

Climate Conversation 2025: Road to Belem

9 October 2025 | Tamarind, India Habitat Centre | 10:00 am – 5:00 pm



Climate change impacts are becoming increasingly unavoidable for countries, communities and economies the world over. Millions of people are already bearing the brunt of climate impacts from extreme and longer heat waves around the world to rising sea levels, threatening coastal communities and entire island nations.

This November, as countries gather for the 30th Conference of Parties (COP30) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Belem, Brazil, all countries are expected to have submitted their next round of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), ratcheting up their targets for 2035. The current level of ambition that countries have agreed to makes it clear that the targets set under the Paris Agreement will be challenging to meet. While countries need to accelerate efforts to mitigate the impacts of climate change by reducing carbon emissions and decarbonizing the economy, adapting to the realities of the worst impacts is equally necessary to ensure a just, climate-resilient, sustainable and equitable future. Moreover, climate action, particularly in developing countries, requires substantial and scaled-up mobilization of climate finance. Specifically, in the context of UNFCCC climate discussions, climate finance has overall implications on the Just Transition Work Programme (JTWP) and the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) agenda.

The need of the hour is not only for countries to make stronger commitments but also to demonstrate tangible action and impact on the ground. In the lead up to COP30, this convening aims to bring together leading climate and policy experts to discuss the state-of-play of the global-climate negotiations and identify pathways to speed up the climate action both within and outside the UNFCCC process.

Final Programme

Time	Agenda
10:00 am – 10:30 am	Registration
10:30 am – 11:15 am	Inaugural session • Ms. Dipa Singh Bagai, Country Head, NRDC India • Mr. Nitin Desai, Chairman, TERI Governing Council • Mr. Seyni Nafo*, Co-Chair, Green Climate Fund • Mr. Acquino Vimal, Ministry of External Affairs
11:15 am – 11:30 pm	Coffee
11:30 am – 12:45 pm	Session 1: Bridging the Climate Finance Gap for Just Transition An ongoing challenge for progress on climate commitments and low-carbon development in emergent nations remains, availability and access to

affordable finance. Recent estimates suggest that India requires financing of approximately USD 2.5 trillion to meet its existing NDC targets by 2030, and nearly USD 673 billion in adaptation finance within the same time frame. At COP29, India along with other developing countries voiced disappointment over the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) on climate finance. The COP29 and COP30 Presidencies are now working towards the Baku to Belem Roadmap to scale up climate finance, with the aim of mobilizing at least \$1.3 trillion annually by 2035 to support climate goals of developing countries. The Just Transition Work Programme (JTWP) has implications on the quantity and quality of finance, particularly with respect to addressing concerns of equity in low-carbon and climate-resilient development. This session aims to deliberate on the following questions

- How can the world fund the climate finance gap? Will capital enhancement of climate funds and Multilateral Development Banks be sufficient for developed countries?
- What global mechanisms can mobilise private finance for just transition at scale?
- How central is the UNFCCC mechanism to channelise climate finance flows to developing countries?
- How can the next Global Stocktake process ensure alignment between NCQG and JTWP?

Moderator: Jacob Koshy, Science Editor, The Hindu

Speakers:

1. **Mr. Abhishek Acharya**, Director, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
2. **Mr. Dipak Dasgupta**, Distinguished Fellow, The Energy and Resources Institute
3. **Mr. Labanya Prakash Jena**, Director, Climate and Sustainability Initiative (CSI) and Visiting Senior Fellow, London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)
4. **Dr. Dhruva Purkayastha**, Climate and Sustainable Finance Expert
5. **Mr. Jagjeet Sareen**, India – Head, Dalberg Advisors
6. **Mr. Gaurav Upadhyay**, Energy Finance Specialist, India Sustainable Finance, Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis.

12:45 pm – 2:00 pm

Lunch

2:00 pm – 3:15 pm

Session 2: Bringing Adaptation to the Main Negotiating Table

The Paris Agreement laid down the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) to enhance the world's adaptive capacity, strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability to the impacts of climate change. As risks related to extreme climate events are on the rise, the GGA needs to be able to lay out a clear framework and targets for measuring progress on adaptation. The negotiations for the GGA are ongoing and expected to conclude at COP30. As countries negotiate the GGA, several questions and challenges are on the table. These include

- What is global in the GGA?

- At what scale should the GGA be pitched? What metrics should be used for measuring progress towards adaptation goals?
- How will the GGA aggregate country inputs for meeting overarching global goals and will it aim to be distinct from other reporting processes including the NDCs, NAP and the Natcom?
- How do we ensure adequate financing for adaptation and resilience, and dealing with loss and damage from climate impacts?
- Should there be a new global adaptation finance goal in addition to the NCQGs on climate finance?

Moderator: Urmi Goswami, Assistant Editor, Economic Times

Speakers:

1. **Dr. Purnamita Dasgupta**, Professor, Institute of Economic Growth
2. **Dr. Ruchika Drall**, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
3. **Dr. Suchismita Mukhopadhyay**, Lead Specialist - Advocacy, Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)
4. **Dr. Johanna Nalau**, Associate Professor, Griffith University (*virtual*)
5. **Mr. Ravi S. Prasad**, Distinguished Fellow, CEEW
6. **Mr. Safi Ahsan Rizvi***, Advisor, National Disaster Management Authority

3:15 pm – 3:30 pm

Coffee Break

3:30 pm – 4:45 pm

Session 3: Strained Multilateralism and Global Climate Cooperation

Multilateralism has been the backbone of global climate action for over three decades anchored by the UNFCCC. However, this system is under unprecedented strain. The UN is no longer the platform through which climate discussions are taking place. This year has already seen significant geopolitical developments and trade tensions between countries. Moreover, with the United States withdrawing from the Paris Agreement yet again, global climate negotiations appear to have stalled progress. The next round of NDCs with the 2035 targets were expected to be submitted by February 2025, but the response has been underwhelming. As more countries submit their NDC 3.0, COP30 will be crucial in determining whether countries' efforts will keep the world on track with Paris Agreement's goal to limit global temperature rise within 1.5 degree Celsius. This session aims to focus on:

- Finding alternatives to multilateralism through institutions like the International Solar Alliance (ISA), Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), Mission Possible Partnership, Just Energy Transition Partnerships (JETP) et al. Can they jointly enhance ambition in mitigation, adaptation and finance targets?
- BRICS countries pushing for a global reform of climate finance governance, of institutions such as the International Monetary Fund and The World Bank, to reflect the needs of emergent nations.

- The reliability of climate cooperation through intergovernmental forums such as G7 and G20 for timely and meaningful delivery of climate action in face of fragmented global cooperation.

Moderator: **Urmi Goswami**, Assistant Editor, Economic Times

Speakers:

1. **Mr. Chandra Bhushan**, President and CEO, iFOREST
2. **Ms. Yamide Dagnet**, Senior Vice President, International, NRDC
3. **Dr. Joyeeta Gupta**, Professor, Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences, University of Amsterdam (*virtual*)
4. **Dr. Ajay Mathur**, Professor of Practice in the School of Public Policy at IIT, Delhi
5. **Mr. Manjeev Singh Puri**, Distinguished Fellow, The Energy and Resources Institute

4:45 pm – 5:00 pm

Keynote address: **Ana Toni**, CEO of 30th Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC (COP30)

5:00 pm onwards

Networking and high tea