



Daily Bulletin

No. 13

November 23, 2025

UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE

COP30 AMAZÔNIA

CUIDAR DO PLANETA PARA O FUTURO DA HUMANIDADE

BELÉM • BRASIL • 2025

C L O S I N G D A Y

COP30 ENDS IN BELÉM: PROGRESS ON FINANCE, BUT FOSSIL FUEL QUESTION LEFT UNANSWERED

After two weeks of intense negotiations in Belém, Brazil, the 30th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP30) concluded with mixed results. While countries agreed on important steps forward for climate finance and support to vulnerable nations, the summit fell short on the most critical issue: a clear plan to move away from fossil fuels.

THE BELÉM PACKAGE AND GLOBAL MUTIRÃO: WHAT WAS AGREED

COP30's central outcome is the **Belém Package**, also called the **Global Mutirão** decision. Mutirão—a Brazilian term for collective community effort—frames the agreement as a global call to work together on climate action.

What the Package Contains

The Package bundles several elements: the Global Mutirão framework for collective action; a Global Implementation Accelerator to support countries in meeting commitments; the “Belém Mission to 1.5°C”; recognition of Indigenous Peoples’ rights and forest protection; just transition measures for workers; shared progress indicators; and climate finance targets, including **\$1.3 trillion per year by 2035 and tripling adaptation finance by 2035**.

The Core Weakness: Soft, Non-Binding Language

Carbon Brief's analysis shows the text relies heavily on passive verbs. It "recognises" issues 12 times, "recalls" past commitments another 12, and "acknowledges" problems 9—yet it "decides" only 8 times, mostly to create committees rather than require action.

On key climate actions, the text simply "calls for," "calls on," or "invites" countries to act: to triple adaptation finance (five years later than earlier drafts), to implement climate plans "while striving to do better," to develop implementation plans, and to halt deforestation—with no roadmap or enforcement. These phrases express hope, not obligation.

Most notably: the Belém text contains no reference to fossil fuels and offers no pathway for phasing out oil, gas, or coal—an unmistakable step back from COP28.

WHAT THIS MEANS

The contrast between symbolism and substance is sharp. The *mutirão* idea evokes solidarity and shared responsibility, but the decision text builds institutional structures—missions, accelerators, dialogues—without mandating real action. It admits that countries are off track and current pledges lead to dangerous warming, yet offers no accountability and no consequences.

The complete omission of fossil fuel language signals the strength of producer-country lobbying. Many decisions are postponed to future meetings, maintaining consensus by avoiding confrontation.

Real progress now depends on whether people and movements hold governments accountable. The real *mutirão* must come from society, not just from states.

THE MAIN AGREEMENTS: WHAT WAS DECIDED?

Climate Finance Gets a Major Boost

Countries committed to mobilizing at least \$1.3 trillion per year by 2035 to help nations address climate change. This is a substantial increase from current levels. Within this larger goal:

- Developed countries agreed to lead the way in providing climate finance, with private sector participation
- Adaptation finance (money to help countries prepare for climate impacts) will be doubled by 2025 and tripled by 2035
- The Loss and Damage Fund, which helps countries recover from climate disasters, was officially activated with clear rules for regular replenishment and fair distribution

To put this in perspective: adaptation finance helps countries build flood defenses, develop drought-resistant crops, and protect coastal communities. The Loss and Damage Fund provides support after disasters strike—when hurricanes destroy homes, when droughts devastate harvests, when rising seas force communities to relocate.

Just Transition: Supporting Workers and Communities

One of the significant achievements at COP30 was progress on "just transition" mechanisms—ensuring that the shift to clean energy doesn't leave workers and communities behind. This was recognized by civil society as a crucial win, even amid broader disappointments.

What is Just Transition?

When countries move away from fossil fuels to renewable energy, millions of workers in coal mines, oil fields, and gas plants face losing their livelihoods. Entire communities built around these industries can collapse. A "just transition" means providing:

- Retraining programs for workers to gain skills in renewable energy, green technology, and other growing sectors
- Social protection and income support during the transition period
- Investment in affected communities to create new economic opportunities
- Meaningful participation of workers and communities in planning the transition

Countries agreed to create frameworks that support workers and communities through the shift to clean economies, ensuring that climate action advances with social justice rather than at its expense.

The Action Agenda: 117 Practical Solutions

A major tangible outcome was the COP30 Action Agenda, which delivered over 117 practical solution plans across six major areas:

- Energy transformation and renewable power
- Forest protection and ending deforestation
- Sustainable food systems
- Urban resilience and climate-smart cities
- Green industry and clean manufacturing
- Nature-based solutions including protection of peatlands and mangroves

These practical plans represent concrete, actionable steps that countries, cities, and organizations can implement immediately, moving beyond general commitments to specific projects and programs.

Indigenous Peoples Lead with Their Own Declaration

In a significant development, Indigenous leaders issued their own Political Declaration at COP30, demanding:

- Strong, binding protection of Indigenous territories
- Enforceable measures to halt deforestation on their lands
- An immediate end to fossil fuel extraction in Indigenous territories
- Recognition that Indigenous communities are not just victims but leaders in climate solutions

This declaration represents Indigenous peoples taking a central role in climate negotiations, asserting their rights and expertise in protecting the forests and ecosystems that are crucial to fighting climate change.

Additional Declarations and Commitments

COP30 also produced several important supporting declarations addressing:

- Climate change and urbanization—helping cities adapt and become more resilient
- Information integrity—combating climate disinformation and ensuring accurate information reaches the public
- Environmental racism—addressing how climate impacts disproportionately harm marginalized communities
- Poverty and hunger—recognizing the connections between climate change and food security
- Integrated fire management—protecting communities and ecosystems from increasingly severe wildfires

THE BIG DISAPPOINTMENT: FOSSIL FUELS

Despite being held in the heart of the Amazon—one of the world's most important ecosystems threatened by climate change—COP30 failed to deliver what many hoped would be its signature achievement: a binding agreement to phase out fossil fuels (oil, coal, and gas).

What Happened?

More than 80 countries, along with climate scientists, Indigenous communities, and civil society organizations, pushed hard for a detailed roadmap with specific targets and timelines to transition away from fossil fuels. However, oil-exporting nations blocked these efforts. The final agreement only includes vague language about "transitioning away from fossil fuels"—the same wording from last year's COP28 in Dubai—with no binding targets, no deadlines, and no enforcement mechanisms.

Why This Matters

Fossil fuels are the primary driver of climate change. Without a clear plan to phase them out, the world cannot limit global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels—the threshold scientists say is necessary to avoid the most catastrophic climate impacts.

Currently, the world is on track for 2.3–2.5°C of warming, which would bring more frequent and severe droughts, floods, hurricanes, food shortages, and displacement of millions of people. The window to prevent this is closing rapidly.



REACTIONS: WHO SAID WHAT?

The Optimistic View

UN Climate Change Executive Secretary Simon Stiell struck a cautiously optimistic tone at the closing ceremony:

“We knew this COP would take place in stormy political waters. Denial, division and geopolitics has dealt international cooperation some heavy blows this year. But friends, COP30 showed that climate cooperation is alive and kicking, keeping humanity in the fight for a livable planet, with a firm resolve to keep 1.5°C within reach. I'm not saying we're winning the climate fight. But we are undeniably still in it, and we are fighting back. Here in Belém, nations chose solidarity, science, and economic common sense.”

Civil Society's Mixed Response

Climate justice organizations, Indigenous leaders, youth activists, and scientific groups offered mixed reactions. While they acknowledged important progress on just transition, finance, and the Action Agenda, they were deeply critical of the failure on fossil fuels. They described the outcome as:

- A “betrayal” of vulnerable communities who are already suffering
- Giving cover to continued fossil fuel expansion
- Prioritizing polluting industries over people and the planet
- Over-reliance on market-based solutions instead of public investment

Yet, many also praised advances in finance, just transition mechanisms, and the practical Action Agenda—calling them “limited but crucial wins.” They emphasized that real leadership is coming not from government negotiators but from grassroots movements and Indigenous communities.

Developing Countries' Position

Small island nations and Latin American countries were particularly disappointed. Nations like Colombia publicly protested the watered-down fossil fuel language. These countries face rising seas, stronger storms, and food insecurity.

They welcomed increased finance and just transition measures, but made clear that rich countries’ incrementalism undermines justice and ambition.

Developed Countries' Balancing Act

The European Union threatened to block the deal unless fossil fuel commitments were strengthened, but eventually backed down. Developed countries highlighted finance and the Action Agenda as leadership, though critics argued they diluted obligations and failed to account for historical responsibility.

The Bigger Picture

COP30 reflects the reality of current climate politics: strong recognition of the crisis, new frameworks, but resistance to binding commitments that require difficult transformation.

Warming projections have improved—from 4°C before Paris to 2.3–2.5°C now—but still fall short. The success of COP30's mechanisms—the Global Implementation Accelerator, the 117 Action Agenda plans, forest and transition roadmaps, and just transition programs—depends on implementation before COP31.

WHAT COMES NEXT?

Brazil's presidency announced two voluntary roadmaps:

1. A roadmap to end deforestation
2. A roadmap for a just, orderly transition away from fossil fuels

Countries must now prepare strengthened Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) ahead of COP31.

THE BOTTOM LINE

COP30 delivered important progress:

- ✓ Major climate finance commitments (\$1.3 trillion by 2035)
- ✓ Tripling of adaptation finance and activation of Loss and Damage Fund
- ✓ Just transition mechanisms
- ✓ 117 practical climate solution plans
- ✓ New tracking indicators
- ✓ Strong Indigenous leadership

However, it failed its most important test: providing a binding pathway to phase out fossil fuels.



A Call to Action: The Fight Continues

For people everywhere, the struggle for a safer climate is ongoing. COP30 provides governments with vital work to do, but sustained public pressure, community organizing, and global solidarity are essential.

For people of faith and conscience, COP30 reaffirms the need for moral leadership: solidarity with those most affected, stewardship of creation, and advocacy grounded in justice. The just transition commitments and practical Action Agenda show that meaningful progress is possible—when pressure is applied.

