CAN EECCA Regional Position Ahead of the 31st UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP31)

Climate Action Network Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia

Climate Action Network Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (CAN EECCA) presents a unified regional position for COP31 in Antalya. In the EECCA region, the impacts of armed conflict, authoritarian trends, high climate vulnerability and economies dependent on coal, oil and gas all coincide. Justice, transparency, accountability and respect for human rights are therefore essential conditions for a sustainable future here.

Just Transition: From Statements to Finance

A just transition without financial resources is a transition paid by people. Knowledge sharing matters, but it does not deliver transformation on its own. A just transition requires adequate and predictable funding, technical support and concrete measures that enable workers, local communities and the most vulnerable groups to cope with the socio-economic impacts of decarbonisation.

We call on Parties in Antalya to:

- **Fully operationalize the BAM with a means-of-implementation function.** The mechanism must deliver finance, technology transfer and capacity building, and not serve merely as a platform for dialogue.
- **Ensure direct access to funds** for local communities, municipalities, trade unions, women (including women's organizations, women farmers and women in informal employment), youth and NGOs, not only for governments and international banks. A share of direct funding should be set for these groups, with annual reporting on its delivery.
- **Establish human rights and labour rights criteria** as a mandatory condition for project support: ILO standards, social dialogue, and free, prior and informed consent.
- **Link the BAM to national planning.** NDCs and long-term strategies must contain costed just transition plans with budgets, timelines and social protection mechanisms.

Electrification: Only with Renewable Energy Sources

CAN EECCA supports the COP31 Presidency's "35 by 35" initiative: raising the share of electricity in final energy consumption from roughly 20% to 35% by 2035. Electric vehicles, heat pumps and industrial electrification reduce air pollution, dependence on fuel imports and vulnerability to price shocks.

Our position:

- **Electrification only with renewables.** The "35 by 35" target must be explicitly tied to COP28 decisions: tripling renewable energy capacity and doubling the rate of energy efficiency improvements by 2030.
- **Electrification is not a substitute for fossil fuel phase out.** It must go hand in hand with a roadmap for the transition away from fossil fuels (TAFF), not replace it.
- **No false solutions.** Geoengineering and carbon capture (Carbon Dioxide Removal, Solar Radiation Modification), large-scale hydropower projects, "transitional" fossil fuel

technologies and small modular reactors divert attention and funding from real solutions and only prolong dependence on harmful industries.

Nuclear power is not a path to a climate-safe future that CAN EECCA supports. We urge that nuclear generation must not be counted toward the “35 by 35” target and that climate finance must not be directed to nuclear power plants. We also call for abandoning new nuclear and fossil fuel projects, and for ending their direct and indirect subsidies

Adaptation: Tripling Is the Minimum, Developed Countries Must Pay

The decision to triple adaptation finance by 2035 is an important foundation. But without a baseline year, interim targets and sources, this pledge risks repeating the fate of the Glasgow goal to double adaptation finance, which was not met by 2025. Meanwhile, developing countries’ adaptation needs are estimated at hundreds of billions of dollars per year.

We call on Parties to:

- **Set a baseline and a trajectory for tripling adaptation finance**, with an interim milestone by 2030 and annual reporting.
- **Fund national adaptation plans, including health system adaptation**: early warning systems for heat waves, floods, mudflows and disease outbreaks, and the strengthening of primary health care.

Health as a Central Element of Adaptation

Climate change is already a direct and growing driver of illness and mortality in the EECCA region. Heat waves, wildfires and their smoke, floods, mudflows, water stress and the expanding range of infectious diseases reduce people’s quality of life and place additional strain on health systems.

We believe that:

- Health must become a cross-cutting theme of national climate policy, not a separate, secondary issue.
- Public health measures must be more broadly integrated into NDCs and national adaptation plans.

Gender Justice as a Condition of Climate Policy

The climate crisis in the EECCA region is not gender-neutral. Women, especially in rural and mountain areas, bear a disproportionate burden related to water stress, land degradation and energy poverty, while their access to decision-making and financial resources remains limited.

We support the adoption of the Belém Gender Action Plan (GAP) for 2026–2034, which explicitly links gender equality to financial mechanisms: the Green Climate Fund, GEF and the Adaptation Fund. However, adopting the plan is only the beginning.

No Climate Justice without Human Rights

The shrinking of civic space in the EECCA region directly contradicts the principles of the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement. In the region, NGOs are denied registration, bank accounts of environmental organisations are blocked, “foreign agent” status is imposed, NGOs are denied accreditation to negotiations, and activists and journalists are persecuted. Where this happens, climate policy can be neither effective nor legitimate.

CAN EECCA calls for:

- **Creating a permanent, multilateral mechanism for NGO participation** at national and regional levels, instead of one-off consultations before each COP; including NGO representatives in national delegations; and protecting environmental defenders.
- **Guaranteeing safe and meaningful participation of civil society at COP31.**
- **Recognising the environmental consequences of war**. Military emissions and the destruction of ecosystems must be accounted for and reflected in reporting, and a just, green recovery and reconstruction of Ukraine must be ensured.
- **Recognizing the unique circumstances of environmental organizations forced to operate outside their home countries**, and ensuring their substantive participation in international climate processes.
- **Creating safe consultation mechanisms with independent experts and civil society organisations** from countries where participation in national climate processes is restricted by repression.

Without human rights, there is no climate justice.
Without transparency, there is no trust.
Without trust, there is no future.

Science as the Foundation of Ambition: IPCC Reports for the Second Global Stocktake

CAN EECCA calls for ensuring that all volumes of the IPCC Seventh Assessment Report (AR7), the Synthesis Report and the Summary for Policymakers are ready for the second Global Stocktake (GST) in 2028. IPCC findings must serve as the baseline scientific input for the GST and be used at all its stages, because without up-to-date science it is impossible to honestly assess collective progress and set an ambitious level for the next round of NDCs.

Convention Synergy: A Common Goal To Restore Ecosystems

The fragmentation of environmental policy into separate programs on climate, biodiversity, forests, desertification, water resources and other areas is one of its fundamental flaws; these processes are inseparable. A shift is needed from fragmented conservation programs to a single planetary strategy for preserving and restoring natural ecosystems and the natural processes that sustain the biosphere. This is what synergy among conventions means: not merely aligning individual programs and indicators, but shared goals and a unified basis for

restoring the natural processes on which the climate, water cycles, biodiversity and human wellbeing depend.

CAN EECCA calls for:

- **Enshrining a common goal to restore natural ecosystems in COP31 decisions** for the UNFCCC, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification.
- **Aligning national plans.** NDCs, national adaptation plans, national biodiversity strategies and programs tackling land degradation must be developed jointly and built on the shared objective of ecosystem restoration.
- **Funding ecosystem restoration as climate action**, serving adaptation and mitigation at once, without substituting offset planting for emission reductions and without monoculture plantations passed off as “nature-based solutions.”

Who We Are

Climate Action Network Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (CAN EECCA) unites __ organizations from 12 countries promoting climate justice, democratic governance and the transition to carbon neutrality. Almost all our countries are part of the Global South, and our cooperation within the region and beyond is a contribution to the broader climate movement.