

Non Traditional Security Digest

COP 30: Key Outcomes

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COP 30: Key Outcomes

Introduction

The 30th Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (COP30) took place in Belém, Brazil, from 10th November to 21st November, 2025. This conference was characterized by the Brazilian Presidency's emphasis on forest preservation and aimed at securing funding for the conservation of tropical forests. The UNFCCC Secretariat described the conference as a test of multilateral cooperation in “[stormy political waters](#)”.

COP30 saw delegations from over 190 nations and the European Union, excluding only a handful of minor parties. Host Brazil (3,805), led with the largest official delegation, followed by China (789), and Nigeria (749). In total, thousands attended in person and over 5,000 joined virtually. The list included heads of state, ministers, UN bodies, specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations, NGOs, media representatives, youth, and scientific experts. Attendance reflected growing global urgency, with robust engagement from youth movements, Indigenous peoples, scientific experts, and civil society.

Negotiators successfully established a set of outcomes, referred to as the “Belém political package” or “[Global Mutirão](#)”,

which integrates commitments for implementation, financial pledges, and procedural resolutions. Notably, the official texts from COP/CMA did not include binding language aimed at phasing out fossil fuels due to significant resistance from various fossil-fuel producing nations; instead, the Presidency initiated voluntary “roadmaps” that run alongside the UN process. [Five major key outcomes of COP 30 includes:](#)

1. A political signal to triple adaptation finance by 2035

[Adaptation finance](#) is the funding that helps countries cope with climate impacts already unfolding, such as building flood-resilient roads, improving water storage during droughts or expanding early warning systems. At COP 30, countries indicated that adaptation finance should be increased to threefold by 2035. While this is not yet a binding commitment, it is a major political signal. Current funding falls far short of what vulnerable countries need, and impacts are escalating quickly.

2. Minding the gap: New initiatives to raise ambition

Countries’ Nationally Determined Commitments (NDCs) while providing progress if implemented are falling short to reach the mitigation necessary to avoid 1.5°C. In an effort to bridge the gap

between current climate targets and the 1.5°C goal, the [Baku-Belém Political Package](#) establishes two initiatives designed to support nations in strengthening and achieving their commitments.

- The "Belém Mission to 1.5": This mission aims to encourage higher ambition in national climate plans (NDCs) by fostering dialogue on the necessary international cooperation and investment.
- The "Global Implementation Accelerator": It is a voluntary and cooperative platform intended to assist countries in moving from planning to action, facilitating the practical delivery of mitigation and adaptation measures needed to meet their goals.

3. A new UNFCCC mechanism to guide “just transition”

One of the summit’s most consequential outcomes was the creation of a just transition mechanism. In line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), just transition refers to the idea that climate action should not leave anyone behind, particularly communities and workers whose livelihoods depend on fossil fuels or carbon-intensive sectors. It also means giving developing countries the support

they need to grow their economies in cleaner, more resilient ways. The [new Belém Action Mechanism \(BAM\)](#) aims to serve as a platform to coordinate assistance, share best practices, mobilize resources and track progress.

4. Countries agreed on indicators for the Global Goal on Adaptation

Over the years, Parties have been trying to define how to measure global progress on adaptation, which was a difficult task considering climate resilience looks different from place to place. [COP 30 finally produced an agreed set of indicators for the Global Goal on Adaptation \(GGA\)](#). These aims to help evaluate improvements in areas such as water security, food systems, infrastructure resilience, the reach of early warning systems and access to adaptation finance. Negotiations and many governments have however stressed that the indicators will need further refinement, leaving significant work for coming COPs.

5. Fossil fuel phase-out language issue

Many governments and civil society groups arrived in Belém calling for a clear commitment to phase out fossil fuels. In the end, Parties were unable to agree on formal language that would anchor a phase-out in the COP 30 outcome. Brazil, as the COP 30 Presidency, launched an initiative to keep

the question moving in the lead-up to COP 31.

COP30 deliverables to the Amazon and Beyond

At COP30 the [launch](#) of the [Tropical Forests Forever Facility](#) (TFFF) introduced a first-of-its-kind mechanism to deliver long-term, results-based payments to tropical forest countries for verified conservation of standing forests. The facility mobilized over USD 6.7 billion in its first phase, with endorsement from 63 countries, establishing a permanent capital base for forest protection. Other nature-based announcements under the Action Agenda included expanded support for United for Our Forests, reinforcing regional and Indigenous leadership in ecosystem protection, legal land tenure, and sustainable development. Large-scale agroecology and restoration initiatives were also launched to scale up biodiversity-positive climate solutions.

Also, seventeen countries joined the [Blue NDC Challenge](#), pledging to integrate ocean-climate solutions into national plans. The five Ocean Breakthroughs launched a joint Plan to Accelerate Solutions, aligning marine conservation, ocean renewables, aquatic food, shipping, and tourism with [Rio Convention goals](#). Through the One Ocean Partnership, partners committed to catalyze USD 20 billion by 2030 for

regenerative seascapes and generate 20 million blue jobs, embedding ocean equity into climate resilience and prosperity.

India Welcomes Key Outcomes at UNFCCC CoP30

India expressed [strong support](#) for the inclusive leadership of the CoP30 Presidency and welcomed several significant decisions adopted at the conference, in the High-level Statement at the Closing Plenary of the UNFCCC CoP30 in Belém, Brazil, on 22.11.2025. Welcoming progress under the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA), India underscored the equity dimension of the decision, remarking that it reflects a recognition of the overwhelming need for adaptation in developing countries. A key element of [India's address](#) was the emphasis on long-standing obligations of developed countries to provide Climate Finance. The Statement expressed appreciation for the efforts the Presidency took in supporting India in beginning the journey towards a long-overdue focus on Article 9.1. It stated that India sincerely hopes in the spirit of international cooperation that promises made 33 years ago in Rio would now be fulfilled due to the first steps Parties have taken in Belém.

India [expressed satisfaction](#) with major outcomes of CoP30, foremost among them the establishment of the Just Transition

Mechanism. The Statement called it a significant milestone and expressed hope that it would help operationalize equity and climate justice at both global and national levels. India thanked the Presidency for delivering the space to discuss Unilateral Trade-restrictive Climate Measures. Reiterating India's principled approach to climate action, the statement highlighted that it must be ensured that the burden of Climate Change Mitigation is not shifted onto the shoulders of those who have the least responsibility in causing the problem. The need for greater global support to vulnerable populations, a large majority of whom are in the global South, was stressed upon so that they may protect themselves from the escalating impacts of climate change. India reaffirmed its unwavering commitment to science-based and equitable climate action. It was observed that [India remains committed](#) to a global order that is rules-based, equitable, and respectful of national sovereignty. In conclusion, [the statement reaffirmed India's support and gratitude](#) to Brazil and the international community in the road ahead.

China's Positions at COP 30

At COP30, [China focused](#) on presenting its role as a clean energy leader while taking a cautious and conciliatory approach to negotiations, particularly regarding fossil fuels and trade measures. While it

supported the Global South and reinforced its commitment to multilateralism, it also opposed direct confrontations and pushed for its economic interests, opposing trade barriers like the EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM). Key aspects of China's position at COP 30 included;

Clean energy leader: China used its prominent pavilion to showcase its dominance in renewable energy, electric vehicles, and battery technology. It [highlighted](#) how its clean energy exports benefit other countries, especially in the Global South.

Cautious and conciliatory negotiator: China [adopted a cautious approach](#), avoiding direct confrontations on sensitive issues like phasing out fossil fuels. Its diplomats worked behind the scenes to ensure constructive talks and reinforced its long-standing commitment to multilateralism.

Opposing trade barriers: China's delegation actively pushed for discussions on "unilateral trade measures," a veiled reference to the EU's CBAM. It has consistently opposed such measures as they could threaten its exports of clean energy technology.

Focus on economic interests: China emphasized its economic interests and its

role as a developing nation, arguing that the [burden of financing](#) the green transition should fall mainly on rich nations.

Fossil fuel approach: China opposed a roadmap for phasing out fossil fuels at COP30 and advocated for mentioning the broader Paris Agreement temperature goals ("well-below 2C") instead of just the 1.5C limit. However, its prior agreements are expected to guide its domestic energy reforms.

Support for the Global South: China positioned itself as a [leader for developing nations](#), advocating for a balanced outcome in negotiations and framing climate efforts as a collective responsibility rather than an individual burden.

United States at COP 30

The United States federal government [did not send](#) any official representatives to COP30. This marks the first time in 30 years that the US government was absent from a Conference of the Parties. The absence of a federal delegation clearly reflects the climate and energy policies of the Trump administration, which has expressed a position against the conference's goals and global climate agreements like the Paris Agreement. Key aspects of US federal position included:

No High-Level Representation: The White House explicitly stated it [would not deploy any high-level representatives](#) to the negotiations.

Rejection of Climate Goals: A spokeswoman for the administration indicated that the US would not ["jeopardize our country's economic and national security to pursue vague climate goals"](#). President Trump has referred to climate change as a ["con job"](#).

Domestic Focus on Fossil Fuels: The current US administration's policy focuses on boosting oil and gas drilling and rolling back previous green initiatives.

It was however important to note that despite the lack of federal presence, the US was represented by a large, unofficial delegation of over [100 state and local leaders](#), including governors, mayors, and members of Congress, along with academics, private sector representatives, and activists. These subnational leaders aimed to show the world that a significant portion of the US remains committed to climate action, regardless of federal policy. Groups like the [US Climate Alliance](#) showcased their collective progress in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and working toward the US's previously stated targets under the Paris Agreement. Numerous US-based NGOs and climate advocacy groups attended to push for more ambitious global action and demand that large emitters, like the US, take responsibility for their historical contributions to the climate crisis.

European Union at COP 30

The EU's position at COP 30 focused on keeping the [1.5°C goal within reach](#) by pushing for higher global ambition on mitigation and adaptation, and for progress on climate finance. Key priorities highlighted by EU included a collective global response to increase emissions reduction targets, enhanced adaptation goals, boosting the energy transition away from fossil fuels, and making progress on the COP28 global pledges. However, the EU's negotiating tactics drew criticism for tactical delays on finance that hindered a more ambitious outcome.

The [EU advocated](#) for strengthened global mitigation ambition to keep the 1.5°C target alive and to ensure a collective response to address the ambition and implementation gaps in climate targets. The bloc also pushed for progress on adaptation goals to address the growing impacts of climate change. At COP 30 EU remained committed to the global pledges from COP28, including transitioning away from fossil fuels, tripling renewable energy capacity, and doubling the rate of energy efficiency improvements by 2030.

EU further [highlighted its](#) own domestic climate efforts, including its 2030 and 2035 targets and a proposed 2040 target of a 90% net emissions reduction. It also pledged to continue supporting global partners through initiatives like clean

transition partnerships and the Global Gateway initiative to facilitate a global clean energy transition. The Block supported the recognition and use of carbon pricing and market mechanisms as key tools for climate action.

International NGOs at COP 30

It is important to highlight that [international NGOs participated extensively at COP30](#) as observers, representing a wide range of interests from environmental protection (like WWF and Greenpeace) to business and industry (such as the International Chamber of Commerce). These organizations were categorized into nine major groups that included Environmental NGOs (ENGOs), Business and Industry NGOs (BINGOs), Indigenous Peoples Organizations (IPOGs) and other groups that included organizations focused on agriculture, research, labor, and women and gender. All these engaged in the climate talks through statements, dialogue, and events, focusing on areas like climate finance, adaptation, and emissions reduction.

Fossil fuel lobbyists record level participation at COP30

According to a report by the Kick Big Polluters Out (KBPO) coalition, more than [1,600 lobbyists linked to the oil, gas and coal industries were accredited to COP30](#). This means that one in every 25 participants

was linked to the fossil fuel sector, a ratio that exceeded that of the delegations of all countries except the host country, Brazil. These figure represented a +12% increase compared to last year's summit in Baku, according to the same analysis. Over the last five COPs, the KBPO estimates that nearly 7,000 people linked to fossil fuels have participated in the discussions. The presence of fossil fuels extends beyond external observers and professional associations. Major energy companies such as [ExxonMobil](#), [BP](#) and [Total Energies](#) were represented, often through industry groups. Even more alarmingly was that some fossil fuel executives were even part of official national delegations. For example, France had 22 delegates linked to the fossil fuel industry, including senior executives from Total Energies, and Norway has also included oil and gas industry leaders.

Conclusion

COP30 ended with a renewed sense of global commitment and collective ambition, though some challenges remain. The conference achieved breakthroughs in scaling up climate finance, launching dedicated mechanisms for implementation, and prioritizing adaptation and justice for vulnerable populations. Delegates managed to forge consensus on major action points, including the operationalization of the Loss and Damage Fund and the initiation of

ambitious financial commitments and voluntary pledges, such as those to tropical forests and public health. Importantly, the summit marked the first time COP participants formally pledged to confront climate disinformation, strengthening public trust in climate action. While negotiators did not reach agreement on an explicit roadmap for phasing out fossil fuels, COP30 underscored that effective climate cooperation and transparent implementation are now irreversible global priorities, keeping the goal of limiting warming to 1.5°C within reach for future negotiations.

COP 31

31st United Nations Climate Change Conference COP 31, has been scheduled to take place in Antalya, [Türkiye](#), in [November 2026](#). Following a compromise reached at COP30 in Belém, Brazil, an unusual joint leadership arrangement was established between Türkiye and Australia. Türkiye will hold the formal COP Presidency, host the World Leaders Summit, and appoint the High-Level Champion. Australia's Climate Minister, Chris Bowen, will serve as the President for the formal UN negotiations, a unique role for a non-host country. Australia agreed to drop its sole bid to host COP31 in Adelaide in return for this arrangement, which will also include a pre-COP meeting hosted by a Pacific island nation to highlight the region's unique vulnerabilities to climate change.

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