

COP30 in Brazil: Mobilizing climate action, shaping our future together

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Octávio Henrique Côrtes has been a career diplomat since 1986. Graduated in Electrical Engineering, he has served in Washington, Asunción, La Paz, Tokyo, Baghdad and Addis Ababa. He was Ambassador in Bolivia and Ethiopia and Representative of Brazil to the African Union and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. He has been the Ambassador of Brazil in Tokyo since July 2022.

The 30th Conference of the Parties (COP30) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) takes place from 10 to 21 November 2025 in the Brazilian city of Belém. For the first time, a COP is held in the Amazon, at the heart of the world's largest tropical rainforest, lending significant political symbolism to the Brazilian presidency.

COP30 represents a unique opportunity for countries to build consensus around one of the most pressing issues of our time. Global warming is occurring at a faster pace than previously anticipated. In 2024, the Earth's average temperature surpassed, for the first time, the critical threshold of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. The summer of 2025 was the hottest ever recorded in Japan, with average temperatures from June to August significantly higher than usual.

Our collective task is therefore to urgently mobilize the financial resources necessary for effective climate action; to develop instruments aimed at emissions mitigation, including carbon market mechanisms; to advance the construction of adaptation strategies to climate change; and to ensure the fair and global dissemination of useful technologies, enhancing the capacity of countries—particularly the most vulnerable—to confront this challenge.

Brazil's vision for COP30 encompasses three overarching objectives: (i) to strengthen multilateralism and the climate change regime under the UNFCCC; (ii) to connect the climate regime to people's real lives; and

(iii) to accelerate the implementation of the Paris Agreement. Throughout 2025, beyond the formal negotiation agenda, Brazil has worked to facilitate concrete outcomes in three other priority areas: (i) strengthening the climate regime, with the presentation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) by partners around the world; (ii) energy; and (iii) forests.

The Paris Agreement establishes that Parties must submit, every five years, commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change. This year, Parties are expected to present their new NDCs for 2035. A collective assessment of these national commitments will help determine whether the world is on track to meet the goal of limiting global warming. Furthermore, for the first time, there will be a critical mass of Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs), documents submitted by countries to demonstrate the implementation of their policies. These reports will enable verification of whether countries are effectively implementing the contributions they previously announced.

In accordance with the Climate Convention, developed countries are required to support developing countries in the implementation of climate action initiatives, such as achieving their NDCs. It is therefore timely to accelerate the availability of financing, technology, and capacity-building from the former group to the latter, providing the means of implementation that will enable greater ambition.

The energy debate will also be decisive, especially in

light of the conclusions of the Global Stocktake (GST) of the Paris Agreement, launched during COP28 in Dubai. This process identified, for the first time on a multilateral level, actions and targets for reducing emissions in the energy sector, which is responsible for approximately three-quarters of total global emissions.



Brazil is leading by example and became the first country to commit US\$ 1 billion to the Tropical Forests Forever Facility (TFFF). Photo: Ricardo Stuckert

In order to ensure a gradual global reduction in the use and production of fossil fuels, Brazil intends to reinforce its commitment to promoting sustainable fuels. Brazil and Japan have been promisingly collaborating in this area under the Initiative for Sustainable Fuels and Mobility (ISFM), launched in 2024. This year, in Osaka, the First Ministerial Meeting on Sustainable Fuels was held, co-chaired by Brazil and Japan.

Although forests are not formally part of the UNFCCC negotiation agenda, their importance in climate systems is evident. The decision to host COP30 in the Amazon symbolizes the recognition of the vital need to give greater visibility to the essential role of tropical forests in sustaining life on Earth and their irreplaceable function as filters, removing and storing carbon from the atmosphere. Tropical forests regulate the climate, protect soils, ensure freshwater systems, and are home to the majority of the planet's terrestrial biodiversity. To ensure the resilience of these biomes, it is imperative to provide long-term, continuous financial support for standing forests, thereby crowding out economic activities that involve deforestation.

This year, in consultation with partners, Brazil launched the “Tropical Forests Forever Facility” (TFFF)—a financial mechanism designed to ensure large-scale funding for the conservation of tropical forests. Structured on blended finance principles, the TFFF will use public contributions to mobilize private capital, which will be invested to generate sustainable, long-term returns. These returns will be distributed annually, based on results, to potentially over seventy developing countries with tropical forest coverage. Brazil is leading by example and became the first country to commit

US\$ 1 billion to TFFF's Fund.

In addition, COP30 in Belém is proposing an ambitious Action Agenda—a space for voluntary initiatives coordinated with the private sector—designed to boost both new and existing efforts. This Agenda is organized around six thematic pillars and thirty key targets, encompassing the core pillars of the multilateral climate regime: (i) Transition in the Energy, Industry and Transport Sectors; (ii) Forests, Oceans and Biodiversity; (iii) Agriculture and Food Systems; (iv) Cities, Infrastructure and Water; (v) Human and Social Development; and the cross-cutting pillar of (vi) Finance, Technology and Capacity-Building.

COP30 in Brazil presents a unique opportunity to give momentum to global climate action, aligning the efforts of businesses, civil society and governments at all levels in a coordinated approach to achieving the Paris Agreement objectives adopted ten years ago. It is our duty to future generations to renew our commitment in Belém to protecting the climate and the stability of our planet.

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