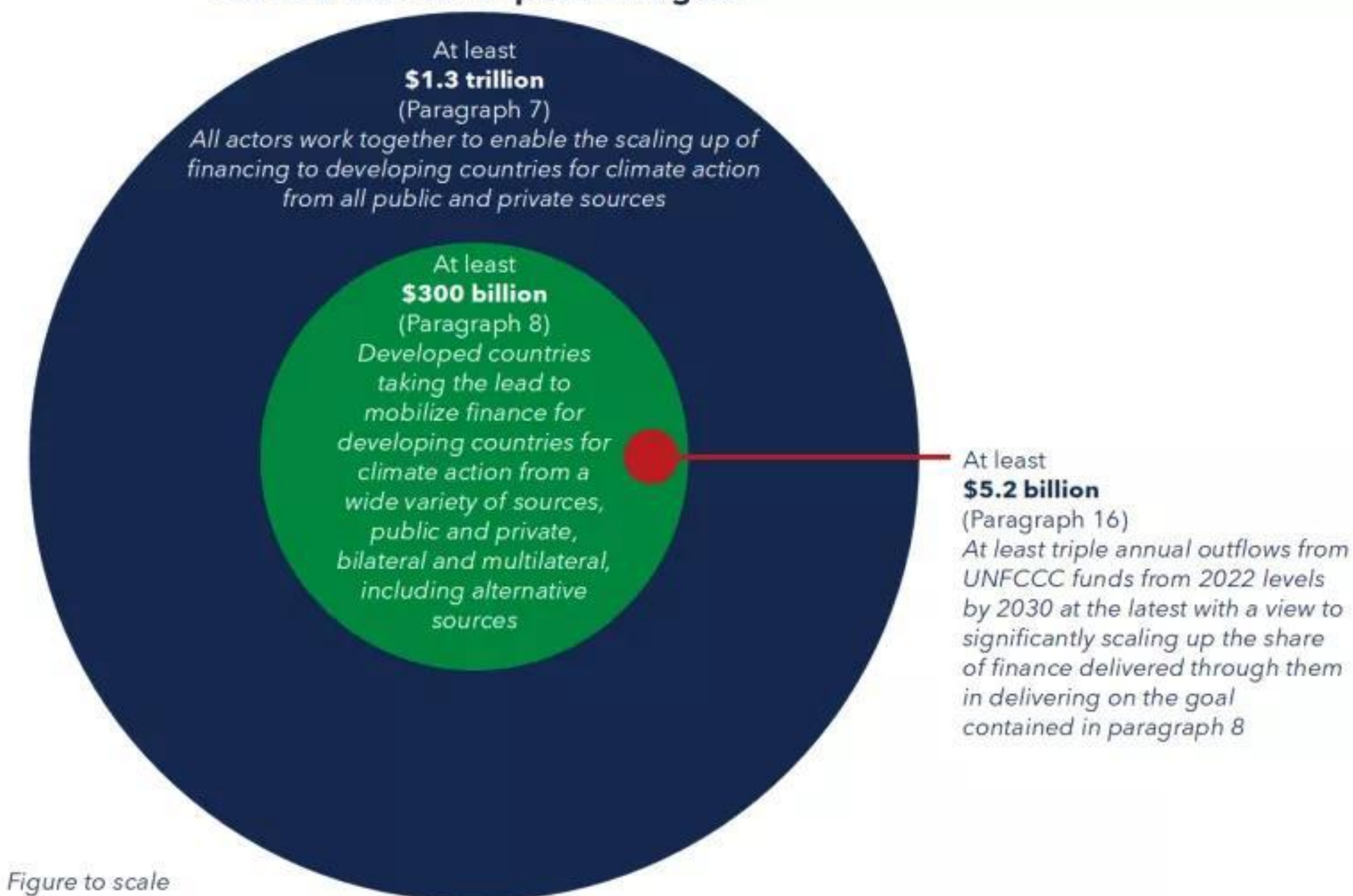


Figure to scale

Solidarity levies have significant potential to close the climate and development finance gap

<i>Levy option</i>	<i>Indicative potential revenue generation from existing literature</i>
<i>Maritime shipping levy</i>	A levy applied well-to-wake of \$150-\$300 per tonne of CO ₂ e would in 2027-2030 generate an estimated \$127 billion per year ^[i]
<i>Aviation kerosene levy</i>	A levy of €0.33 per liter globally from the consumption of kerosene jet fuel for international flights would generate an estimated €18 billion per year (approximately \$19 billion per year) ^[ii]
<i>Aviation ticket levy</i>	A frequent flyer levy starting at \$9 for a person's second flight and rising to \$177 for their twentieth within the same year would generate an estimated \$121 billion per year ^[iii]
<i>Fossil fuel extraction levy</i>	A \$5 fee per tonne of CO ₂ e on the extraction of fossil fuels in 2024 would generate an estimated \$216.2 billion per year ^[iv]
<i>Fossil fuel profits levy</i>	A 50% tax on the windfall profits of the biggest 14 fossil fuel companies by market capitalization between July 2021- July 2023 would generate an estimated \$173.4 billion ^[v]
<i>Financial transaction levy</i>	A 0.1% rate stocks and bonds instruments and a 0.01% rate on transactions of derivatives globally would, depending on the level of market reaction and evasion, generate between an estimated \$237.9 billion and \$418.8 billion per year ^[vi]
<i>A coordinated minimum wealth levy</i>	A global minimum tax on billionaires equal to 2% of their wealth would generate an estimated \$200-\$250 billion per year ^[vii]
<i>A cryptocurrency levy</i>	A global levy on the electricity use of crypto miners of \$0.045 per kWh would generate an estimated \$5.2 billion ^[viii]
<i>A plastics production levy</i>	A fee of \$60-90 per tonne on primary polymer production would raise an estimated \$25-35 billion per year ^[ix]

Creation of the Task Force

Summit for a New Global Financial Pact in Paris in June 2023

- Participants issued a political declaration calling for further work to explore “new avenues for international taxation”. To achieve this, a task force was proposed.

Africa Climate Summit in September 2023

- African Leaders Nairobi Declaration on Climate Change called for a global carbon tax on fossil fuel trade, maritime transport, and aviation, as well as a global financial transaction tax

COP28 in November 2023

- President Ruto (Kenya) and President Macron (France) therefore decided to launch the Global Solidarity Levies Task Force at COP28, with the crucial support of Prime Minister Mottley (Barbados), who decided to join them as a co-chair of the initiative.