

CANADA'S FAIR SHARE

PLATFORM FOR GLOBAL CLIMATE JUSTICE



Organizations from across Canadian civil society have come together to call upon the government of Canada to enact these policies to do and fund our fair share of the global effort to confront the climate crisis.ⁱ

PREAMBLE

Our global financial system is deeply unjust, built on colonial legacies and structured to benefit the world's wealthiest actors at the expense of vulnerable populations. Between resource extraction, unfair trade rules and financial barriers, it is estimated that the Global South provides a net transfer of \$2.2 trillion USD per year to the Global North, or a total of \$152 trillion since 1960.ⁱⁱ This unfair system also means that the Global South faces constrained fiscal space, a spiralling debt crisis, and a higher cost of capital. It's clearer than ever that the global financial system is outdated, unjust, and distorted against the world's poor.

The climate crisis adds an explosive urgency to this global financial systems crisis. With the Global South disproportionately affected by climate impacts that were caused primarily by the world's wealthiest countries, a growing "**climate debt**" is owed to the Global South. Given that **the climate crisis knows no borders**, it is in our deepest collective interest to ensure that the Global South, and especially Indigenous communities, who play a critical role in stewarding biodiversity, are supported to adapt to climate change, transition economies to zero-carbon, and boost sustainable development.

This is not charity, but an imperative – recognized under the 2015 Paris Agreement – that countries must **fund global climate actions** according to their responsibility for the climate crisis and their ability to pay.

Countries like **Canada** – one of the wealthiest in the world, one of the largest historic climate polluters and one of the primary crude oil and gas producers – must contribute its **fair share** towards global climate action. We must not only make a domestic just energy transition off fossil fuels but must also use our wealth – generated from resource extraction at home and around the world – to **support the Global South** to do the same and adapt to the climate crisis.

Instead of supporting international assistance and climate finance to the scale required, the Global North instead sends funds towards war, militarization and subsidies to the fossil fuel industry.ⁱⁱⁱ

Meanwhile, decades of neoliberal policies that provided handouts to corporations while gutting our public institutions have set us up to fail in delivering our fair share through public finance alone. **Canada must therefore show leadership – as president of the G7 this year – in advocating for **global financial reform** to address the climate crisis.**

The signatories of this Fair Shares Platform, representing civil society groups across many sectors, demand that the Government of Canada support the following policies to ensure our country is doing its part to support global climate equity and justice. It is not an exhaustive list of policies and actions, but represents key demands with vibrant campaigns behind them.

1. PAY OUR FAIR SHARE OF CLIMATE FINANCE TO THE GLOBAL SOUTH

According to a globally accepted calculation^{iv} of each country's "fair share" of the global climate effort, Canada's fair share is equivalent to a [160% reduction](#) in emissions below 2005 levels by 2035. This means that not only must we reduce our domestic emissions by 80% by 2035, but Canada should also make **financial contributions of at least an average of \$58bn per year from 2025-2035 for global climate mitigation alone.**

In line with decades-long demands from leaders and movements in the Global South, the two other pillars of climate finance – adaptation and loss and damage – are critical needs on top of mitigation and should be equal in scale.^v

Furthermore, **Canada's climate finance contributions must be "new and additional"** – not double-counted or part of existing aid packages. They should be primarily grants, not for-profit loans, conditional investment or private investment. Global South countries need support, not more debt.

As part of this, Canada must:

1. Triple Canada's [post-2025 climate finance pledge](#) to \$15.9 billion a year until 2031, which falls far short of our true fair share but would signal a good-faith step forward.
2. Ensure that our contributions are gender-responsive and made up of mostly or exclusively grant-based finance, not loans, with less reliance on private finance.
3. Ensure that Adaptation and Loss & Damage funding are scaled up significantly.
4. Increase Canada's International Assistance envelope to fight against the global trend of cutting foreign aid.^{vi}

2. CANCEL UNFAIR DEBTS AND SUPPORT GLOBAL DEBT JUSTICE

The global debt crisis, felt most acutely by the Global South, is a legacy of colonial rule, and is one of the most unjust and critical obstacles to global climate action. Today, 54 countries face a debt crisis, while low and lower-middle income countries collectively owe around [\\$1.45 trillion USD](#) in external debt.

Servicing this debilitating debt burden is a direct barrier to many countries' ability to respond to climate disasters or invest in energy transitions. **Today, the Global South spends 12.5 times more on debt servicing than it does on climate action.** In fact, many countries are spending more on debt servicing than on basics; currently, [25 out of 54 African countries](#) spend more on interest payments than on health and food security.

In contrast, if the Global North cancelled debt payments to low and lower-middle income countries, it could liberate [\\$109 billion for climate action](#) globally.

The widening debt crisis is caused by a flawed international economic system historically dominated by developed countries. **Canada must use its voice at the G7, G20 and other multilateral spaces to respond to the global call led by hundreds of civil society and faith organizations around the world.** Canada must:

1. Cancel and remedy all unjust and unsustainable debts held by Canada without conditions.
2. Use our position within the G7 and G20 to advocate for further debt cancellation measures and financial reforms on behalf of G7 and G20 members.
3. Use our global leadership and position within the G7 and G20 to advocate for the establishment of a transparent, binding, representative and inclusive UN body for debt resolution: a UN Framework Convention on Sovereign Debt.^{vii}

3. SUPPORT GLOBAL TAX SYSTEM REFORM

The government of Canada and other wealthy countries have spent decades using taxpayer money to subsidize oil and gas and other highly polluting industries. Now, we need to tax their exorbitant profits made at the expense of our health and future.

With global tax systems designed to help wealthy individuals and private corporations hide from paying their fair share and further profiting from their wealth, **tax reform is a key tool for raising the funds to pay for an energy transition domestically and internationally**. Canada must:

1. Respond to the call from over 22,000 Canadians and civil society groups by enacting a windfall profits tax of 15% on profits above \$1 billion for oil and gas companies. [A majority of Canadians](#) support such a measure, which alone could generate up to \$4.2 billion in five years.^{viii}
2. Use our position within the G7 and G20 and our strong voice at the United Nations to negotiate a fair and ambitious [UN tax mechanism](#): the UN Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation.
3. Support the [global calls](#) for international Polluter Pays taxes, or solidarity levies, on undertaxed sectors such as shipping, aviation, fossil fuel extraction, high net-worth individuals, financial transactions, international carbon pricing mechanisms and plastic polymer production.

4. SUPPORT GLOBAL TRADE REFORM

Global trade rules are deeply unjust and outdated, creating one of the most stifling barriers to global climate action. The global trade system has undergone significant changes in the past few decades, including the proliferation of bilateral trade agreements and the **tilting of the global power balance towards multinational corporations over nation states and local communities**. The current trade system serves to entrench power systems that stop developing countries from progressing on climate action.

Canada is deeply implicated in this unjust trading system. Canada has started or completed negotiations toward [85 trade and investment agreements](#) with 75 countries. Many of these agreements follow the lead of the US in maintaining preferential rules for “investors”, or multinational corporations. In many cases, these investor privileges even grant corporations more legal and economic power than the nation states in which they choose to operate.

The neoliberal global trade regime is steadily unravelling, and accelerating this downfall are the recent actions of the US government, which have thrown the global trading system into uncertainty and chaos. **It is imperative that we emerge from this situation [with a fairer system](#) that puts human rights, land, water and health over profits**. In this time of overhaul for the global trading system, Canada must:

1. Remove the harmful Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) mechanism from all Canadian bilateral trade agreements and use our G7 and G20 leadership to advocate for the [banning of ISDS](#) from global trade.
2. Introduce a democratic trade policy and negotiations process that will enable the government to transparently negotiate trade agreements in full view of the public and in consultation with civil society groups, experts and provincial and Indigenous governments.

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- ⁱ These policy demands are in line with Climate Action International's 7 Principles for Financial System Transformation, which can be found here: <https://climatenetwork.org/2023/04/14/finance-system-transformation/>
- ⁱⁱ Adjusted for how much the financial transfers would be worth today if not drained from the South over decades.
- ⁱⁱⁱ G7 countries alone contributed US \$199 billion in 2022 to fossil fuel subsidies (see <https://www.iisd.org/articles/press-release/experts-call-g7-fossil-fuel-subsidy-reform#:~:text=For%20the%20latest%20year%20full,high%20of%20USD%20199.1%20billion>). In 2023, NATO countries spent 2.64% of their GDP on military budgets, while overseas development aid provided by OECD countries totaled only 0.33% of OECD member Gross National Incomes (see [https://www.oecd.org/en/topics/official-development-assistance-oda.html#:~:text=International%20aid%20fell%20in%202024,%25\)%20and%20Sweden%20\(0.79%25\)](https://www.oecd.org/en/topics/official-development-assistance-oda.html#:~:text=International%20aid%20fell%20in%202024,%25)%20and%20Sweden%20(0.79%25))).
- ^{iv} The methodology used here is has been developed by the Civil Society Equity Review (<https://equityreview.org>), a long-standing civil society initiative that has been assessing the fairness of countries' climate action pledges since before the Paris Climate Summit in 2015, and annually ever since, and has since been endorsed by over 600 organizations, groups and movements from around the world.
- ^v As referenced in the text of the Paris Agreement Article 9.4 "The provision of scaled-up financial resources should aim to achieve a balance between adaptation and mitigation". Canada is far from that in practice but is getting there (40%-60%) in terms of future policy objectives (see <https://aidwatchcanada.ca/canadian-climate-finance/>).
- ^{vi} A recent OECD report shows a 7.1% drop in aid, resulting in the first drop after 5 consecutive years of growth <https://www.oecd.org/en/about/news/press-releases/2025/04/official-development-assistance-2024-figures.html>
- ^{vii} These demands are in line with the international [Turn Debt Into Hope](#) 2025 campaign. For more information or to get involved in Canada, see the [KAIROS website](#).
- ^{viii} According to the Parliamentary Budget Officer (see <https://www.pbo-dpb.ca/en/publications/LEG-2324-011-M--applying-canada-recovery-dividend-fossil-fuel-companies--application-dividende-relevance-canada-entreprises-secteur-combustibles-fossiles>)