

Subnational call to action: Accelerate the just transition away from fossil fuels

13 November 2025

COP30 must not miss the opportunity to advance multilateral progress on the single biggest driver of climate impacts: fossil fuels. Building on the inaugural COP28 commitment to a planned transition away from fossil fuels, parties should now move from principle to practice.

To deliver, we must reinforce implementation pathways, mobilise financial resources, enhance positive incentives, and develop innovative instruments. Steps best taken in close collaboration with state and regional governments.

The vast majority of global fossil fuel production is managed by national governments and/or the private sector, but their extraction facilities, workforce, and communities exist within states and regions. These governments are a critical node within the global fossil fuel economy.

Their leadership is mounting. Scotland has set out finalised policy positions of no support for conventional and unconventional onshore oil and gas extraction; Québec has committed to shut down all existing drill sites within three years; New South Wales has banned offshore oil and gas drilling; Alberta, Saskatchewan, British Columbia, and California have adopted oil and gas methane regulations; and New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Yukon, New York, Maryland, Vermont, Tasmania, Wales, Paraná, and Santa Catarina have moratoria on fracking. In federations such as the United States and India, states hold direct powers over grids and licensing; elsewhere, planning and permitting sit with this level of government. They are crucial actors.

According to calculations by the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) based on Rystad Energy's UCube, in 2024, these territories produced roughly 73% of the world's oil, 71% of gas, and all coal. This gives them a pivotal governance role in shaping how production declines and communities adapt. An upcoming IISD and Under2 Coalition report will detail the important role of these governments, now and in the years ahead.

The endorsing governments of this statement rally behind the UNFCCC process, which is demonstrating actionable progress. Its recent NDC synthesis report emphasised that 63% of current national climate plans recognise subnationals as partners in planning, implementing, and monitoring climate action.

Let us now work across international, national, and subnational levels to accelerate the transition to a decarbonised economy. COP30 must ensure continued progress. We need a global and inclusive dialogue on the transition away from fossil fuels at COP30 and beyond. The world is at a critical moment. We must show that the multilateral climate regime can deliver.

State and regional governments are taking two steps forwards, whilst making two asks of Parties in Belem.

Our two steps

1. Endorse the COP29 Grids and Storage Pledge. The backbone of a just, orderly, and equitable transition is adequate infrastructure and storage, not only more renewables and efficiency. Subnationals have a crucial role here.
2. Drive sectoral implementation through Subnational Transition Plans. These plans connect national climate commitments to local realities on energy, jobs, land use, and social protection – making a just transition tangible.

Our two asks

1. Welcome Colombia's declaration on the transition away from fossil fuels and invite parties prepared to act to join their high-level dialogue in April. A flagship forum on fossil fuel phase-out.
2. Launch dialogue for stronger international cooperation on developing a roadmap to phase out fossil fuels, in line with the opening remarks from President Lula at the COP30 World Leaders Summit.

State and regional governments stand by you, with you, and for our communities. Together, let's keep driving progress against the greatest threat humanity has ever faced.

Endorsed by the following state and regional governments:

- Scottish Government | United Kingdom | Under2 Coalition Co-chair
- Chungcheongnam-do Province Government | Republic of Korea | Under2 Coalition Co-chair
- Western Cape Government | South Africa | Under2 Coalition Co-chair
- Government of the State of Querétaro | México | Under2 Coalition Co-chair