

On the Road to COP30: UN System Perspectives from Latin America and the Caribbean

On October 21st, the Issue-Based Coalition on Climate Change and Resilience, in partnership with the Development Coordination Office, held a session titled “On the Road to COP30: UN System Perspectives from Latin America and the Caribbean”. The event marked the culmination of a series of 11 thematic webinars, gathering over 600 participants. It validated consolidated key regional UN messages for COP30, allowing Resident Coordinators (RCs) to align their support to governments, UN Country Teams, and partners to integrate these insights into policy dialogues and national climate action ahead of and during COP30. Such unified messaging helps to ensure that the region’s unique climate risks, priorities, and leadership are visible and considered during the global negotiation.

Roberto Valent, UNDCO Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, and Nahuel Arenas, Chief of the UNDRR Regional Office for the Americas and the Caribbean, opened the session by emphasizing the need for a unified UN voice during COP30. Mr. Valent noted that the initiative “*reflects the spirit of Mutirão, the principle Brazil has chosen to frame COP30, that calls for collective effort, inclusiveness and shared responsibility in responding to the climate crisis.*” Mr. Arenas highlighted some of the key messages focused on the region’s leadership in advancing the loss and damage agenda, financing - including preventative risk-informed spending - and empowering local actors and small enterprises. Damon Jones, UNFCCC Secretariat, presented expected outcomes and negotiation items for COP30. The themes include reinforcing multilateralism and the climate change regime, connecting it to peoples’ real lives, while accelerating the Paris Agreement implementation. Andrea Brusco, Deputy Regional Director at UNEP, presented the key messages which relate to four main pillars: (1) “Third generation nationally determined contributions due in 2025 (NDC 3.0)”: ambition, credibility and alignment to a just transition, (2) Adaptation, loss and damage and the Global Goal on Adaptation; (3) Climate finance and New Collective Quantified Goal and (4) Whole of society approach.

During the discussion, RCs shared country insights and offered support in amplifying the group’s messages at COP30. Ms. Joanna Kazana, RC in Trinidad and Tobago, Aruba, Curaçao, Suriname, and Sint Maarten stated, “*this is a very vocal region when it comes to climate change as a fact impacting those countries, to which there is no doubt; adaptation and mitigation are high on the cooperation agenda and funding is an issue.*”

Interventions also stressed the importance of human rights, equality, the whole-of-society approach, and aligning climate agendas with broader national development plans.

The session exemplified the Regional Collaborative Platform's role in fostering coherence and joint UN action across Latin America and the Caribbean. It also highlighted the Issue-Based Coalition on Climate Change and Resilience as a space where over 20 UN entities combine expertise to deliver integrated, evidence-based regional inputs. By translating global frameworks into actionable guidance, the session strengthened a unified regional voice and positioned the UN system to act collectively and strategically on the road to COP30.