



ICC Briefing on Reflections of COP29 Outcomes & Looking towards Belém

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Introduction

- After eleven months of strenuous diplomatic efforts by Azerbaijan’s COP29 Presidency, extensive informal work by all Parties, and two weeks of intense technical and political negotiations, COP29 concluded in November with nearly 200 countries adopting the “[Baku Climate Unity Pact](#)”. This was achieved in a particularly challenging global context marked by economic uncertainty, geopolitical tensions, and strains on multilateral cooperation. The Pact brought significant advancements in climate finance, with the adoption of a hard-fought decision on the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG), and the adaptation agenda. Important progress was also made on Article 6 of the Paris Agreement on international carbon markets.
- From a business perspective, while the package of decisions agreed in Baku did not meet all Parties’ expectations – with developing country groups leaving Baku deeply disappointed due to the finance outcomes – nor did it deliver everything global business called for – especially on mitigation – it still represents an important step forward in strengthening support for emerging and developing countries and mobilising finance flows to decarbonise the global economy and build resilience to climate change.
- The focus must now shift to accelerated action and implementation, and achieving progress will require all Parties and stakeholders to work together. Substantial further efforts will be needed in the lead-up to and at COP30 to translate the commitments made in Baku and Dubai into tangible domestic and global transformations. The submission of ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) by all countries, fully aligned with the objectives of the Paris Agreement and informed by the outcomes of the first Global Stocktake by September this year, will be central to this process.

1. COP29: a key step forward, laying the groundwork for implementation

- The main negotiating decisions of the Baku Climate Unity Pact include:
 - The [NCQG decision](#), one of the key outcomes of COP29. It marks the culmination of a lengthy negotiation process and sets a new climate finance goal for developing countries of at least \$300 billion annually by 2035, with developed countries taking the lead – tripling the previous \$100 billion target. The decision also calls for the broader mobilisation of \$1.3 trillion per year by 2035 from all actors to support climate action in developing countries. In this context, a “Baku to Belém Roadmap” was launched to explore pathways for scaling up finance to meet this goal.
 - Key additional elements to note from the adopted new goal are:
 - Encouragement to developing country Parties to make contributions, including through South–South cooperation, on a voluntary basis.
 - Invitation to financial institutions, including MDBs, to align their operational models, channels, and instruments to be fit for purpose for urgently addressing global climate change, development, and poverty.
 - Recognition of the importance of reforming multilateral financial architecture and the need to remove barriers faced by developing countries to access climate finance.
 - Decision to take stock of the implementation of the NCQG, including through a review in 2030.
 - A [decision](#) on the [Global Goal on Adaptation](#) (GGA), which provides further guidance for compiling and developing indicators in the context of the UAE-Belém work programme, including on means of implementation, with an



expected final list of no more than 100 globally applicable indicators to be adopted at COP30. The decision also launches the “Baku Adaptation Road Map”, establishes a high-level dialogue on adaptation to be convened on the margins of each COP, and places the GGA on the agenda for future meetings.

- A procedural [decision](#) on the [Sharm el-Sheikh Mitigation Ambition and Implementation Work Programme](#) (MWP), acknowledging the focused exchange of views during the 2024 global dialogues and investment-focused events on the theme “Cities: buildings and urban systems”. The decision also notes plans to design a digital platform in 2025 to facilitate the implementation of mitigation actions by enhancing collaboration between governments, financiers, and other stakeholders.
 - The procedural nature of the MWP decision reflects difficult discussions in Baku, where strong disagreements emerged among Parties over the inclusion of substantive outcomes and high-level political messages referencing the 1.5°C limit and the Global Stocktake outcomes from Dubai.
- In addition, COP29 will be remembered as the COP that achieved the full operationalisation of Article 6, with countries finally reaching agreement on provisions for carbon market mechanisms under the Paris Agreement – bringing nearly a decade of complex negotiations to a close.
 - On Article 6.2, while bilateral collaboration was already underway, the [decision](#) adopted in Baku provides further guidance on the implementation of cooperative approaches, with a focus on rules for the content, timing, and changes of authorisations, as well as addressing inconsistencies and clarifying the registry’s function.
 - On Article 6.4, Parties adopted a landmark [decision](#) enabling the market to become operational. They endorsed the Supervisory Body’s work on standards for project methodology requirements and activities related to carbon removals. Additional clarity was provided on the links between Parties’ registries and the Paris Agreement Crediting Mechanism (PACM) registry.
 - Looking ahead, significant attention and effort must shift to implementation and capacity-building to ensure the effective operation of carbon markets.
- To the disappointment of many Parties and stakeholders, several important discussions were postponed due to a lack of consensus among Parties in Baku. These include the UAE Dialogue on implementing the Global Stocktake outcomes and the decision on the Just Transition Work Programme, which will be taken up at the next negotiating session in Bonn in June.
- Beyond the adoption of an important set of negotiating decisions, COP29 also saw an intense mobilisation of key stakeholders, including business, through the Presidency Action Agenda, as well as the endorsement of numerous pledges and commitments.
- COP29 Action Agenda saw more than 200 announcements, as well as several important [declarations and initiatives](#), including the [Joint Solemn Appeal by the COP29 Presidency for a COP Truce](#), the [COP29 Global Energy Storage and Grids Pledge](#), and the [COP29 Hydrogen Declaration](#), among others.
- The COP29 Presidency also maintained a key focus on trade and investment in its Action Agenda, including through the establishment of [the Baku Initiative for Climate Finance, Investment and Trade \(BICFIT\)](#) and a thematic day featuring “Finance, Investment and Trade”.
- **Lessons learned:**
 - The decisions adopted in Baku represent a vital step forward for global climate action and multilateral cooperation. However, substantial follow-up will be



needed to turn these commitments into tangible outcomes on the ground and to rebuild trust in the process.

- Advancing our shared goals while keeping stability and order will require a deeper understanding of one another's perspectives, capabilities and circumstances, along with great courage and continued efforts to strengthen global cooperation and solidarity – both among Parties and with non-Party stakeholders.

2. COP30: shifting towards solutions through mutual understanding and cooperation

- Looking ahead to COP30 in Belém, the focus must now shift toward accelerating implementation. Delivering on means of implementation and finance, as well as strengthened international cooperation and solidarity, will be essential to driving progress.
- The decisions made in Baku will be crucial in supporting Parties as they implement their COP28 commitments and deliver ambitious, economy-wide NDCs that cover all greenhouse gases, sectors and categories, are informed by the outcomes of the first Global Stocktake and fully align with the 1.5°C temperature limit.
- Ambitious and achievable NDCs, representing a progression beyond Parties' current NDCs, will be crucial for closing the ambition and implementation gap and meeting the goals of the Paris Agreement.
 - NDCs must be supported by credible policy and investment planning, clearly outlining the policy priorities and measures governments will use to achieve their targets. It is essential that NDCs send clear signals on the direction of travel to the business community to enable long-term decision-making.
 - Several important tools will be available to track individual and collective progress at COP30 and beyond. These tools will also serve as the foundation for discussions on how Parties can collaborate to enhance global ambition and implementation in the coming years:
 - the NDC Synthesis Report, which will evaluate how current and new NDCs align with a 1.5°C-compatible pathways;
 - the joint analytical work of the International Energy Agency (IEA) and UNFCCC, monitoring energy transition implementation as established in the GST;
 - the synthesis report of the Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs), summarising information and tracking progress on NDC implementation;
 - the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF), expected to drive further ambition, serving as the foundation for national climate policymaking, with BTRs as the primary reporting tool.
 - The design and implementation of NDCs should adopt an inclusive approach, with all stakeholders playing a key role. Governments need to work closer together to support each other in submitting NDCs, as well as with stakeholders, particularly the private sector, to better understand what is needed to scale up business action and investments.
- The NCQG decision will also play a critical role in supporting implementation, with the Baku to Belém Roadmap expected to address gaps not covered by the \$300 billion target. The Roadmap should produce actionable and concrete measures that can immediately scale up climate finance to meet the \$1.3 trillion goal and strengthen global cooperation.
 - Without a clear plan for mobilising finance, we cannot achieve our common goals. The Baku to Belém Roadmap must focus on strengthening domestic enabling environments and identifying concrete national and global measures



- to overcome barriers to climate finance flows – speaking to all actors across the financial system.
- This will be crucial to unlocking significantly greater amount of finance and facilitating investments from the private sector, as climate-related investment needs are vast and cannot be met by public finance alone. Strong signals from governments and the multilateral system to the private sector on the investment potential of the climate transition will be critical.
 - In the context of the NCQG, there is also an opportunity to significantly advance discussions on aligning international financial flows with the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement – including work under the Article 2.1(c) of the Paris Agreement – and to consider necessary changes, including by leveraging efforts outside of the UNFCCC, such as through the G20.
- Following the weak mitigation outcome at COP29, delivering a strong result in Brazil – including through the MWP and the UAE Dialogue – will be even more critical, as the world expects real progress on implementing the first Global Stocktake.
 - Much more can be done by Parties within the UNFCCC process, to support each other’s implementation efforts, discuss solutions, and establish a process to follow up on their collective commitments.
 - Stronger cooperation between Parties and stakeholders, including the private sector, is essential for achieving the mitigation objectives and building confidence and trust around the changes needed.
 - This includes in-depth, solution-oriented conversations among Parties on the overall level of ambition and implementation, as well as inclusive and meaningful engagement with all stakeholders on the benefits and opportunities of the transition, the challenges faced and solutions available, the enabling environments required, and the role of capacity-building and public finance in overcoming barriers to private capital.
 - Doubling down on adaptation and resilience, including mobilising adaptation finance, will be another key priority for COP30 – as adaptation is no longer just a local issue. Elevating adaptation to the political and global level, and placing it on equal footing with mitigation, will be a key focus.
 - In addition, with the increasing threat of economic and non-economic losses and damages due to climate change, the Fund for responding to Loss and Damage under the UNFCCC must operate with predictable, sustainable, and adequate resources. This effort should involve not only governments but all stakeholders to ensure success.
 - The broad COP30 Presidency vision includes consolidating the legacy of the Paris Agreement and marking a turning point in strengthening multilateralism, connecting the process to people’s real lives, and addressing bottlenecks to reinforcing implementation efforts.
 - In this context, Brazil views the “Global Mutirão” as essential for transforming global climate conversations from problem-oriented to solution-oriented, with the private sector playing a crucial role in showcasing solutions.
 - In addition, there will be an opportunity to bring together the three major transitions shaping humanity today – climate, digital transformation, and biotechnology – to leverage coordinated approaches and solutions.