

Context Overview in preparation of the UN Climate Change Conference UNFCCC COP30

November 10-21st 2025 Belém, Brazil

Context

- **Accelerating action through the ‘Mutirão’ Spirit:** COP30 marks 10 years of the adoption of the Paris Agreement. Through cooperation, projected warming has shifted from nearly 5°C to below 3°C, yet the path still overshoots the 1.5°C target. Accelerating action is needed, particularly in G20 economies, and with stronger synergies across the Rio Conventions. In this context, Brazil has promoted the “mutirão” concept, a call for collective, community-based action to tackle the climate crisis, with a focus on cities, Indigenous peoples, youth and businesses joining national governments in accelerating action.
- **Host-country cross-currents:** Brazil’s COP30 presidency is emphasizing *implementation, inclusion and innovation*, with a strong regional focus on the Amazon and a push to advance a climate financial ambition pathway. The “Baku-to-Belém Roadmap” aims at scaling climate finance to USD 1.3 trillion annually by 2035 through reforms in multilateral development banks, concessional finance, country platforms, private capital instruments, and regulatory frameworks¹.

- **Why is COP30 pivotal?** 2025 is the deadline for a new round of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC 3.0). 2025 is also the deadline for the approval of the new GAP III (Gender Action Plan)² after the extension of the Enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender for 10 years in COP29 in Baku³. Under Brazil’s Presidency, COP30 will center on advancing NDC ambition, adaptation metrics, just transition, finance delivery, forestry, biodiversity, and the strengthening of the multilateral system⁴.
- **UNFCCC capacity and legitimacy:** Parties approved only a modest 10% budget increase amid a wider funding squeeze and loud calls from many observers to curb fossil-fuel influence and to strengthen both civil-society participation and transparency. Finance for climate change adaptation and mitigation, ambition, and the just transition will be key themes at Belém, amidst a complex global geopolitical situation to be negotiated, including the USA leaving the Paris Agreement (effective in January 2026).^{5,6}

¹ Climate Policy Initiative. (2025, May 31). *Advancing the Baku-to-Belém Climate Finance Roadmap*. <https://www.climatepolicyinitiative.org/publication/advancing-the-baku-to-belem-climate-finance-roadmap/>

² <https://unfccc.int/topics/gender/workstreams/the-enhanced-lima-work-programme-on-gender#:~:text=Workstreams,The%20Enhanced%20Lima%20Work%20Programme%20on%20Gender,climate%20change%20at%20COP%2025>

³ UNFCCC. (November 2024). UN Climate Change Conference Baku (COP29). Retrieved from <https://unfccc.int/cop29>

⁴ CIFOR. (2025, August 12). *10 key themes Brazil is placing at the core of the COP30 agenda*. <https://forestsnews.cifor.org/93254/brazil-cop30-agenda-key-themes?fnl=>

⁵ Carbon Brief. (2025, June 14). *Explainer: Trump’s withdrawal from Paris Agreement—process & timeline*. <https://www.carbonbrief.org>

⁶ Inside Climate News. (2025, June 25). *US skips Bonn climate talks as withdrawal proceeds*. <https://insideclimatenews.org>

- **Participation and inclusion risks:** Belém, the Amazon host city, faces acute accommodation constraints (~18,000 hotel beds; cruise ships adding ~6,000), with affordability concerns that could limit participation from developing countries and civil society, posing an inclusivity risk for the COP^{7,8}. While initiatives such as the *Brasil Participativo*⁹ platform and the addition of 125 new intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations as permanent observers¹⁰ represent significant progress, these measures appear insufficient¹¹.
- **Judicial guidance for global climate action:** Recent Advisory Opinions from the Inter-American Court on Human Rights (IACtHR) and the International Court of Justice (ICJ) have underscored the mandatory nature of States' obligations to prevent, mitigate, and address climate change under treaty obligations, customary law, and human rights law, constituting authoritative legal guidance on the scope of climate action commitments expected from Parties. These Advisory Opinions should also function as practical instruments for diplomacy throughout the COP30 negotiations.

Objective

The main goal of this document is to support UN Resident Coordinators, Resident Coordinator Offices, UN Country Teams, and other relevant UN actors to have an overview of the key issues to be discussed at UNFCCC COP30, from the perspective of the LAC region. In turn, this information will help address any questions raised at the national level, during interactions with colleagues and other stakeholders.

This document synthesizes regional perspectives from the LAC region on key themes under negotiation at COP30, in alignment with the priorities set by the COP30 Presidency. It has been developed through a series of thematic webinars facilitated by the LAC Issue-Based Coalition on Climate Change and Resilience. Each section includes a short context paragraph and contributions from 23 UN agencies, funds, and programmes,¹² focusing on actions, challenges, and opportunities.

Key messages

1) "NDC 3.0": Ambition, credibility and alignment to a just transition

- **The mitigation gap remains stark.** The UNFCCC 2024 NDC Synthesis Report shows that full implementation of current NDCs would leave 2030 emissions ~2.6% below 2019 levels—not achieving the ~43% cut science says is needed by 2030¹³. Echoing UNFCCC Executive Secretary Simon Stiell, **new NDCs should meet the "ABC test": Ambitious** (economy-wide, all gases), **Broken down** by sectors/gases, and **Credible** (supported by laws, regulations, and financing). A practical pathway is to bring together government counterparts, international financial institutions, and the UN system to map credible policy instruments—such as regulations, standards, and budget lines — and align them with programming frameworks like the Country Analyses (CA) or Cooperation Frameworks (CF), NAPs, Long-term Low-Emission Development Nationally Determined Contributions (LT-LEDCs), Disaster Risk Reduction/Sendai Framework roadmaps, and National Adaptation Plans (NAPS).
- **15 LAC countries have submitted an updated NDC (either NDC 2.0 or 3.0) in 2025¹⁴.** (as of 14 October 2025). Chile, Barbados, Uruguay, Belize, and Saint Lucia explicitly align with 1.5°C pathways. Brazil, Uruguay, Ecuador, Barbados, Belize have economy-wide targets, while Saint Lucia and Cuba are focused on the

7 The Economist. (2025, April 9). *Negotiators must prepare for a chaotic COP in Brazil*. The Economist. <https://www.economist.com/the-americas/2025/04/09/negotiators-must-prepare-for-a-chaotic-cop-in-brazil>

8 Abnett, K. (2025, July 29). *UN holds emergency talks over sky-high costs for COP30 climate summit*. Reuters. <https://www.reuters.com/sustainability/cop/un-holds-emergency-talks-over-sky-high-costs-cop30-climate-summit-2025-07-29/>

9 COP30 Brasil. (2025, August 29). *Social participation in COP30 is expanded through the Brasil Participativo platform*. Retrieved from <https://cop30.br/en/news-about-cop30/social-participation-in-cop30-is-expanded-through-the-brasil-participativo-platform>

10 COP30 Brasil. (2025, July 31). *Legitimate and consistent presence: 125 new organizations will join COPs as observers*. Retrieved from <https://cop30.br/en/news-about-cop30/legitimate-and-consistent-presence-125-new-organizations-will-join-cops-as-observers>

11 Plan International. (2025, August 11). *For Brazilians, barriers to COP30 participation overwhelming*. Retrieved from <https://plan-international.org/blog/2025/08/11/for-brazilians-barriers-cop30-participation-overwhelming/>

12 UNDRR, UNEP, UNOPS, ILO, IOM, UNESCO, FAO, UNIDO, UNFPA, UNDP, ECLAC, UN Women, DCO, WFP, UNICEF, UNCHR, OCHA, PAHO/WHO, WMO, DPPA, FIDA, UNODC, and OHCHR.

13 UNFCCC. (2024, Oct 28). *NDC Synthesis Report 2024* (emissions ~51.5 Gt in 2030; 2.6% below 2019; 60% by 2035 to align with 1.5°C) https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cma2024_10_adv.pdf

14 Second version of NDC: Barbados, Honduras, Ecuador, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Third version of NDC: Belize, Bolivia, Brasil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Panama, Saint Lucia, and Uruguay

energy and other specific sectors. Countries interested in carbon markets include Honduras (REDD+), Brazil (emission trading), Ecuador and Cuba (exploring cooperation). These nine countries also emphasize climate change adaptation needs.^{15,16}

- **A full integration of decent work and just transition objectives will be a central element for well-designed, comprehensive, and economically and socially viable ambitious climate plans.** As of now, employment issues are mentioned relatively widely, appearing in about 2/3 of NDCs in the ongoing design of NDCs; however, decent work or similar notions are referred to only in 18% of the NDCs. When climate action is grounded in a just and risk-informed transition, it can unlock broad social and economic opportunities while safeguarding long-term sustainability. It holds the potential to generate millions of new decent jobs, foster sustainable enterprises, strengthen occupational safety and health, expand social protection, and uphold labor rights. At COP30, the ILO encourages Parties to further consolidate these elements of the social dimension¹⁷.
- **Advancing a just transition requires child-sensitivity, gender equality, and intersectional perspectives.**¹⁸ Assessments of NDCs for gender responsiveness, tracking progress on girls and women's participation and gendered climate impacts serve as a concrete, accountability tool to strengthen advocacy for more inclusive, and ambitious

outcomes at COP30. Costed, child-sensitive measures should also be embedded in NDCs and NAPs to address children's specific climate exposure and vulnerability conditions. This requires age-, gender-, and disability-disaggregated data, child-responsive finance, and the meaningful participation of children, youth, and child rights experts—especially from marginalized groups—in shaping and implementing climate policies¹⁹.

- **Health at the heart of climate action.** Both the ICJ and the IACHR Advisory Opinions have unequivocally concluded that international human rights law forms part of the binding obligations of States to protect the climate system and the environment. By embedding these obligations and principles, States can enhance both the legitimacy and effectiveness of their NDCs. Moreover, the IACHR has affirmed that, beyond addressing historical emissions, States must prioritize the preservation of carbon sinks, regulate domestic sources, and exercise enhanced due diligence, including measures related to biodiversity and Indigenous Peoples²⁰.
- **Several countries in the region have strengthened the health component of their NDCs in this 3rd round (NDC 3.0),** supported by PAHO/WHO through technical assistance and training. There is a growing opportunity to work across sectors, using tools²¹ that highlight health co-benefits of emissions reduction, while also advancing low-carbon, climate-resilient health systems. However, barriers such as weak intersectoral

15 Information from the NDC Partnership : <https://ndcpartnership.org/news/ndc-30-action-ndc-partnership-member-country-submissions>

16 UNDP, in coordination with the NDC Partnership, is supporting 24 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean to develop enhanced NDCs (NDC 3.0) under Climate Promise 2025, launched by the UN Secretary-General to raise global climate ambition.

17 COP28 achieved an important milestone with the integration of "labour rights" for the first time at a COP decision under the JTWP, which also includes references to "social dialogue" and "social protection". Meanwhile, the ILO has been spearheading efforts to integrate the social dimensions of climate and environmental change in key international climate policy processes since the start of the annual UN climate change conferences in 1995. In 2015, the ILO Guidelines for a just transition towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies for all were adopted, and which were endorsed by the 2023 Resolution of by the International Labour Conference endorsed as the central reference for policymaking and a basis for action on just transition. The ILO continues to work with its tripartite constituents representing governments, employers' and workers' organizations from its 187 Member States, to address advance decent work and social justice in climate action.

18 Developed by UN Women, IUCN, and the Kaschak Institute UN Women. (2024, November). *Enhancing gender-responsive nationally determined contributions: Insights from the Gender Equality and Climate Policy Scorecard*. Retrieved from <https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2024-11/enhancing-gender-responsive-nationally-determined-contributions-insights-from-the-gender-equality-and-climate-policy-scorecard-en.pdf>

19 Further guidance is available in UNICEF's [NDC toolkit for governments](#) and [NDCs for Every Child platform](#) (containing rolling analysis of NDCs).

20 Some countries in the region have begun to work on an integrated vision of climate action, pursuing efforts to align national goals under the Rio Conventions. For example, in 2025, Panama launched the Nature Pledge. A comprehensive process to align and tie together the national mitigation (NDC 3.0), adaptation, biodiversity (NBSAPs) and desertification (NDTs) goals to foster greater coherence in interinstitutional coordination, data collection and analysis, and cross-cutting implementation and reporting. OHCHR has been supporting this process to ensure that substantive rights-based provisions are included on just transition, participatory and inclusive processes, access to information, access to justice, and the protection of Indigenous Peoples and local communities

21 Examples of health co-benefits and assessment tools include:

- **AirQ+**: Estimates the health impacts of air pollution exposure and the benefits of air quality improvements.
- **CLIMAQ-H**: Assesses the health impacts of climate change mitigation actions on air quality.
- **GreenUR**: Evaluates the health and equity impacts of urban green spaces.
- **HEAT (Health Economic Assessment Tool)**: Estimates the economic value of health benefits from walking and cycling, including impacts of physical activity, air pollution, road safety, and carbon emissions.

collaboration and limited technical and financial capacities remain.

2) Adaptation, loss and damage and the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA)

- **Adaptation works best when it's just and inclusive.** In doing so, they can help address poverty, inequality, and environmental degradation, while also contributing to peace, stability, and the GGA.
- **To accelerate progress under the United Arab Emirates–Belém work programme, countries must integrate inclusive, disaggregated adaptation indicators into climate-risk-informed public investments.** Negotiations have resulted in a list of around 100 indicators for reporting adaptation at the global level, some of them being common with other reporting mechanisms such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. In Belém, this set of indicators is expected to be approved, capturing age, gender, disability, Indigenous Peoples' perspectives, and education of children and young people to help guide investments in key sectors such as health, water, sanitation, food systems, and resilient infrastructure²². UN analytical capacities can support this work by addressing persistent data gaps.
- **Strengthening accountability for gender-responsive climate action requires reliable, gender-disaggregated indicators and the systematic integration of gender equality and women's empowerment across climate policies, sectors and processes.** UN Women is finalising a set of gender-disaggregated adaptation and mitigation indicators, aligned with national data systems and developed with National Women's Machineries, Ministries of Environment and National Statistical Institutes across LAC. In parallel, UNDP provides technical guidance and training through the Guide to Key Elements for Including Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Climate Policies and the NDC 3.0 High Gender Ambition Technical Support Package to help countries integrate gender considerations across climate sectors and processes.

- **A human rights-based approach to data is fundamental in the discussions addressing the scope and metrics of adaptation indicators.** This implies ensuring that safeguards are in place throughout the collection, processing, and dissemination of data, including guarantees of confidentiality, non-discrimination, privacy, accountability, participation, access to information, and the principle of self-identification. Initial measures could consist in, for example, supporting environmental information systems in LAC to incorporate an expanded model of disaggregation around climate harms and adaptation interventions, including age, sex, gender, ethnicity, migration or displacement status, disability, income, as well as highlight process and outcome factors related to specific vulnerable groups and communities, among others. These efforts are consistent with regional commitments under the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (known as the Escazú Agreement).
- **Social and economic labour dimensions of adaptation and resilience must be captured in the GGA indicators.** This includes decent work indicators such as those related to labour rights (particularly freedom of association and the right to bargain collectively), social protection, occupational safety and health, enterprise resilience, inclusive access to finance and labour force diversification. The metrics regarding the United Arab Emirates Framework for Global Climate Resilience will be an important step forward. Such indicators are essential to ensure that adaptation measures enhance livelihoods, protect workers and businesses, advance poverty eradication and promote equity and resilience rather than deepen inequalities²³.
- **The Loss and Damage agenda has become a political and operational priority.** This is especially evident following the operationalization of the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage and the Santiago network. At COP30, the focus will be on strengthening

²² in line with Decision 3/CMA.6 para 21(d) and (f)

²³ ILO experts were part of the group of experts convened by UNFCCC to assist in the technical work under the UAE-Belém work programme and contributed to the final list of potential indicators prepared for consideration by Parties at COP30.

long-term fundraising strategies, ensuring equitable access for vulnerable countries, and addressing gaps in data and methodologies to keep track of non-economic and slow onset impacts with the Disaster and Hazardous Events, Losses, and Damages Tracking & Analysis (DELTA Resilience) system²⁴. A stronger evidence base will be crucial to ensure accountability, guide resource allocation, and integrate loss and damage into national planning processes including NDCs, NAPs, and national budgets^{25,26,27}.

- **Mind the data gap: Resilience depends on it.** This persistent data gap undermines the quality and robustness of risk assessments, which require historical, disaggregated and georeferenced data to identify trends, assess vulnerability in its multiple dimensions, and support informed planning. Without reliable data, policymakers are left in the dark and unable to prioritize or allocate resources effectively.
- **As a core adaptation measure, multi-hazard early warning systems that enable anticipatory action should be scaled and integrated into NAPs and NDCs.** One prevalent gap is the limited use of comprehensive rights-based approaches in emergency responses, including weak coordination with institutions with a human rights mandate. Another gap is the use of quality risk information in the design and implementation of anticipatory action instruments, as for setting indexes and thresholds limiting the effectiveness of early warning and response systems under the EW4All initiative.
- **Leveraging regional instruments and expertise is key to enhancing adaptation efforts and strengthening approaches to address loss and damage.** The region can build on countries' established systems for

capturing data and reporting^{28,29} to enhance the timeliness, granularity and comparability of adaptation and loss and damage data for policy, planning and investment decisions while investing in local capacities for data collection, and analysis. In that respect and noting that displacement is also both a driver and a consequence of loss and damage, especially in fragile and conflict-affected settings, the region may also want to advocate for systematic data and evidence generation on displacement-related loss and damage. Sharing good practices and promoting inclusive methodologies will enhance country readiness and access to international financing. A coordinated UN effort is needed to close evidence gaps, promote just and inclusive recovery strategies, and increase regional access to the Loss and Damage Fund and Santiago Network.

- **Sustainable health systems:** In the lead up to COP30, Brazil has developed the Belém Health Action Plan as a strategic framework to guide the health sector's response to climate³⁰. The Plan, which is aligned with the WHO Global Action Plan on Health and Climate Change; PAHO Policy for Strengthening Health Sector Action on Climate Change with Equity; Andean, Caribbean and MERCOSUR Action Plans; and other strategic documents, is meant to mobilize global action integrating health, equity, climate justice, adaptation and social participation.
- **Resilient infrastructure is the hidden lever for achieving climate and development goals.** Research shows that infrastructure influences 92% of SDG targets, generates 79% of emissions, and will absorb 88% of adaptation costs. For UNOPS and the UN system, this makes resilient infrastructure and procurement critical levers for transformation—not only to cut emissions

²⁴ DELTA resilience has been developed by UNDRR, WMO and UNDP

²⁵ United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. *IBC road to COP30: Recording and monitoring loss and damage in Latin America and the Caribbean: The role of historical loss and damage data in shaping climate resilience* (May 13, 2025), <https://www.undrr.org/media/108556/download?startDownload=20250818> (accessed August 18, 2025).

²⁶ UNFCCC. *Fund for responding to Loss and Damage. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*. Retrieved August 18, 2025, from <https://unfccc.int/fund-for-responding-to-loss-and-damage>

²⁷ Kate Kyriakopoulou, *Voluntary Carbon Market: 2024 Integrity Guidelines Explained*, EcoSkills Academy, August 16, 2024, https://ecoskills.academy/voluntary-carbon-market-integrity-guidelines/?utm_source=chatgpt.com (accessed August 18, 2025).

²⁸ Notably the Sendai Framework's monitoring of standardised indicators and methodologies, national disaster-loss databases and strengthened institutional reporting arrangements at national and subnational levels

²⁹ Such as the DELTA Resilience tracking system for hazardous events and loss and damage, FRAME-Eco, SEEA, and PDNA

³⁰ World Health Organization. (n.d.). *Belém Health Action Plan for the Adaptation of the Health Sector to Climate Change*. Retrieved from <https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/climate-change/en--bellem-action-plan.pdf>

and build resilience, but also to shift private markets. Supporting governments in adopting innovative procurement processes, requiring sustainability and resilience criteria, quantifying Scope 3 emissions, and applying Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) on biodiversity, pollution, referring to indirect emissions generated across the value chain and lifecycle costs is key. These enablers turn infrastructure from a risk driver into a driver of sustainable change.

3) Climate finance and New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG)

- **At COP30, Parties must turn the NCQG into an ambitious and equitable finance framework that truly meets developing countries' adaptation and resilience needs.** At COP29, Parties agreed on a NCQG to mobilize USD 300 billion annually by 2035, well below estimated needs and without clear sub-targets. COP29 and COP30 Presidencies launched a political “Baku-to-Belém” track aiming to scale this to USD 1.3 trillion per year by 2035, relying heavily on private flows. At COP30, attention will focus on increasing specificity, particularly around the split between mitigation, adaptation, and loss-and-damage sub-targets; the balance of grants versus loans; reforms to improve access; and alignment with Article 2.1(c) of the Paris Agreement³¹. Advocating for equitable allocation of resources to adaptation and loss and damage, highlighting risks associated with debt-creating instruments, and supporting calls for simplified access procedures that allow finance to flow directly to those most in need are key for LAC countries.
- **Climate finance in Latin America and the Caribbean has increased from USD 13 billion in 2018 to USD 32 billion in 2022, yet this remains far below the USD 215–284 billion needed annually to meet regional climate commitments.** Achieving net-zero emissions by 2050 will require average annual

investments equivalent to 9.4% of regional GDP (about USD 0.7 trillion), primarily in mobility, agriculture, electricity generation, and buildings. However, as identified by UNDRR's Regional Assessment Report of 2024, only³² around 5% of Official Development Assistance (ODA) targets climate change adaptation, and less than 1% supports disaster risk reduction, underscoring a persistent gap in financing for resilience and prevention³³

- **The adaptation financing gap also persists; countries need USD 51 billion per year, but only USD 28 billion was available in 2022.** Overall, climate finance flows must increase eight to tenfold to meet regional needs. Public finance still provides about 60% of total climate finance, and while private investment is growing, greater leverage of private capital is essential. Encouragingly, green, social, and sustainable bond markets have expanded since 2014, with 14 countries issuing thematic bonds by 2022, though access barriers—such as low liquidity and project risk—remain. There is a growing opportunity to further use innovative disaster risk reduction and climate resilience financial mechanisms, such as resilience bonds.
- **Higher climate ambition drives economic growth.** Investments in renewable energy, sustainable transport, and green agriculture stimulate innovation, competitiveness, and new markets. UNDP–OECD analysis shows that ambitious climate action could boost global GDP by 0.23% by 2040, rising to 3% by 2050 and 13% by 2100 when accounting for avoided losses from climate impacts, proving that climate ambition and economic prosperity go hand in hand.
- **In a biodiversity-rich region, countries should**

32 UNDRR. (2025). *Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction 2025: Resilience Pays: Financing and Investing for our Future* [PDF]. <https://www.undrr.org/media/102968/download?startDownload=20251015>

33 UNDRR. (2025). *Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction 2025: Resilience Pays: Financing and Investing for our Future* [PDF]. <https://www.undrr.org/media/102968/download?startDownload=20251015>

31 Making finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development). Countries are also exploring mechanisms such as multilateral development bank (MDB) platforms, guarantees, and nature/forest finance windows, alongside scorecard-style tracking of finance delivery, including approvals, disbursements, grant/loan mix, local access, and gender and human rights safeguards. Brazil COP30 Presidency. (2025, April). *Brazil launches COP30 “Circle of Finance Ministers” to support the Baku-to-Belém roadmap to USD 1.3 trillion annually by 2035*. COP30 Presidency. <https://cop30.br/en/news-about-cop30/brazil-launches-cop30-circle-of-finance-ministers-to-support-the-baku-to-belem-roadmap-to-usd-1-3-trillion>

unlock climate and nature finance to build resilience. This can be done by strengthening enabling environments and removing systemic barriers to mobilize public–private investment aligned with national priorities, promoting innovative instruments based on NbS, including those aligned with Article 6 of the Paris; and ensuring these flows also support the implementation of disaster risk reduction strategies and resilient development³⁴.

- **Climate finance must reach the local level to strengthen resilience where risks are most acute.** Despite global pledges, climate and disaster risk reduction finance rarely reaches the subnational and local levels where climate risks are felt most directly. Municipalities, Indigenous Peoples’ organizations, and grassroots groups often face barriers such as limited awareness of available mechanisms, complex application procedures, and lack of technical capacity to prepare bankable proposals. This disconnect prevents resources from being translated into urgent action on the ground.
- **Some progress is being made through targeted interventions.** UN Women has been supporting local organizations of women^{35,36}, while PAHO/WHO provides direct technical assistance to governments in drafting concept notes and proposals for submission to partners such as the European Union or the Green Climate Fund. The Regional Fund to support feminist movements has also launched calls for applications, demonstrating how tailored finance can empower underrepresented groups. UNDRR supports numerous local governments in developing their disaster risk reduction and climate resilience plans through its Making Cities Resilient 2030 tools, which include the Climate Resilience Scorecard and

several thematic addenda. It is essential to build local absorptive capacity in national and sub-national dialogues, encourage earmarking of resources for subnational actors, and help bridge connections between central ministries and local institutions so that climate finance truly reaches territories most at risk.

- **Mobilizing private sector finance must ensure climate action advances equity and resilience rather than widening social divides.** This means embedding the social dimensions of a just transition into financial frameworks—such as taxonomies, disclosure rules, and transition plans—while also working closely with financial institutions in integrating sustainability and risk reduction into their business strategies, ensuring alignment with global, regional, and national priorities. Clear incentives and an enabling environment can attract investment in resilience-building, including infrastructure that reduces disaster and climate risks. By channeling resources into the social enablers of low-carbon transitions and adaptation, countries can better manage the social impacts of transition strategies and build inclusive, sustainable economies. Governments should integrate social indicators into national finance frameworks and convene dialogues with private sector actors and key ministries to align investments with just transition priorities. Article 6 mechanisms should go beyond emissions reductions—creating decent jobs, supporting Micro, Small, and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) and cooperatives, enabling reskilling displaced workers, and reinvesting revenues in relevant communities to generate new opportunities.

³⁴ Through initiatives such as Climate Promise, the Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN) and Green Innovative Finance for LAC (GIF4LAC), UNDP supports countries to unlock climate and nature finance by improving investment conditions and addressing systemic barriers. It helps governments institutionalise tools such as climate and biodiversity budget tagging, public expenditure reviews and financial tracking systems to enhance transparency, efficiency and alignment of resources with national goals.

³⁵ <https://lac.unwomen.org/es/stories/noticia/2025/07/250-mil-dolares-para-15-organizaciones-que-lideran-la-accion-climatica-con-enfoque-de-genero-en-america-latina-y-caribe>

³⁶ <https://lac.unwomen.org/en/stories/noticia/2025/09/se-encuentra-abierto-el-tercer-llamado-a-postular-al-fondo-regional-de-apoyo-a-organizaciones-y-movimientos-feministas>

- **COP29 marked a pivotal moment, finalizing arrangements for carbon trading mechanisms^{37,38} by establishing registries, authorization systems, methodologies, safeguards, and accounting standards that build market integrity and trust; still, several governance issues remain unresolved.** This includes clarity on corresponding adjustments, registry operations, methodological approval, and equitable environmental and social safeguards, as well as institutional arrangements. Many countries continue to face readiness gaps, with only a few having submitted updated NDCs³⁹. As implementation accelerates toward COP30, a country-driven—but technically supported—approach is critical. This includes establishing consistent authorization processes, aligning safeguards with human rights and Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) standards, and ensuring that registry systems are interoperable and transparent to assure integral carbon markets and support for the implementation of the NDC.
- **Carbon markets must embed robust human rights and safeguards to maintain integrity and trust⁴⁰.** In 2023, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples published a report highlighting the limitations of carbon emissions–reduction initiatives in relation to Indigenous Peoples’ rights. The report underscored persistent gaps such as

insufficient regulation, lack of transparency, weak participatory processes, and unequal distribution of benefits. It provided illustrative examples from the region (Amazon basin), pointing to unintended consequences of carbon offsetting projects, including land grabbing, tenure insecurity, minimal or absent benefit-sharing, and displacement. Among its recommendations, the report called for rights-based approaches in legal and policy frameworks, notably by integrating robust human rights safeguards to protect the collective rights of Indigenous Peoples.

- **Parties should scale predictable finance for the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage and the Santiago network, prioritising the most climate-vulnerable communities.** Finance must be risk-informed, country-driven, locally led and follow a whole-of-society approach, with inclusive modalities that recognize and support children and groups facing vulnerabilities. To date, no country from the region has requested technical assistance to the Santiago network and only three countries (Belize, Mexico and The Bahamas) have appointed National Liaisons^{41, 42}.
- **Brazil’s national Disaster Risk Reduction momentum.** Brazil is demonstrating how recovery can advance climate resilience. A new USD 359.6 million World Bank loan for Rio Grande do Sul strengthens early warning systems and establishes the *FUNRIGS*⁴³ recovery fund, prioritizing support for women-led households⁴⁴—showing how targeted recovery financing can accelerate resilient development ahead of COP30. Progress in exploring setting a Regional Center of Excellence for Resilient Recovery in Rio Grande do Sul (CERR) positioning Brazil as a regional leader in resilient recovery ahead of COP30. The initiative complements Brazil’s new National DRR Plan and strengthens regional cooperation through platforms like the International Recovery Platform (IRP).

37 Article 6.2 enables countries to engage in cooperative approaches by transferring Internationally Transferred Mitigation Outcomes (ITMOs)—essentially carbon credits—allowing a host country to transfer these emissions reductions to another country. These transfers must promote sustainable development, uphold environmental integrity, maintain transparency, and incorporate robust accounting to avoid double-counting. UNFCCC. (n.d.). *Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement* [Webpage]. UNFCCC. <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/article-6/article-6-2>

38 Article 6.4 establishes a centralized UN-backed mechanism for carbon crediting—known as the Paris Agreement Crediting Mechanism (PACM)—that operates similarly to the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) under the Kyoto Protocol. It is governed by an Article 6.4 Supervisory Body and requires standardized procedures, methodologies, and registries to ensure the validity and credibility of credits. UNFCCC. (n.d.). *Paris Agreement Crediting Mechanism (Article 6.4)* [Webpage]. UNFCCC. <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/article-64-mechanism>

39 International Institute for Environment and Development, *Six months out of COP30, only 21 countries have submitted updated climate targets*, IIED, May 2025, <https://www.iied.org/six-months-out-cop30-only-21-countries-have-submitted-updated-climate-targets> (accessed August 18, 2025).

40 Countries in the region have taken several steps to advance in the implementation of carbon markets such as Chile and Colombia, which have developed a carbon market based on carbon tax offsets; Panama is in the process of developing a market in which the demand for carbon credits is generated through a voluntary emissions reduction program; and Brazil, Mexico, and Colombia are already in the process of developing emissions trading systems.

41 consistent with Decision 5/CMA.5, Annex I, paras 28, 29, 62) and Santiago Network.

42 <https://santiago-network.org/about/national-liaisons?page=5>

43 Plano Rio Grande. (n.d.). *Funrigs (Fundo do Plano Rio Grande)*. Retrieved from <https://planoriogrande.rs.gov.br/funrigs>

44 Governo do Estado do Rio Grande do Sul. (n.d.). *Programa Volta por Cima*. Retrieved from <https://www.rs.gov.br/carta-de-servicos/servicos?servico=2269>

4) Whole of society approach

- **COP30 is framed not merely as a negotiation forum, but as a global mutirão—a collective mobilization that places people and inclusive governance at its core.** The COP30 Presidency has explicitly called for a people-centered approach, integrating businesses, civil society, subnational authorities, youth, Indigenous Peoples, labour unions and other underrepresented groups into all four fronts of the summit: the Global Mobilization, the Action Agenda, formal negotiations, and the Leaders' Summit. COP30 aims to transform climate action from a transactional exercise into a human endeavor, recognizing lived experiences, ancestral knowledge, and community-led solutions as essential to legitimacy, equity, and effectiveness.
- **Protecting rights is the foundation for scaling inclusive climate action.** A whole-of-society approach in LAC requires mechanisms that guarantee transparency, participation, and accountability, building on international human rights law and instruments like the Escazú Agreement. With the region facing the world's highest rates of violence against environmental human rights defenders (EHRDs), governments, the COP Presidency, and the UNFCCC must ensure their safety while enabling the effective participation of community leaders, Indigenous Peoples, youth, women, and Afro-descendant groups in all climate processes. Advocating for these protections and supporting rights-based approaches in national climate policies is key to strengthening both inclusiveness and legitimacy.
- **COP30 is a turning point for gender in climate governance.** With the 10-year extension of the Lima Work Programme on Gender approved at COP29, Parties must now agree on the new structure of the Gender Action Plan (GAP) on Climate Change. Negotiations concluding at COP30 are a critical opportunity to strengthen gender integration across all pillars of climate action. In this process, the Independent Association of Latin America and the Caribbean (AILAC) has emerged as a key driver — advocating for ambitious gender-responsive action, mobilizing technical expertise, and aligning Parties, civil society, and

UNFCCC bodies with support from the Global Gender Alliance.⁴⁵ The new GAP should push countries to address gendered impacts of climate change, ensure gender-disaggregated data, guarantee women's meaningful participation, expand gender-responsive climate finance, and advance just transition pathways. Importantly, it should explicitly require States to fulfill obligations under CEDAW, including General Recommendation No. 37 on climate change and DRR. This means supporting governments in embedding these commitments into national climate policies, ensuring accountability, and advancing transformative outcomes.

- **Human mobility is no longer peripheral, it is central to climate action.** Since the Cancun Adaptation Framework (2010), migration, displacement, and planned relocation have progressively entered the UNFCCC agenda. At COP30, Latin American and Caribbean countries have the chance to consolidate this recognition by advancing integration of human mobility into NDCs, NAPs, adaptation frameworks such as the GGA, and the Loss and Damage architecture—including finance mechanisms. This is an opportunity to encourage governments to frame mobility not only as a humanitarian concern but as a strategic adaptation and resilience measure.
- **COP30 is the moment to turn recognition into resources and results.** Building on regional commitments (Chile Declaration and Plan of Action, Regional and South American Conferences on Migration, and the IACtHR's Advisory Opinion), the region must push for indicators on human mobility within the GGA and ensure resources under the Loss and Damage Fund are accessible for mobility-related needs. Articulating these priorities and linking them to broader development agendas ensures coherence across climate, migration, and human rights frameworks.

⁴⁵ Example of Perú: Perú: The country's National Adaptation Plan incorporates gender as a cross-cutting approach. This has enabled a significant part of the proposed adaptation measures to effectively contribute to promoting gender equality and social inclusion. Similarly, when defining its implementation strategy (enabling conditions, sources of financing, monitoring and evaluation), the necessary guarantees have been provided so that this process is carried out in conditions of equality.

- **No one on the move should be left behind.** Following the COP29 decision referencing refugees in the new climate finance goal, COP30 should ensure that refugees, IDPs, and stateless persons are explicitly included in implementation, finance allocation, and monitoring systems. Advocating for these groups at the national level is key to ensuring their protection and participation in decision-making.

Implementation at COP30 means turning ambition into systems change to confront the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. With the Presidency emphasising implementation, inclusion and innovation, the UN system must translate global goals into tangible outcomes through integrated solutions. The third round of NDC updates is a critical chance to align action with science, cut emissions 43% by 2030⁴⁶ and accelerate adaptation with NDCs that are ambitious, inclusive, science-based and fully implementable across all sectors and gases. The G20, responsible for 80% of global emissions⁴⁷, has a particular duty to lead. A just transition backed by public and private finance and whole-of-society participation, including groups facing vulnerabilities and children, is essential, and the UN system should support developing countries with data, technical assistance and policy guidance so ambition on paper becomes action on the ground.

Additional resources

Bonn 2025 Outcomes – State of Play on Adaptation, JTWP, and Stocktake. (2025, June). *Carbon Brief*. [Link](#)

COP30 Presidency – Letters from the Presidency: Priorities and Updates. (2025). [Link](#)

International Labour Organization (ILO). (2024). *Gender, Equality and Inclusion for a Just Transition in Climate Action*. [Link](#)

International Labour Organization (ILO). (2024). *Mapping Just Transition in NDCs*. [Link](#)

UN Environment Programme (UNEP). (n.d.). *Emissions Gap Report*. [Link](#)

UNICEF. (2025). *COP30 Policy Brief: Integrating Children's Needs in NDCs and NAPs*. [Link](#)

UNFCCC. (2024). *NDC Synthesis Report: Global Ambition Update*. [Link](#)

UNFCCC. (n.d.). *Road to Belém: Overall Process and Presidency Coordination*. [Link](#)

UNDRR. (2025). *Global Assessment Report (GAR) 2025: Resilience Pays – Financing and Investing for Our Future*. [Link](#)

UNDRR. (n.d.). *Narrative Analysis & Case Studies: Heat Resilience*. [Link](#)

UNDRR. (n.d.). *Policy Brief: Loss and Damage*. [Link](#)

World Health Organization (WHO). (2025, July 29). *Climate Crisis is a Health Crisis: WHO Urges Urgent Action Ahead of COP30 at the Global Climate and Health Conference in Brasília*. [Link](#)

Glossary

Article 6: Paris Agreement provision enabling international cooperation in mitigation (markets & non-market based)

CA Country Analysis
CF Cooperation Framework
COP Conference of the Parties
CMA Conference of the Parties acting as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement

CRA Climate Risk Assessment
DRR Disaster Risk Reduction
GAP Gender Action Plan
GCF Green Climate Fund
GEF Global Environment Facility
GGA Global Goal on Adaptation—negotiations to frame targets/indicators for adaptation progress.¹⁷ Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung

IACtHR Inter-American Court on Human Rights
ICJ International Court of Justice
IFIs International Financial Institutions
LAC Latin America and the Caribbean
LT-LEDS Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategies

NAPs National Adaptation Plans
NbS Nature-based Solutions

⁴⁶ UNFCCC. (n.d.). *The Paris Agreement*. Retrieved [Date you accessed it], from <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement> UNFCCC

⁴⁷ Naciones Unidas. (2024, noviembre). [Título del artículo]. Noticias ONU. <https://news.un.org/es/story/2024/11/1534426>

NDC 3.0	Third generation nationally determined contributions due in 2025
NDCs	Nationally Determined Contributions
NCQG	New Collective Quantified Goal on climate finance
RCs	Resident Coordinators
REDD+	Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries. The '+' stands for additional forest-related activities that protect the climate, namely sustainable management of forests and the conservation and enhancement of forest carbon stocks
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNEP	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change