AMBIENTE Y SOCIEDAD AT COP 30: BETWEEN WHAT WAS PROMISED AND WHAT IS NEEDED

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AMBIENTE Y SOCIEDAD

Ambiente y Sociedad at COP 30: Between What Was Promised and What Is Needed

Asociación Ambiente y Sociedad

Authors: Vanessa Torres, Andrea Prieto, María Paula González, Karol Sanabria, Angie Durán, Laura Almanza, Julián Ruíz.

Editorial review: Vanessa Torres, Andrea Prieto, Johana Mendoza Vargas and Tomás Tello Monroy.
Editorial coordination: Johana Mendoza Vargas and Tomás Tello Monroy.
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Introduction

The COP30 on climate change in Belém do Pará was the first climate negotiation setting held in the Amazon region, a key territory for sustaining life on the planet and for determining whether the world will succeed in limiting global warming. For Ambiente y Sociedad, this setting represented a strategic opportunity to demand decisions that are consistent with science, climate justice and the protection of territories and of those who defend them.

We arrived with clear expectations:

- The strengthening of climate justice;
- Credible decisions on the phase-out of fossil fuels;
- Firm commitments on climate finance (progress regarding the Tropical Forests Forever Fund [TFFF] and the Loss and Damage Fund);
- Explicit recognition of the role of communities, ethnic peoples, women and environmental human rights defenders in climate action, as well as of their participation in and access to the negotiations.

This briefing presents a critical and forward-looking analysis of what took place over these two weeks at the conference, based on the priorities that guide our work as a civil society organization.

General context

The Conference opened in an optimistic atmosphere, with multiple delegations calling for renewed international cooperation in the face of the climate crisis. This was reinforced by the historic participation of Indigenous peoples, Afro-descendant peoples, peasant organizations, youth and civil society, who sent a clear message: the time has come for climate action, for adopting and demanding binding measures for countries—broad, effective measures with the participation of all actors and that guarantee human rights.

That initial spirit stood in contrast with a complex reality: the absence of transformative decisions in the core pillars of the climate regime; the heavy militarization of the venue; weak progress on finance; and both direct and indirect backsliding on binding measures for the energy transition. It also became public that more than 1,600 lobbyists from fossil fuel industries (equivalent to 1 in every 25 participants) had been accredited, including some within the official delegations of Global North countries.

Although the COP Presidency promoted the *Mutirão Global* as a collective effort to accelerate implementation of the Paris Agreement and there were relevant advances in thematic plans, these messages did not translate into operational, binding decisions in the final texts. In the midst of this context, deep political tensions also emerged between an energy transition driven with resources from the extractive industry—promoted by Brazil—and a real transformation that responds to the critical moment highlighted by science itself—promoted by countries such as Colombia, Uruguay and the Netherlands.

It was also reaffirmed that all climate action must respect human rights, the rights of Indigenous peoples, local communities, gender equality and intergenerational justice, even though ethnic peoples and peasant communities reported restrictions on access, lack of effective recognition or participation

as official delegates due to the absence of translation and growing risks to their leadership.

For Colombia, COP30 also left important messages. Although the country enjoyed high international visibility and championed symbolically strong initiatives such as the First International Conference on the Progressive Elimination of Fossil Fuels, NDC 3.0 remains declarative, without a clear implementation plan. In addition, some negotiation positions revealed inconsistencies between the national discourse on climate justice and the concrete decisions taken at the table.

Analysis by priority issues

NDC 3.0, climate ambition and the Global Mutirão

COP30 was framed as the "COP of implementation", driven by the *Mutirão Global*, a cooperation initiative to accelerate the implementation of the Paris Agreement—ten years after its ratification—and of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), and to link them to low-carbon development strategies. This decision reaffirmed the urgency of demanding global reductions in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions of 43% by 2030 and 60% by 2035, in line with climate science as set out by the IPCC and reflected in the official reports of the Brazilian Presidency.

The *Mutirão* highlighted both progress and gaps in the implementation and ambition of NDCs. COP30 explicitly encouraged countries to raise their climate ambition, develop implementation and investment plans for their NDCs, and align them with national strategies for climate-resilient, low-carbon development. Within this framework, two key initiatives were launched: the "Global Implementation Accelerator" and the "Belém Roadmap to 1.5°C", voluntary cooperation tools designed to support the effective implementation of NDCs and other Paris Agreement goals.

Despite its aspirational and forward-looking narrative, the lack of binding mechanisms and the absence of concrete decisions on fossil fuels weakened the reach of these initiatives.

Progress and challenges

One of COP30's achievements was to highlight the need for immediate action. Delegations, scientists and civil society agreed that current NDCs fall far short of what science requires. Although around 120 countries have submitted their NDC 3.0, many of them lack measurable targets or depend

on international support that is not guaranteed. The 2025 synthesis report showed that even if all current NDCs were implemented, the world would still be on track for warming of between 2.3°C and 2.5°C.

With regard to compliance mechanisms, COP30 fell short. No sanctions or binding instruments were adopted to ensure that targets would be met. This means that NDCs remain voluntary and nationally determined, perpetuating the gap between what has been promised and what is needed. Barriers to finance, lack of equitable access to technologies and insufficient institutional capacities were identified as the main bottlenecks. The target of USD 1.3 trillion per year by 2035 lacks concrete commitments, roadmaps or access criteria.

Similarly, in the area of climate justice and human rights, COP30 maintained progressive language, integrating references to Indigenous peoples, territories and community participation. However, several civil society groups warned that these references lack operational anchors, clear safeguards and monitoring mechanisms.

For Colombia, COP30 reaffirms an uncomfortable truth: the NDC 3.0 presented by the country remains declarative. Although it expands on principles, territorial approaches and references to climate justice, it does not include an implementation plan, lacks an estimated budget, does not define sectoral responsibilities and remains unlinked to the instruments of the National Climate Change System (SISCLIMA).

The lack of inter-institutional and territorial coordination persists, as do gaps in monitoring, finance and governance. Without a robust monitoring system—with verifiable indicators and real participation by communities and civil society—declared ambition risks being diluted.

At the international level, Colombia had high visibility in promoting a declaration for the progressive elimination of fossil fuels and announcing its intention to declare the Amazon a zone free of large-scale mining and hy-

drocarbons. Although symbolically strong, the proposal still lacks a legal, financial and just transition framework, which limits its feasibility. Even so, we value the fact that the country is driving this debate, since NDCs must explicitly link to the progressive phase-out of fossil fuels—an omission that weakened the credibility of COP30's final outcome.

Opportunities and recommendations

COP30 made it clear that the effective implementation of NDCs depends on closing implementation gaps. To achieve this, developed countries must:

- Fulfil the collective long-term climate finance goal;
- Improve access to financial resources and technologies;
- Strengthen reporting, transparency and integrity rules; and
- Align NDCs with international financial flows, ensuring consistency with the 1.5°C objective.

At the national level, Colombia has the opportunity to restructure its NDC as an operational tool. It is recommended that the country develop an implementation plan with timelines, sectoral targets, indicators and designated responsibilities. It should also strengthen the climate finance system to secure public, private and territorial co-financing, and link the NDC to development plans, fiscal policies and the monitoring systems of SISCLIMA and the financial sector. Likewise, it should effectively integrate approaches to climate justice and the participation of Indigenous peoples, Afro-descendant communities, peasant communities, women and youth. Finally, it is vital to establish a robust, transparent and participatory national monitoring system, enabling assessment of NDC 3.0 implementation and the adjustment of its course in line with scientific advances and climate justice priorities.

Colombia could also lead regional cooperation on NDC planning, monitoring and finance, by engaging with the Global Implementation Accelerator and

the Belém Roadmap and using these platforms to attract technical and financial support.

Fair and transparent climate finance

The decision presented by the COP30 Presidency reiterated the call to join efforts in the global *mutirão* against the impacts of climate change. With this initial call, it reaffirmed that the long-term finance goal must be consistent with the pathway proposed for reducing GHG emissions. To date, the proposed target has neither been sufficient nor achieved, which sends a worrisome signal to developing countries. It also became clear that without explicitly including language on a just energy transition, it will be impossible to move towards what many countries are calling for: a complete phase-out of fossil fuels.

For this reason, the final text issued a renewed call to work on the possibility of increasing the finance goal by mobilizing public resources, concessional finance and grants. Specifically, three urgent calls are made in the decision proposed by the Presidency to achieve this ultimate aim:

- First: increase the finance goal, underscoring the need to reach USD 1.3 trillion per year by 2035 for developing countries and to mobilize at least USD 300 billion by 2035 for Parties that are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and that face significant capacity constraints, such as least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing States.
- Second: triple the annual disbursements of the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, the Adaptation Fund, the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund, taking 2022 as the baseline and with a deadline of 2030. This measure seeks to significantly increase the share of finance channelled through these mechanisms, and to make them more accessible and less conditional.

- Third: create a high-level political space to concretize the New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance (NCQG), an essential step for ensuring clarity, predictability and transparency in the transition towards the new climate finance cycle.

We positively underscore that the finance agenda remained present throughout COP30 negotiations. However, the decisions adopted are still insufficient to provide developing countries with a clear pathway to achieve this goal. We consider that the timeframe set for reaching the goal is overly long, especially given that ten years have passed since the adoption of the Paris Agreement—which establishes that financial flows must be consistent with a climate-resilient development pathway, and that developed countries must provide sufficient, additional and non-conditional resources for mitigation and adaptation.

It is also positive that the Tropical Forests Forever Fund (TFFF) was officially launched to protect these ecosystems and finance a just energy transition. As part of this effort, Brazil announced a mobilization of approximately USD 5.5 billion, including a EUR 1 billion contribution over ten years by Germany. However, it is important to clarify that this figure combines genuinely new resources with previously committed contributions or funds reallocated from other mechanisms and initiatives. This mix of sources calls for a more detailed assessment of the additionality, concessional nature and real availability of these resources, to prevent the TFFF from being presented as a net increase when, in practice, part of the amounts come from existing commitments.

While we welcome the launch of this fund, a question arises: is the proliferation of funds and initiatives reducing transaction costs and indebtedness for developing countries, or—on the contrary—is it generating new burdens without guaranteeing effective impacts?

In this regard, we draw attention to an important issue: the positive results of these finance-related decisions will only become evident once both the real commitments by countries and their implementation can be verified.

We therefore reiterate the need to diversify the instruments and mechanisms used for this purpose and to ensure that they are guided by the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, respect human rights, guarantee transparency and promote innovative finance mechanisms that reduce developing countries' debt burdens and dependence on private finance. Only a finance approach that is fair, transparent and people-centred will enable progress towards truly transformative climate action.

Loss and Damage

For several years now, Parties have been promoting strategies to prevent, reduce and address loss and damage (L&D) associated with climate change, particularly in the most vulnerable countries. COP30 deepened this debate, focusing on the Loss and Damage Fund, the Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM) and the Santiago Network, while underscoring that L&D is not an abstract concept but a daily reality that affects entire lives, territories and cultures.

Loss and Damage Fund

The importance of the Fund was reiterated by numerous representatives in the plenaries, particularly by delegations from small island States such as Jamaica and the Philippines, which have faced devastating hurricanes and super typhoons in recent years. Their interventions emphasized that the Fund is not charity but a mechanism of climate justice and human dignity, and recalled that loss and damage is not limited to numbers: it represents the material, emotional, cultural and spiritual destruction of entire peoples.

During the sessions, several Parties highlighted the relevance of the Barbados Implementation Modalities (BIM) as the Fund's operational starting point, as well as the importance of strengthening the collection of economic and non-economic data, and of understanding who collects it, how and from

where. Human mobility and displacement associated with global warming was a cross-cutting issue.

The most recent report of the Fund shows significant progress, including the rapid roll-out of its operations in 2025, the establishment of the BIM, the opening of direct funding applications from developing country governments, and financial commitments totalling more than USD 817 million. The adoption of the 2026 work plan was also welcomed, as it focuses on developing the long-term operating model and a resource mobilization strategy.

However, the report also identifies outstanding challenges: accelerating the adoption of the resource mobilization strategy, ensuring agile processes that do not reproduce bureaucratic burdens, and guaranteeing high fiduciary, environmental and transparency standards. Key next steps include the start of the Fund's first replenishment process in 2027 and the request that countries submit recommendations prior to the 2026 meeting.

Many small island States warned that these challenges do not allow for delays, since for them addressing loss and damage is a matter of survival. COP30 cannot remain at the level of reports and procedures; it must translate into concrete results that respond to crises already affecting communities today.

From AAS, we stress the importance of recognizing and addressing non-monetary Loss and Damage, including cultural and spiritual harms, the breakdown of community ties, displacement and socio-emotional trauma. This broader understanding is essential for advancing towards fair and culturally appropriate forms of redress.

Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM) and Santiago Network

Parties highlighted progress in the implementation of the WIM and the Santiago Network under the 2023–2027 work plan. The Executive Committee

strengthened the production of technical knowledge, tools, guidelines and methodologies geared towards countries facing geographic, socioeconomic, environmental and gender-related vulnerabilities.

A significant milestone was the recognition of the first technical assistance delivered in 2024 to Vanuatu through the coordinated efforts of entities affiliated with the Santiago Network, marking the practical start of its operations.

Nevertheless, the need to speed up the provision of technical assistance and facilitate countries' and communities' access to the Network's services was emphasized, including by improving guidelines, procedures and institutional capacities. Calls were also made to strengthen data management—including indicators disaggregated by gender and age—and to advance methodologies for assessing economic and non-economic L&D.

On the financial side, Switzerland announced an additional 1 million Swiss francs, on top of the 2 million previously committed, and Parties urged acceleration of the 2026–2028 resource mobilization strategy.

Parties agreed on the need to improve coordination between the WIM Executive Committee, the Santiago Network and other bodies of the climate regime through joint meetings, shared tools, multilingual information and simplified processes.

Despite these advances, the definition of a comprehensive governance structure for the Warsaw Mechanism remains pending and will be taken up again in November 2026, with a view to designing a coherent and effective architecture that reflects the growing scale of loss and damage in developing countries.

Adequate governance of Loss and Damage mechanisms thus remains unresolved and will be reviewed again in 2026. This delay poses a direct risk to countries that are already facing irreversible losses. Communities that are already experiencing irreparable losses remind us that there is no time for

postponement. Only a global response grounded in justice, transparency and local leadership will make it possible to turn commitments into meaningful redress.

Voices of peoples and communities

COP30 was expected to be the "COP of the Peoples", given the mobilizing force of organizations of Indigenous peoples, quilombola and Black communities, workers, women, traditional communities, peasant men and women, and youth. All of them came together at the *Cúpula dos Povos* to discuss and collectively develop proposals and demands regarding the climate crisis, from the perspectives of social and climate justice that characterize social and popular agendas. The Declaration that emerged from these meetings was delivered to the COP Presidency to exert pressure on the negotiation agenda; however, there were barriers preventing these demands from being effectively taken up in the negotiations.

Black and Afro-descendant peoples

Given that more than 50% of Brazil's population self-identifies as Black or quilombola, holding COP in Belém represented a major opportunity to advance the agenda of recognition of Afro-descendant peoples within the UNFCCC. Afro-descendant peoples in Latin America and the Caribbean have been forcefully promoting this agenda since COP16 of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the key achievement represented by Decision 16/6 on recognizing the role of Afro-descendant collectivities in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

Even so, the inclusion of Afro-descendant collectivities within the UNFCCC did not become a formal negotiation item, and States therefore did not adopt any decisions on this matter. However, references to Afro-descendant persons (people of African descent) were included in the final texts of the

work programme on gender, just transitions, the Global Goal on Adaptation and the final "Mutirão Global" document. While it is a step forward that these agendas recognize the contributions of Afro-descendant persons to climate action and call on States to guarantee their broad and meaningful participation, it had been expected that the inclusion of these peoples/collectivities in the UNFCCC would be mainstreamed and would reflect the collective nature of their identity, territories, traditional knowledge systems and community governance practices.

We highlight the Declaration on Combating Environmental Racism, led by Brazil and signed by at least 19 States, including Colombia. Although this Declaration is not binding, it provides guidance for placing racial justice at the centre of climate governance and calls on States to urgently address inequalities that disproportionately affect Afro-descendant persons, Indigenous peoples and local communities.

Peasant women and men

Unfortunately, we must emphasize that the voices of peasant women and men, the recognition of their rights and of their contributions to climate change mitigation and adaptation continue to be largely absent from COP climate negotiations. Agriculture and food systems are increasingly prominent in climate discussions, yet this recognition often overlooks peasant communities, family farmers and rural workers—whose lives, practices and hands in the soil feed the entire world and contribute to climate mitigation and adaptation.

The final text on the Global Goal on Adaptation includes at least five indicators relating to progress in climate change adaptation in agriculture and food systems, and references to the contributions of local communities to adaptation, as well as the need to protect cultural values from climate risks and impacts through mechanisms for preserving local knowledge systems.

As we have noted, the term “local communities” is overly broad and does not meet the standards of inclusion, recognition, effective participation and protection that peasant women and men around the world require, even though they are central to climate action and account for at least 30% of the global population.

We highlight that Colombia included six delegates from national peasant processes, including Peasant Reserve Zones and the National Peasant Convention, in its official delegation. However, they faced the uneven dynamics of COP diplomacy, language barriers in the negotiations and a technically complex scientific agenda.

Local communities

During COP, consultations were held on strengthening the participation of Local Communities in the Facilitative Working Group (FWG) of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP). Countries from the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), the EU, Norway, Australia, Canada and New Zealand stressed that expanding the participation of local communities in the FWG requires careful deliberation and called for this matter to be taken into account during the 2027 review of the FWG.

These consultations illustrate the significant constraints faced by Local Communities in securing representation and effective participation in decision-making within the Convention—constraints that seem rooted in the lack of consensus on the very concept of “local communities”. As the State of Benin noted, local communities are on the front lines of the climate crisis, possess valuable traditional knowledge and play a vital role in restoring fragile ecosystems.

Finally, it is worth noting that within proposals by some States to move forward with commitments fostering synergy among the Rio Conventions—particularly between the climate and biodiversity agendas—we see

an opportunity to promote more systematic, coherent and efficient actions to address both the climate crisis and biodiversity loss, and to strengthen the rights of Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendant peoples and Local Communities, which are recognized in strong terms under the Convention on Biological Diversity. In principle, Colombia led the drafting of a proposed agreement on this synergy, based on inputs from interested governments. However, the proposal lost momentum and was ultimately not adopted; the understanding of this synergy was reduced to a single reference in COP's final decision.

Gender and climate action

During COP30, negotiations on gender were marked by significant tensions and signs of backsliding. Although the Convention has made progress in mainstreaming a gender perspective, in Belém some Parties maintained restrictive positions—consistent with those expressed at SB62—based on a binary understanding of gender (male and female cisgender), reopening discussions considered to have been resolved and putting at risk the full inclusion of persons with Diverse Sexual Orientations and Gender Identities (OSIGD, by its Spanish acronym). Delegations observed that, despite the Secretariat's reports on progress in constituted bodies, restrictive interpretations persist that may hollow out existing obligations and deepen already documented gaps.

One issue that raised concern among civil society organizations was the circulation of an informal note promoted by the COP30 Presidency, which did not include any references to human rights or gender. While such documents are not decision-making instruments, they do reflect political orientations within the negotiations. It was also troubling that several countries—including Colombia, according to observations from civil society present in Belém—did not insist on including these elements, which sends conflicting

signals regarding the real centrality of gender and human rights approaches in climate action.

Adoption of the Belém Gender Action Plan (2026–2034)

The most relevant outcome on gender was the adoption of the Belém Gender Action Plan (2026–2034). The Plan establishes new activities to strengthen institutional capacities, improve integration of a gender perspective in climate planning, promote women's leadership—including Indigenous, Afro-descendant and rural women and women from small communities—and advance communication, monitoring and effective participation.

Although the Plan is a step forward, it has a critical gap: it does not explicitly include OSIGD persons, leaving uncertainty as to whether their experiences and needs will be considered in implementation. This omission constrains the transformative potential of the new Action Plan and leaves open the possibility that these groups will continue to be rendered invisible within the climate architecture.

Colombia and gender at COP30

While Colombia supported the adoption of the Belém Gender Action Plan, its position regarding the informal note that omitted gender and human rights approaches sends mixed messages on the country's coherence in this area. COP30 showed that Colombia's leadership on gender must be strengthened in order to align with civil society expectations and with the international framework that the country itself has endorsed.

Environmental defenders and the Escazú Agreement

COP30 was held against a global backdrop of escalating violence against environmental and land defenders, with Latin America being the most dangerous region in which to carry out this work. Although the climate agenda increasingly recognizes the importance of community participation, negotiation spaces still display deep gaps between discourse and the effective guarantee of rights, particularly regarding protection and safeguards.

In this context, we insist on the need to interconnect and integrate different international agendas to move towards genuine environmental democracy: linking climate policy under the Paris Agreement with the Escazú Agreement and the Global Biodiversity Framework. This has been a strategic line of our organization, reinforced at CBD COP16, where we actively advocated that the protection of individuals, groups and organizations that defend the environment—especially women, Indigenous peoples, Afro-descendant peoples and peasant communities—be understood as a common thread among biodiversity, participation and climate action.

In line with this approach, one of the most relevant advances at COP30—as noted above—was the adoption of the new Belém Gender Action Plan, which for the first time in a multilateral climate instrument explicitly refers to women environmental defenders. The Plan aims to "strengthen the implementation of climate policies with a gender perspective, ensuring the full, meaningful and equal participation of women and girls at all levels of the climate process".

This Gender Action Plan—particularly Objective B.4 and its related activities—offers a decisive opportunity to advance towards a climate architecture that explicitly recognizes the work of women environmental defenders. However, this progress will only reach its full potential if it is articulated with other international frameworks that already contain more robust obligations

in this area, especially the Action Plan on Human Rights Defenders in Environmental Matters and the Escazú Agreement.

For Colombia, this articulation is not only desirable but necessary. The country has a relatively advanced institutional framework for protecting human rights defenders, yet it remains insufficient in light of the differentiated risks faced by those defending the environment and territory. The coexistence of these three frameworks—national guarantees policy, the Escazú Agreement and now the commitments under the Belém Gender Action Plan—requires an integrated approach that avoids duplication, closes gaps and enables a coherent and effective response.

In this regard, implementation of the Escazú Agreement must be the starting point. It is the only instrument that obliges the State to guarantee safe environments, prevent risks, investigate attacks and protect participation in all environmental decision-making processes. The Belém Plan can reinforce these obligations by incorporating a climate perspective, recognizing multidimensional risks and promoting specific protection measures for women defenders in climate processes, but it does not replace them. Its value lies in complementing, not duplicating, existing commitments.

However, this progress within the climate regime contrasts with the limited prominence that environmental defence received in the formal decisions adopted at COP30. In key texts such as the *Mutirão* outcome, the protection of environmental defenders is not a central pillar, reflecting an international agenda that prioritizes technical issues such as adaptation and finance. Even so, in side events—pavilions, civil society panels and debates in the Green Zone—the interlinkages between climate, biodiversity and environmental democracy were repeatedly highlighted, and it was emphasized that without guarantees for participation and community safety, it will not be possible to implement the Paris Agreement in a just manner.

Is Colombia leading the end of the fossil fuel era?

Colombia took on a prominent role through its declaration on the progressive elimination of fossil fuels and by announcing that the Colombian Amazon will be declared a zone free of large-scale mining and hydrocarbons, making it the first country to assume such a commitment. This position projected regional leadership on a just energy transition and protection of the Amazon biome. However, the initiative faces several challenges:

It lacks a clear regulatory and budgetary framework;

- It risks shifting the debate to a forum outside the formal negotiation space;
- It does not specify how to ensure a just economic transition in territories dependent on extractivism; and
- It does not fully address the risks linked to the expansion of illegal economies such as deforestation and illicit mining.

Moreover, Colombia's fiscal dependence on fossil fuels exposes tensions between its international discourse and its domestic energy policy decisions.

Even so, we must underscore the active and strong voice of the Colombian delegation during negotiations, highlighting a fundamental legal principle: "what is not written does not exist". Addressing a transition agenda without a roadmap for the progressive phase-out of fossil fuels became one of the key fault lines at this Conference of the Parties. In this regard, the Global Conference on the Phase-Out of Fossil Fuels, to be held in April 2026 in the city of Santa Marta, is an opportunity that Colombia must seize by articulating it with the national agenda, the economic interests of private actors and of the State itself, and through the joint construction of positions with civil society and social movements.

Other outcomes

On its opening day, COP30 adopted the negotiation agenda and launched formal work, placing early political emphasis on advancing implementation of the Paris Agreement and strengthening the pillars of mitigation, adaptation and climate justice. However, towards the end of the conference, disagreements over the absence of a roadmap for phasing out fossil fuels led more than 30 countries to refuse to endorse a text lacking this element. This time, the core debates became gridlocked due to resistance and effective lobbying by countries and industries with strong interests in maintaining fossil-based economies.

On mitigation, although the Mitigation Work Programme remained active and its linkages with the Global Stocktake and the new NDCs were formally reinforced, in practice it is far from operating as it should. The lack of explicit reference to fossil fuels also erodes the global signal on decarbonization. In addition, blind spots persisted, including the absence of binding mechanisms, clear timelines and a stronger integration of just transition and community participation.

On adaptation, progress was made in linking adaptation planning to national plans and local governance, but the gap between commitments and implementation remains wide. There is still a lack of robust indicators, territorial and gender-responsive justice approaches, clear finance and tools to strengthen local capacities to effectively implement adaptation measures. Climate justice—through lenses of participation, territorial rights, and loss and damage—remained visible in discourse but still lacks strong transparency mechanisms and mandatory safeguards.

Within the Global Stocktake (GST) process, COP30 confirmed that although there has been broad progress in implementing the Paris Agreement, countries are not on track to meet the 1.5°C objective or the 2030 emissions reduction goals. This makes the GST a clear warning about the ambition gap.

The GST calls for NDC 3.0 to reflect the 1.5°C pathway without further delay. This outcome requires the international community to move from diagnosis to the urgent deployment of binding measures. Parties must translate the GST's findings into strengthened national plans with clear timelines, transparent monitoring mechanisms and specific support for the most vulnerable, so that the GST ceases to be merely a "status report" and becomes the driver of truly transformative climate ambition.

Another noteworthy development at COP30 was that, for the first time, information integrity became a priority at a United Nations climate conference. The Declaration adopted commits signatory countries to promoting the integrity of climate-related information at international, national and local levels, in line with international human rights law and the principles laid out in the Paris Agreement.

Conclusions and calls to action

COP30 confirmed a deeply insufficient climate landscape: some progress on mechanisms and instruments, backsliding on finance and a repeated lack of transformative commitments on fossil fuels. This is compounded by the growing frustration of peoples and organizations faced with an ever-narrowing window to increase global ambition and secure climate justice. The message for the region, and especially for Colombia, is clear: without territorial protection, without defending those who defend life and without adequate resources, there will be no just transition or real implementation of the Paris Agreement.

The Belém setting not only showcased the tensions between ambition and corporate capture, but also made it clear that NDC 3.0 documents can no longer be merely declarative. They must include operational plans with financing, sectoral responsibilities, timelines, indicators and, above all, binding participation of communities, ethnic peoples, peasant communities, women and youth. The credibility of the climate regime depends on this.

Colombia, although politically prominent in advocating for the progressive elimination of fossil fuels and declaring its intention to shield the Amazon from large-scale mining and hydrocarbons, still faces legal, financial and governance gaps that must be addressed in order to turn these announcements into effective action, within a complex national scenario marked by a countdown to a new administration. This demands strengthened institutional capacities, the consolidation of a robust national monitoring system, alignment of energy, fiscal and territorial policies with international commitments, and the joint construction of this position together with civil society and social movements.

Calls to action

Real implementation of NDC 3.0

States—and Colombia in particular—must turn their NDC 3.0 into operational tools by:

- Developing detailed implementation plans with timelines, responsible entities and sectoral targets;
- Establishing verifiable indicators and transparent monitoring systems;
- Ensuring articulation with SISCLIMA, with development plans and with territorial climate governance systems.

Just, sufficient and transparent climate finance

COP30 made clear that current targets do not meet Paris Agreement obligations. Therefore:

- Developed countries must provide new, additional and non-conditional resources aligned with the 1.5°C objective;
- Clear rules must be developed to operationalize the New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance (NCQG), accelerating direct access and reducing the debt burden on developing countries;
- A critical assessment is needed of the proliferation of funds—including the TFFF—to avoid increasing transaction costs and bureaucratic burdens.

Loss and Damage: moving from architecture to impact

The Loss and Damage Fund and the Santiago Network have made progress but still face serious operational challenges. We call for:

- Accelerating the 2026–2028 resource mobilization strategy;
- Ensuring high standards of transparency and direct access for countries and communities;
- Incorporating methodologies for non-monetary loss and damage, which are crucial for Indigenous peoples, Afro-descendant communities and rural communities.

Protection of environmental defenders

Despite being a region at extremely high risk, COP30 left this issue out of its core texts. We therefore call for:

- States to integrate mandatory protection measures and participation guarantees in all climate decision-making;
- Articulation of the Belém Gender Action Plan with the Escazú Agreement's Action Plan on Defenders, with particular recognition of women defenders and ethnic and peasant communities.

Guarantees for peasant communities and local communities

Peasant communities remain largely absent from the climate architecture. We call for:

- Ensuring their participation through autonomous spaces for training, climate diplomacy and effective engagement, with translation, technical preparation and adequate resources that enable meaningful presence in international negotiation spaces;
- Explicitly recognizing their role in adaptation, food security and conservation, moving beyond vague references to "local communities".

Gender and climate: implementing the Belém Action Plan with an inclusive approach

The new 2026–2034 Action Plan is a step forward, but its omission of OSIGD persons must be corrected in practice. States must:

- Ensure that implementation includes diverse identities, with disaggregated data and non-discrimination safeguards;
- Strengthen the leadership of Indigenous, Afro-descendant and rural women, and women defenders;
- Link the Plan to national equality policies and to the Escazú Agreement.

Fossil fuels and a just energy transition

The absence of an agreement on the progressive phase-out of fossil fuels weakens COP30's outcome. Therefore:

- States must adopt, in 2026, a clear roadmap for phasing out fossil fuels, with deadlines, safeguards and fair financing;
- Colombia must provide a legal and financial framework for its proposal of an Amazon free of hydrocarbons, ensuring just and participatory economic transitions.

Strengthening the integrity of the process in the face of corporate capture

The record presence of more than 1,600 fossil fuel lobbyists at COP30 calls for:

- Adopting strict integrity and conflict-of-interest rules in UNFCCC processes;
- Ensuring equitable participation spaces for Indigenous peoples, Afro-descendant communities, youth, women and communities.

Amid hope, operational tensions, corporate capture and the legitimate resistance of peoples, COP30 delivered a message that can no longer be postponed: climate governance will only be legitimate if it ensures real participation, fair finance and effective protection of those who sustain life in their territories.

The future of the climate—in the Amazon, in Colombia and around the world—depends on translating commitments into action, with coherence, transparency and justice.

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