



**COP30**

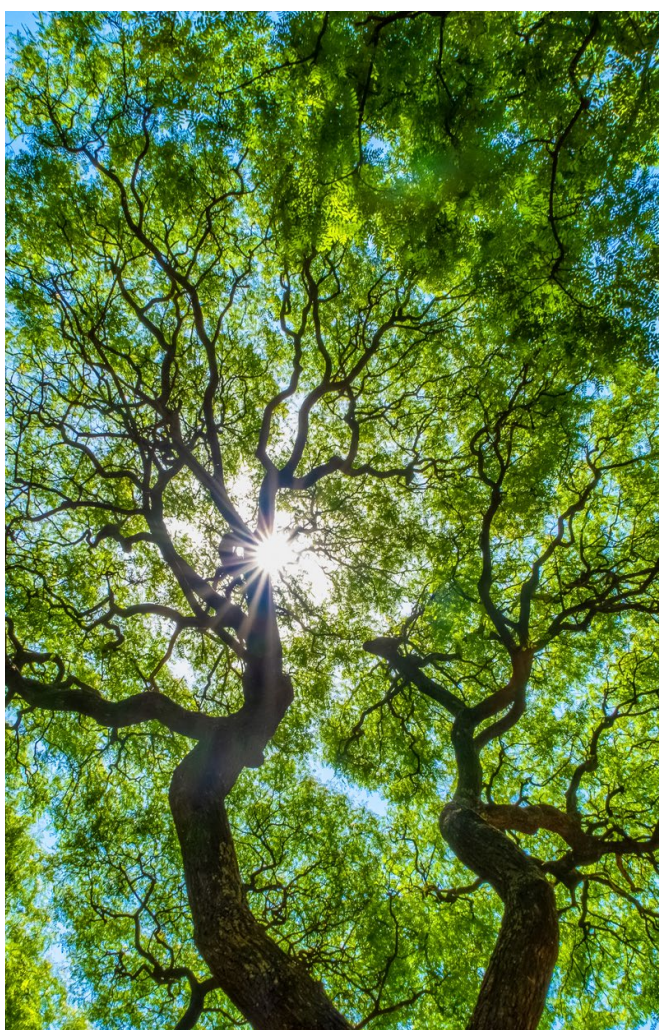
# **Key Takeaways**

**STRIVE**  
by STX



## Executive Summary

Bookended by stories about the treacherous journey to the venue itself and a symbolic fire in the Blue Zone, COP30 (Nov 10-21, 2025) convened in the Amazonian city of Belém under challenging conditions. The summit set out to move from pledges to delivery by raising lagging NDC ambition, outlining pathways to transition away from fossil fuels and strengthening climate adaptation finance. While expectations were high, delivery was mixed. Negotiations focused on operationalizing existing commitments, mobilizing climate finance and advancing sectoral initiatives. New national climate plans submitted before and during COP30 still leave a wide gap: together they deliver less than 15% of the emissions reductions needed by 2035 to keep 1.5 °C within reach, with UN analysis pointing to a 2.3–2.8 °C warming trajectory.



### Key outcomes from COP30 include:

- **The Mutirão Decision:** Nearly 200 countries endorsed a global mutirão concept that moves beyond prolonged negotiation into real transformation. While no binding roadmap to phase out fossil fuels was agreed, this is a strong signal since Paris that capital, data and measurable outcomes will drive climate action.
- **COP30 as Implementation COP:** Brazil positioned COP30 as an "implementation COP," updating the Action Agenda with 6 themes and 30 "key objectives" (e.g., fossil fuel transition, deforestation reversal) to streamline hundreds of initiatives mobilizing governments, businesses and civil society, yet no binding decarbonization roadmap emerged despite pressures.
- **Expansion of resilience and adaptation funding:** COP30 secured a pledge to triple adaptation finance by 2035, nested within an ambitious goal to mobilize US\$ 1.3 trillion annually for climate action by 2035. This significantly enlarges the funding pool available for climate resilience projects, disaster preparedness and infrastructure upgrades, especially for vulnerable regions and countries.
- **Political outcomes and state of multilateralism:** Tense negotiations on fossil fuels, international trade agreements such as CBAM and governance reforms revealed the limits of consensus, yet major economies chose compromise over collapse, preserving the international climate framework.
- **Clear signals for corporates:** Companies can expect tighter disclosure requirements, growing scrutiny of methane and super pollutants, stronger expectations around measurement and verification and continued relevance of environmental markets to support near-term progress.

STRIVE by STX supports corporate climate action with expertise in environmental markets that help turn ambitions into measurable results. This white paper examines key outcomes of COP30 and provides practical insight into what they mean for companies striving to reduce emissions and strengthen climate action.

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## COP30 in Context: Introduction and Overall Assessment

COP30 took place in Belém, deep in the Amazon region of Brazil. While the location highlighted the significance of forests and nature in global climate solutions, travel difficulties and logistical challenges reminded attendees that climate diplomacy often takes place in complex environments. For many delegates, the journey itself and the security incidents on site, including a fire in the Blue Zone that forced an evacuation during peak negotiations, became a good conversation starter.

Overall, COP30 delivered a mixed outcome. It advanced an implementation agenda through the *mutirão* decision and new mechanisms, **signaled an intention to scale adaptation and resilience finance and expanded initiatives on sustainable fuels, super pollutants and power system investment**. At the same time, it stopped short of adopting a binding roadmap to phase out fossil fuels and left institutional reform of the UN climate process largely unresolved. Multilateralism held, but under visible strain.



### Mutirão Decision

After two weeks of negotiations, as COP30 was coming to a close, the *mutirão* decision was finalized. **Nearly 200 countries endorsed a global *mutirão* concept** that moves beyond prolonged negotiation into real transformation of economies and societies. This is the strongest signal since Paris that **capital, data and measurable outcomes will drive climate action**.

The *mutirão* concept is structurally different from the Marrakesh Partnership or High Level Champions work. The Marrakesh Partnership for Global Climate Action was launched at COP22 in Marrakech, Morocco, in 2016. The *mutirão* concept embodies a collective, community-driven mobilization focusing on cooperative, society-wide transformation beyond coordination and support roles of non-state actors.

The negotiations did not, however, come without tensions as the European Union, the United Kingdom, Colombia and vulnerable island states threatened to walk out if a fossil fuel transition roadmap was not included in the final text. Despite its absence, they ended up signing the final *mutirão* deal, **prioritizing consensus, cooperation and progress** over collapse in a fractious geopolitical climate.

Moreover, the COP president will oversee, outside the UN climate framework, efforts to establish a roadmap to reduce global dependence on fossil fuels. For corporates, this creates expectations for more consistent MRV and market grade data for the future.

**For corporates**, the *mutirão* decision reinforces a clear message: attention is shifting toward execution, accountability and real-world impact.

### COP30 as an “Implementation COP”

In recent years, there has been a growing sense that COPs are disconnected from real-world climate action. In this context, Brazil framed COP30 as an “implementation COP”.

The presidency linked “implementation” to its plans for “**Action Agenda**” reform, launched in 2014 to mobilize voluntary initiatives led by non-state actors from outside the UN climate process. The Brazilian presidency sought to develop an “ambitious and integrated” Action Agenda, compiling and streamlining existing projects.

COP30’s Action Agenda set out six broad themes and 30 “**key objectives**” (e.g., transitioning away from fossil fuels, reversing deforestation and harmonizing carbon markets and carbon accounting standards). The intent is to build a coordinated set of priorities that can guide policy, finance and action.

## Key Implementation Mechanisms Launched

Several mechanisms announced or expanded at COP30 aim to translate the “implementation COP” narrative into concrete tools and investment flows, including the Belém Mission to 1.5, which focuses on accelerating delivery of national climate plans and adaptation strategies.

### Global Implementation Accelerator

Focused on high impact actions including methane reduction, renewable expansion, digitalization, lowering the cost of capital through mechanisms such as guarantees and blended finance, and multilateral development bank (MDB) reforms, it aims to scale clean technology deployment, improve access to capital and cut non-carbon emissions.

It aims to **support a clearer pipeline of investable projects** and improve the alignment between climate objectives and financial flows.

### Belém Mission to 1.5 and NDC Delivery

In parallel, the Brazilian presidency launched the Belém Mission to 1.5 as a **voluntary initiative to accelerate implementation of national climate plans and adaptation strategies**. The Mission is designed to help countries move from NDC targets on paper to concrete policies, projects and investments that can be tracked and reported.

**For companies**, the Belém Mission signals that pressure on governments to turn NDCs into real-economy measures will increase. As national plans are operationalized, more **sectors can expect tighter standards**, such as cleaner fuel and vehicle efficiency rules, methane emissions limits for oil and gas operations, or sector-specific performance benchmarks, alongside new regulatory instruments and expanded use of market-based tools to close the gap between current trajectories and 1.5 °C.

### Tripling Adaptation Finance

Parties pledged to **triple adaptation finance by 2035 as part of a broader goal to mobilize at least US\$ 1.3 trillion per year** in climate finance for developing countries by that year, drawing on **both public funds and mobilized private capital**. At this stage, however, no common baseline has been agreed and commitments remain non-binding.

### Belém 4x Pledge on Sustainable Fuels

At the pre-COP in Brasilia, the Brazilian presidency launched the Belém 4x pledge. This pledge aims to gather support to **quadruple the production and use of sustainable fuels by 2035**, including biofuels, biogases, hydrogen/derivatives and e-fuels/synthetic fuels to decarbonize hard-to-abate sectors. The pledge was developed with the support of the International Energy Agency (IEA), based on their report on “[Delivering Sustainable Fuels](#)”. The report highlights six priority actions: developing clear, tailored roadmaps and supportive policies; increasing demand predictability to attract investment and strengthen market confidence; standardizing carbon accounting methodologies; driving innovation and cost reduction; building integrated supply chains and improving access to finance. So far, 23 countries support the pledge, including Brazil, Canada, Italy, The Netherlands, Japan and India.

**The goal is to accelerate decarbonization** in hard-to-abate sectors. For energy systems, transport and industrial companies, the pledge signals that sustainable fuels will remain an important component of long-term transition strategies, even as cost, infrastructure and policy support vary by region.

### Super Pollutant Country Action Accelerator

Launched by Brazil and the United Kingdom under the [Climate and Clean Air Coalition \(CCAC\)](#), it aims to support 30 developing countries to drastically cut emissions of super pollutants such as methane, black carbon and hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) by 2030. The initiative focuses on **scaling up practical implementation measures like improving pollutant measurement, ending routine flaring of gases in oil and gas production, reducing waste and agricultural emissions and promoting cleaner technologies**.

The Accelerator will provide an initial funding of US\$ 25 million to seven pioneer countries (including Brazil, Indonesia, Nigeria and Mexico) with plans to mobilize up to US\$ 150 million in its first phase. Each participating country is expected to receive about US\$ 4-5 million over 3 years, tied to clear national goals for emissions reductions, expected reporting or MRV requirements.

**For corporates** in energy, agriculture, waste and heavy industry, this reinforces the expectation that **methane and other super pollutants will become core performance and compliance metrics**, for example, through measures like continuous methane monitoring at oil and gas facilities or upgrading municipal waste systems to capture landfill gas and reduce emissions.



## UNEZA Alliance

The Utilities for Net Zero Alliance (UNEZA), launched at COP28, expanded its scope at COP30 to address power system bottlenecks. This year, 73 global utilities pledged US\$ 66 billion per year for renewable energy and US\$ 82 billion for transmission and storage projects. These commitments are **designed to advance the energy transition and create a more reliable pipeline of clean power** toward 2030.

**For the private sector**, this signals a growing base of renewable supply and infrastructure, more opportunities to source clean electricity at scale and a stronger link between utility investment plans and corporate decarbonization strategies.

## Other COP30 Mechanisms on Resilience, Nature and Just Transition

Beyond the core implementation tools, COP30 showcased mechanisms targeted at resilience, nature and just transitions.

- **Belém Mechanism for Just Global Transition:** Supports countries in ensuring transitions to sustainable economies are just and inclusive. Expected to be operational by COP31 (2026).
- **Tropical Forests Forever Fund:** Raised US\$ 5.5 billion and garnered 53 participating countries, with at least 20% of resources earmarked directly for Indigenous Peoples and frontline local communities.
- **Blue NDC Challenge:** 17 countries joined this initiative, pledging to integrate ocean-climate solutions in their national plans. The One Ocean Partnership aims to drive US\$ 20 billion of investment by 2030 and create 20 million jobs focused on ocean conservation and ocean based solutions.





## Political Outcomes and State of Multilateralism

Brazil's presidency raised the global political temperature on fossil fuels more than any COP to date. More than 80 countries pushed for explicit "phase out" language, while over 80 opposed it. No consensus emerged, and the final text stopped short of a binding fossil fuel phase out roadmap. Even so, **Brazil initiated two new processes: one to develop a roadmap for a transition toward a fossil fuel free economy, and another to create a Forest and Climate Roadmap to halt and reverse deforestation.** These initiatives matter because they bring supply-side action into formal workstreams despite the lack of agreement on language in the core COP outcome.

Although the California Governor Gavin Newsom made an appearance, COP30 was further complicated by the absence of the United States federal government and **resistance from major fossil fuel producers** including Saudi Arabia, Russia and India, which together weakened the level of ambition that could be agreed in plenary texts.

Moreover, as it happened already in COP29, debates over some countries' status also resurfaced. The list of developed countries dates back to 1992, when the creation of the UN climate convention was agreed. The **European Union has been calling for the lists to be updated to include major emerging countries** such as China, as well as wealthy oil and gas producers, as it feels that it has an unbalanced share of responsibilities given that it only represents 15% of the global economy.

Many parties also continued **to call for reform of the UN climate process.** Options discussed ranged from reducing delegation sizes to limiting the number of new agenda items added each year and streamlining negotiations to focus on implementation.

## New Trade and Climate Dialogues Linking Supply Chains and Ambition

COP30 also launched talks on new forums to examine how international trade measures and climate ambition interact, with objectives that include:

- Addressing concerns over unilateral climate measures restricting trade, targeting mechanisms such as the EU CBAM;
- Responding to calls from emerging economies, including China and India, for fairer trade practices aligned with global climate objectives

A dialogue, which will include the WTO, will start in June 2026, with a high-level report expected in 2028.

**For companies** with complex global supply chains, these discussions are important signals that new trade-related climate measures and policies may develop, alongside a push to develop best practices for monitoring, reporting and verifying emissions (MRV) and for common accounting standards.





## Key Implications for Corporates

- **Stricter disclosure and reporting requirements:** Climate reporting is tightening across major markets, with growing requirements for transparent Scope 1, Scope 2 and Scope 3 data alongside credible transition plans. Expectations are converging around reporting standards such as ISSB, TCFD and CSRD, which will push companies to strengthen data collection, emission reduction strategies and supplier engagement.
- **Focus on methane and other super pollutants:** Initiatives on super pollutants and sectoral decarbonization mean methane and other short-lived climate pollutants are becoming central compliance and financial metrics, particularly for companies in energy, agriculture, waste and chemicals.
- **Supply chain verification and MRV integrity:** With financial flows tied to implementation and international frameworks like CBAM under discussion, companies need robust measurement, reporting and verification practices. Clear traceability across supply chains becomes ever more essential.
- **Adaptation and resilience integrated into strategy:** Rising adaptation finance will increase attention on physical climate risks to operations. Companies may be expected to integrate resilience into financial and climate strategies, step up investments in resilient assets and supply chains and demonstrate how they will ensure long-term business continuity in their disclosures.
- **Carbon markets remain relevant for near-term progress:** As execution becomes the primary focus, environmental markets help maintain measurable progress while long-term decarbonization investments scale. Over the next few years, the most material developments for corporates are likely to be the ramp up of **CORSIA** for aviation, evolving **EU ETS** dynamics and deals and the gradual operationalization of **Article 6 bilateral trades**. Across these markets, access to high-integrity credits and instruments, underpinned by robust data and MRV, will be a key differentiator for companies seeking to demonstrate tangible, verifiable results.



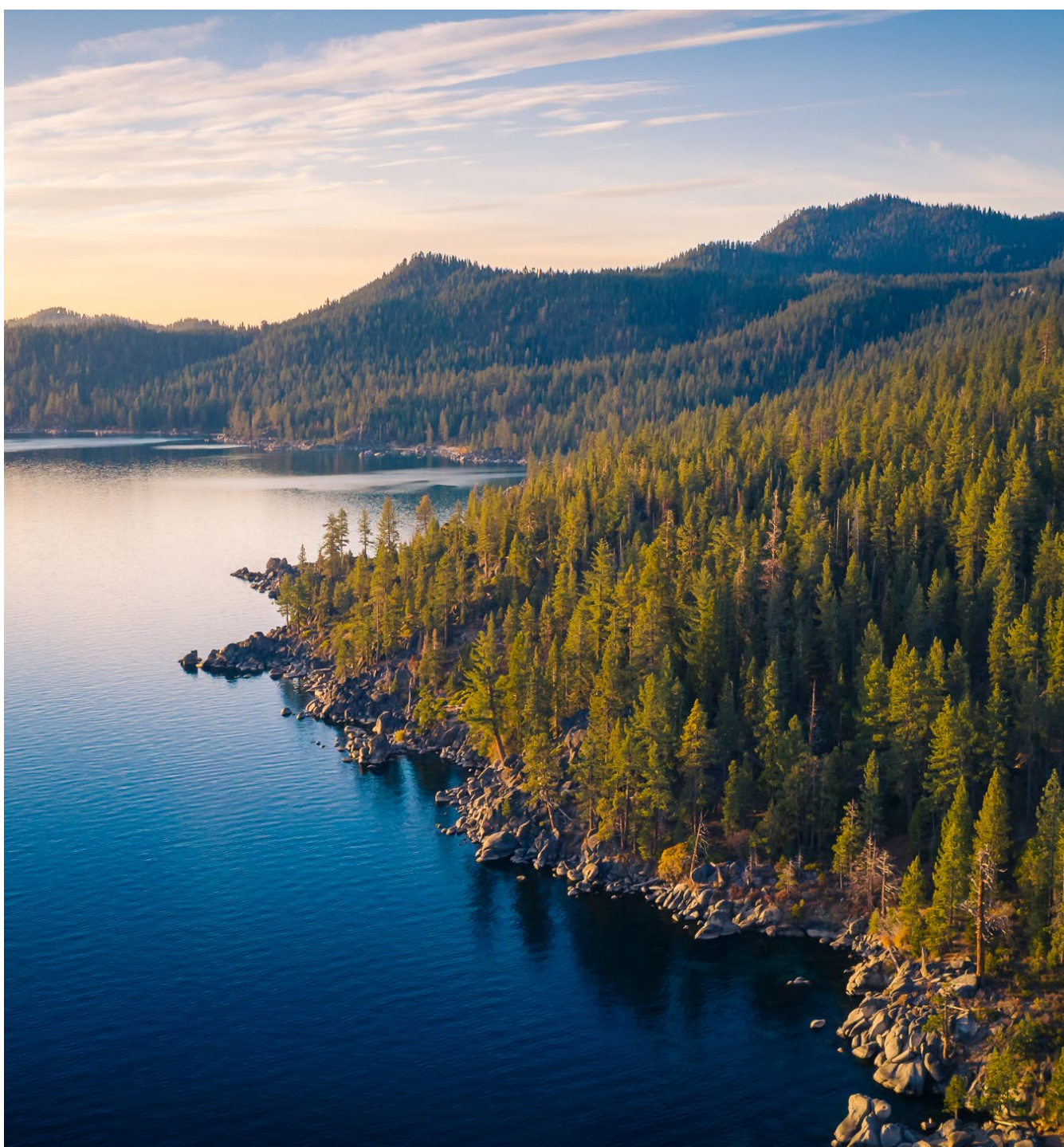


## What Comes Next: COP31, COP32 and Outstanding Questions

The next conference, COP31, will take place in Antalya from November 9 to 20, 2026. An unusual partnership between two fossil fuel-producing nations, Australia and Turkey, will preside over both the venue and the negotiation process. How that will shape ambition remains uncertain. Key agenda items are expected to include further work on tightening Article 6 market rules and setting expectations for the next NDC submission cycle, where countries will face growing pressure to narrow the gap to 1.5 °C. After that, COP32 is expected to take place in Ethiopia in 2027, where adaptation and climate justice are likely to feature prominently.

Looking ahead, several critical questions remain unresolved:

- The world still lacks a binding, detailed plan to phase out fossil fuels.
- UNFCCC governance reform has only just begun.
- Mechanisms for tracking adaptation and resilience are incomplete.
- Implementation gaps persist across all regions, especially in emerging markets.





## Conclusion: Your Climate Action Must Deliver Results

Expectations for COP30 were high, while delivery was modest. Although there were some notable accomplishments, the conference did not produce the fossil fuel breakthrough many had anticipated. Multilateral climate cooperation continues to operate under strain, yet major economies ultimately chose compromise over the collapse of collective climate action, signaling that global cooperation still matters.

**At the same time, COP30 sent a clear signal: enabling climate action to move forward now depends on implementation, finance and accountability.** A new phase has begun, centered on execution and measurable outcomes. The growing focus on methane and other super pollutants, and on the data integrity needed to track them, is emblematic of this shift toward measurable implementation. Companies face a more demanding arena for climate action, where success requires strong reporting, credible measurement and tangible investment in decarbonization and resilience.

With sustainability ambition no longer enough, decarbonization must be about results that stakeholders can see and verify. By investing in robust data collection, engaging supply chains and deploying practical climate solutions, you can turn climate goals into measurable outcomes and reduce long-term transition risk.

STRIVE by STX helps companies act through market-based solutions. By combining policy insight with environmental market expertise, we support organizations in delivering their climate targets with confidence and credibility. If you want support in delivering your climate targets with confidence, we are here to help.

