

# COP30 Outcomes and Strategic Implications for Latin America and the Caribbean

## Introduction

The United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP30), held in Belém, Brazil, marked an important moment for the global climate agenda. Taking place ten years after the adoption of the Paris Agreement, the conference occurred at a time when the international community is launching the next generation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC 3.0)<sup>1</sup> and responding to the findings of the first Global Stocktake<sup>2</sup>, which underscored the need to accelerate climate action across mitigation, adaptation, finance, and implementation.

Ahead of COP30, the Issue-Based Coalition (IBC) on Climate Change and Resilience developed a set of regional [key messages](#) to highlight priorities for Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). These messages focused on four areas that were considered particularly relevant for the region:

1. Enhancing ambition and implementation pathways for NDCs
2. Strengthening adaptation and addressing loss and damage
3. Scaling climate finance for resilience and development
4. Advancing inclusive, whole-of-society approaches to climate action

Against a highly complex geopolitical backdrop, COP30 in Belém confirmed that multilateralism remains alive. While the outcomes did not fully meet expectations in terms of ambition and speed, 195 Parties were able to reach consensus while maintaining alignment with existing commitments, allowing the process to move forward. In this context, Latin America and the Caribbean played a vocal role, raising concerns over ambition. Moreover, 15 countries from the region arrived at COP30 with updated NDCs. For countries such as Mexico, Cuba and El Salvador, the COP also served as a platform to present enhanced ambition, rather than simply maintain existing commitments.

The outcomes of COP30 broadly reinforced the priorities identified in 2025. In particular, the conference delivered important progress in areas such as adaptation monitoring, the operationalization of the loss and damage architecture, and the adoption of a renewed Gender Action Plan<sup>3</sup>. At the same time, several issues

<sup>1</sup> United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). (2015). *Paris Agreement*. <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement>

<sup>2</sup> United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. (n.d.). *Global stocktake secretariat synthesis reports and addendas*. <https://unfccc.int/global-stocktake-secretariat-synthesis-reports-and-addendas>

<sup>3</sup> United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. (n.d.). *The gender action plan*. [UNFCCC Gender Action Plan page](https://unfccc.int/gender-action-plan)

- particularly climate finance and the translation of NDC ambition into concrete implementation pathways
- remaining areas where sustained engagement will be required.

For the UN system, the outcomes of COP30 provide a renewed opportunity to support governments in aligning national development strategies with climate objectives while ensuring that climate policies are implemented in a manner that strengthens resilience, promotes equality, and mobilizes investment.

The 29 decisions adopted by consensus include agreements on just transition, adaptation, loss and damage, finance, trade, gender and technology, renewing collective commitment to accelerated action and to a climate regime more closely connected to people's lives.

The following sections summarize the key developments under each thematic area and outline potential entry points for engagement.

# 1. NDC 3.0: Moving from ambition to credible implementation

## Context

The implementation of the new generation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC 3.0) is one of the central milestones for the global climate agenda in the coming years. COP30 reinforced the importance of ensuring that new NDCs reflect the ambition needed to achieve the objectives of the Paris Agreement and align with the Global Stocktake while also demonstrating clear and credible implementation pathways.

The discussions highlighted the need for NDCs to move beyond headline targets and to incorporate:

- clearer sectoral pathways,
- stronger alignment with national development plans,
- realistic investment strategies,
- defined just transition measures,
- and greater integration with adaptation and resilience policies.

## Implications for the LAC region

The region arrived at COP30 well prepared, with many countries demonstrating strengthened ownership of their NDCs as core policy instruments. The evolution of NDCs across Latin America and the Caribbean reflects improvements in quality, inclusivity, coherence and ambition, with several countries presenting updated contributions that increasingly serve as guiding frameworks for national climate and development planning. This progress has been supported, in part, through coordinated efforts across the UN system, contributing to enhanced technical robustness, alignment with national priorities, and greater integration of adaptation, mitigation and resilience considerations.

Many countries in the region have already demonstrated leadership in climate ambition. However, the region continues to face structural constraints that affect the implementation of climate commitments, including limited fiscal space, high exposure to climate-related hazards, and the need to integrate climate goals within broader development priorities. In order to keep advancing on the climate agendas, efforts should be made to:

- Strengthen the credibility of NDC implementation will require closer alignment between climate policy and broader national planning processes, including development plans, infrastructure planning, and disaster risk reduction frameworks.

- Support countries in NDC effective implementation, by translating NDC commitments into risk-informed, costed and prioritized investment pipelines. This includes supporting national and subnational institutions to operationalize NDCs through public investment frameworks, sectoral plans and financing strategies that integrate adaptation, disaster risk reduction and resilience, and that can mobilize public, private and climate finance. Operationalizing these frameworks requires strengthening and supporting national capacities in sustainable public procurement and infrastructure delivery to ensure that financed pipelines translate into tangible climate action on the ground considering local communities needs and contributions. Furthermore, technical support should emphasize the measurement and quantification of sustainable impacts, helping countries identify and scale climate actions that offer the highest efficiency and cost-benefit returns.
- Actively broker and align finance to COP30 outcomes, including emerging financing frameworks and regional initiatives (e.g. SNDL, FNDL), as well as established mechanisms such as the GCF, GEF, Adaptation Fund and the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage. The UN system can support ministries of finance/planning to access and blend resources from GCF, GEF, Adaptation Fund, the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage, regional initiatives like the LAC Water Investment Programme, RELAC and just-transition finance platforms, and aligning these with debt, fiscal and SDG financing strategies so climate investments also tackle poverty, inequality and debt vulnerabilities.
- Position the effective implementation of NDCs as forward-looking roadmaps for investment that will advance sustainable development, eradicate poverty, and create decent work for all; embedding just transition and decent work considerations in these plans will be essential to ensure credibility, foster public support, and guarantee that mitigation and adaptation efforts translate into tangible benefits for livelihoods, workers, and businesses across Latin America and the Caribbean.

For many countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, the challenge lies not only in strengthening ambition but also in ensuring that climate commitments are translated into integrated national planning processes that link climate action with economic development, infrastructure investment, and social policy. It is also important to make sure that climate finance reaches those most in needed and enables effective change and equity for vulnerable populations.

## 2. Adaptation, resilience, and loss & damage Context

Adaptation was among the areas where COP30 achieved significant progress. One of the key outcomes was the advancement of the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA), including the adoption of a set of adaptation indicators designed to help countries track progress and strengthen accountability in adaptation planning. The indicators list was adjusted from the initial list submitted resulting from the work of experts, and the final compendium of 59 indicators will require fine tuning and refining over a two-year process, while countries are invited to pilot test it.

The conference also continued the operationalization of the international loss and damage architecture, including the review of the Warsaw International Mechanism, the continuation of the work of the Santiago Network and the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage, both of which aim to strengthen support to countries facing climate-related impacts.

At the same time, the discussions reinforced the importance of improving risk information systems, early warning systems, and climate data in order to support effective adaptation planning and evidence-based decision-making.

## Implications for the LAC region

Latin America and the Caribbean is one of the most climate-exposed regions in the world. Extreme weather events, sea-level rise, ecosystem degradation, and increasing climate variability pose significant risks to economic development and social stability.

Countries will need to develop adaptation strategies that are grounded in robust risk assessments, as state in the Updated NAPs Technical Guidance (2025), supported by reliable data, and aligned with broader development planning processes.

Advancing this agenda can include actions in:

- Promoting risk-informed development planning that integrates climate and disaster risk considerations for the most vulnerable populations including women, rural and local communities, indigenous people and afro-descendant populations into national policies and investment decisions. This is especially relevant for LAC countries, as many have included adaptation targets in their NDCs and are working to strengthen alignment with National Adaptation Plans (NAPs).
- Piloting testing the list of 59 indicators adopted as part of the Global Goal on Adaptation in order to inform their refinement within the Belem to Addis Vision on Adaptation.
- Enhancing the planning and implementation of national adaptation processes with considerations derived from the decision on National Adaptation Plans.
- Developing and submitting requests for technical assistance to the Santiago Network on Loss and Damage and for funding to the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage, with the possibility of direct access to government, within the Barbados Implementing Modalities window open until 15 June. Contribute to the global report on loss and damage defined in the decision on the review of the Warsaw International Mechanism to give visibility to the impacts of climate change in the region.
- Taking into account that, as many countries in LAC highlighted the need to advance actions on human mobility within their NDC 3.0 and NAPs, the decisions on the GGA and the WIM review, and the operationalization of the SNLD and FRLD provide opportunities for coherent and ambitious approaches on these issues.
- Prioritizing adaptation actions that protect lives, livelihoods and critical services in high-risk sectors such as water, food systems, health, in SIDS and cities.
- Strengthening and expanding social protection systems within the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) framework, where indicators will require decisive policy action, particularly in the most climate-vulnerable countries where coverage remains lowest. Closing gaps in coverage, adequacy, and financing is essential to support adaptation and mitigation efforts, reduce inequalities, and enable a just transition. Without comprehensive and adequate social protection for all, climate action risks leaving people behind, undermining public support and limiting the capacity of workers and communities to adapt to the evolving world of work.
- Encouraging coordination between institutions responsible for climate policy, disaster risk management, and development planning.

## 3. Climate finance and investment

### Context

At COP30, Parties reaffirmed the pathway to mobilize up to USD 1.3 trillion per year by 2035 and issued a political call to triple adaptation finance. While no new quantified commitments were agreed beyond the NCQG adopted at COP29, COP30 delivered technical advances (i.e. finance transparency). However, adaptation finance remains far below needs: According to UNEP's 2025 Adaptation Gap Report, adaptation needs in developing countries are estimated at around USD 310–365 billion per year by 2035, while current international adaptation finance remains in the range of USD 25–30 billion annually, leaving an adaptation finance gap of roughly USD 300 billion per year.

COP30 also confirmed the operational start of the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage under the “Barbados Implementation Modalities”, complemented by the Santiago Network as the mechanism for technical assistance, enabling Caribbean SIDS and vulnerable Latin American states, to access grant finance and tailored support.

Another important financial outcome relates to conservation. Brazil and partners launched the “Tropical Forests Forever” (TFFF) facility, a performance-based mechanism to pay countries for keeping forests standing, with a dedicated window for Indigenous peoples; this is especially relevant for Amazonian and other forest countries in LAC.

### Implications for the LAC region

For Latin America and the Caribbean, closing this gap is central to fiscal stability and development planning. In this context, initiatives such as CAF's and UNDRR's first resilience bond for Latin America and the Caribbean, illustrate how innovative, risk-informed financial instruments can help channel capital towards resilience-building priorities while strengthening fiscal sustainability.

This is particularly important, as countries often face challenges in accessing international climate finance, including complex procedures, limited technical capacity, and fragmented financing mechanisms. Lines of action to support climate finance include:

- Supporting governments in developing coherent pipelines of climate investments aligned with national priorities.
- Encouraging dialogue between governments, development banks, and private investors to mobilize resources for climate projects.
- Strengthening coordination within UN Country Teams to help countries navigate climate finance mechanisms and funding opportunities.
- Promoting approaches that integrate climate action with broader development priorities, including economic diversification, resilience, and social inclusion.
- Promoting lifecycle costing methodologies that quantify the long-term economic benefits and avoided losses of climate-resilient projects. By demonstrating the financial return on investment of sustainability and adaptation measures, the UN system can help governments build bankable business cases that appeal to private investors and financial markets.
- Supporting dialogues related to the analysis of synergies for the implementation of the different environmental Conventions, particularly the Rio Conventions.

## 4. Whole-of-society approaches to climate action

### Context

COP30 placed strong emphasis on the importance of inclusive climate governance, recognizing that effective climate action requires the participation of a wide range of stakeholders, including local governments, women, Indigenous Peoples, civil society organizations, youth, and the private sector. The Conference marked the launch of the Belém Action Mechanism for a Just Global Transition, a new instrument to support countries in ensuring that the transition to sustainable economies is socially inclusive. Workers' and trade union organizations welcomed the mechanism as a critical step toward recognizing labour rights, social dialogue, and protection for workers and communities affected by the transition, while underscoring the need for concrete financing. Delivering on the Belém Action Mechanism will require active engagement from enterprises to drive innovation, mobilize investment, build skills, and ensure that the transition advances both competitiveness and job creation.

The conference also advanced progress on gender equality through the adoption of a renewed Gender Action Plan, which aims to strengthen the integration of gender considerations into climate policy and implementation. The Belem GAP is a nine-year framework designed to advance gender-responsive climate action and ensure coherent gender mainstreaming across all levels. Its scope ranges from capacity-building, knowledge management, coherence and communication, to enhancing participation and women's leadership, as well as supporting gender-responsive implementation, monitoring, and reporting.

### Implications for the LAC region

COP30 launched the Belém Action Mechanism for a Just Global Transition, a new instrument to support countries in ensuring that the transition to sustainable economies is socially inclusive. Workers' and trade union organizations welcomed the mechanism as an important step to recognize labour rights, social dialogue and protection for workers and communities affected by the transition, while stressing the need for concrete financing. Ensuring the effective implementation of the Belém Action Mechanism will also require the meaningful inclusion of enterprises—particularly micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), which are key drivers of employment in Latin America and the Caribbean—to foster innovation, build skills, mobilize investment, and align climate action with job creation and competitiveness.

Countries renewed the Gender Action Plan that enhances support for national gender and climate change focal points. The initiative advances gender-responsive budgeting and finance, and promotes the leadership of Indigenous, Afro-descendant, and rural women, among other topics.

Countries adopted the Belem Gender Action Plan for 2026–2034 that enhances support for national gender and climate change focal points (NGCCFPs). The Plan introduces several important components, including measures related to health, violence against women and girls, and protection mechanisms for women environmental defenders. It also emphasizes care work, decent work and quality jobs, and socially just transitions. Additionally, the GAP recognizes the intersecting forms of discrimination that shape the lived realities of women with disabilities, Indigenous women, women from rural and remote communities, and women and girls of African descent, this is especially relevant for LAC region. While the Belem GAP has made important progress, significant challenges remain. Dedicated financing for its implementation has not yet been established, and in key areas such as mitigation and climate finance, gender-related language still needs to be strengthened. Additionally, NGCCFPs from LAC have emphasized the need for simplified access to funding for gender-responsive climate actions.

COP30 elevated health within the climate agenda through the launch of the Belém Health Action Plan, reinforcing the need to integrate climate risks into health systems, preparedness and planning, particularly for vulnerable populations. The Belém Health Action Plan, the flagship health outcome of COP30, provides a global framework for climate-resilient and low-carbon health systems, centered on governance, surveillance, workforce, infrastructure and equity.

Human mobility considerations were also integrated in multiple COP30 tracks, including adaptation, L&D, gender and just transition, reflecting the priority that the region has set on these issues. Participation of Indigenous Peoples at COP30 was a highlight, and their demands for representation and rights were reinforced by protest actions and formal statements. For LAC, strengthening participation and rights, particularly of Indigenous Peoples and local and traditional communities, is not only a matter of equity but a prerequisite for effective adaptation, risk reduction and nature-based solutions. Other hallmarks of the COP30, was the unprecedented mention of people of African descent. The mention of people of African descent appears in the documents of Just Transition, Gender Action Plan, Global Adaptation Objective and the Mutirão. At the same time, many of the most innovative climate solutions in the region are emerging from local governments, community organizations, and Indigenous knowledge systems.

At the national level, some areas are key for support:

- Promote inclusive and gender-responsive climate governance processes that involve a wide range of stakeholders.
- Strengthen collaboration with local governments, civil society organizations, and community groups.
- Encourage the integration of gender equality and social inclusion into climate policies and programmes supporting countries in translating the Belém GAP into national policies and access. Advancing gender-climate data and capacity-building efforts toward SB64, and mainstreaming gender across key climate tracks such as mitigation, climate finance, and just transition. The UN can play a critical role by providing sustained technical assistance, facilitating access to tools and evidence, fostering regional coordination, and helping countries build monitoring frameworks to deliver measurable results ahead of the 2029 mid-term review.
- Support platforms that enable knowledge sharing and collaboration among different actors involved in climate action.

## Expectations for COP31

COP30 reinforced the urgency of accelerating climate action while also highlighting the importance of strengthening implementation and coordination across sectors and institutions.

For the Latin America and Caribbean region, the coming years will be critical in translating climate commitments into practical policies and investments that strengthen resilience and support sustainable development.

Political advocacy is a must to move forward with this agenda and high-level advocacy is especially important at that. Resident Coordinators carry important messages from the region to the right actors, and this is why this work is so important.