

# CRF-TERI Post-COP Dialogue

## On

### Beyond Belém: Charting the Next Phase of Global Climate Action

9 December 2025 | Tamrind Hall, India Habitat Centre

#### *Background Note*

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For the first time since the landmark moment of the adoption of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Conference of the Parties (COP) returned back to Brazilian soil, lending COP 30 a political significance. Setting the context for the negotiations, the Brazilian Presidency facilitated two major announcements in the week preceding to the conference. The joint Presidencies of the Baku and Belém COPs released the *Baku to Belém Roadmap*, outlining the mobilisation of USD 1.3 trillion annually for developing countries from all sources—including USD 300 billion in public finance from developed countries. From a developing-country perspective, this is potentially one of the most consequential pre-COP decisions that set the tone right before Belém rose the curtains for the further negotiations. Second important announcement was on the Tropical Forest for Forever Facility (TFFF). It is a Brazil-led investment fund, set up to provide a permanent financial incentive to developing countries to conserve their tropical forests. It aims to reward more than 70 developing tropical forest countries. The fund was officially endorsed by 53 countries at its launch with countries including Brazil and Indonesia making initial financial commitments to operationalise it.

The key agenda items of COP30 included, adoption of indicators to track progress on the Global Goal on Adaptation, finalization of the Just Transition Work Programme outlining a global understanding on just transition and cooperation to achieve it, a roadmap to implement the Baku outcome on the New Collective Quantified Goal on climate finance, and conclusion of the Mitigation Work Program, among others. The COP 30 saw sharp debates on two issues. First, a carry forward from the Baku COP last year, was the overall ambition on finance by developed countries under para 9.1 of the Paris Agreement. Developing countries reiterated their disappointment with the goal of USD 300 billion per year by 2035 from developed countries and argued to continue negotiating the finance ambition. Developed countries insisted on focusing on implementing the decisions taken at Baku. The second issue was the demand from developed countries supported by many LDCs to commit on a timebound roadmap for fossil-fuel phase out. Developing countries opposed it, particularly in the absence of commensurate commitment on additional finance. These two issues, at one point, led to the fears that the negotiation process may collapse. In fact, many countries threatened of not accepting any decision from Belem if their agenda items were not adequately included.

Parties at COP 30 are entering a decisive phase: following the first-ever Global Stocktake, negotiations in Belém converge on operationalising outcomes rather than drafting new declarations. The Brazilian Presidency has placed four interconnected pillars at the centre: a roadmap for decarbonisation, the New Collective Quantified Goal on climate finance, activation of the Global Goal on Adaptation, and the establishment of a robust just-transition framework.

While progress is evident, the briefings reveal a widening ambition-implementation gap—particularly for developing countries that face constrained access to predictable finance and weak adaptation support. Concurrently, the draft negotiating text exposes retreating commitment from some developed parties, especially on fossil-fuel phase-out and trade-restrictive measures. This agenda thus becomes the litmus test of the multilateral regime’s ability to translate climate diplomacy into credible delivery.

The outcome of the COP 30 - acknowledges that the first Global Stocktake (GST-1) marks the completion of the Paris Agreement’s first implementation cycle and shows measurable progress in bending the emissions curve and advancing adaptation planning. The GST-1 also underscores that significant ambition and implementation gaps remain—particularly in adaptation and finance, and the urgency of accelerating action, strengthening multilateralism, and mobilizing scaled-up resources to keep 1.5°C within reach and build resilience. Despite aggressive stances taken by both sides of the Parties, the Brazilian Presidency was able to pull through agreements on a Global Mechanism on Just Transition, adoption of 60 indicators on Global Goal on Adaptation with flexibility to countries in their application, tripling of adaptation finance and a two year programme on implementing the Baku to Belem Roadmap on climate finance, opening a negotiation track on para 9.1 of the Paris Agreement on developed countries’ obligation on climate finance, along with a promise from the Presidency to prepare a roadmap for consideration on fossil-fuel phase out by the next COP.

Arguably, the Belem outcome has commenced a new chapter of negotiations and diplomacy seeking synchronization across policy processes and actors, within and outside the UNFCCC process, deemed necessary for full and effective implementation of the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement. From multi-country initiatives like the International Solar Alliance and the Tropical Forests Forever Facility, the outside UNFCCC platforms have moved to the centre stage of implementation, providing a model of support that developing countries expect from developed countries. Yet, the negotiations on overall ambition on finance and credible decarbonization pathways also remain the core issues within the UNFCCC, with significant coordination with the actors such as multilateral development banks who are outside the UNFCCC process. Similarly, the agreement on Global Goal on Adaptation indicators as a harmonizing factor among the diverse national circumstances and specific vulnerabilities of countries reflect a two-tier mechanism.

It is within this context of navigating coordination challenges between rule-based agreement within the UNFCCC process and autonomous actors outside it, which seem to underpin the future of implementation, that TERI and CRF are convening a Post-COP Dialogue on “Beyond Belém: Charting the Next Phase of Global Climate Action,” designed to foster a focused deliberation on COP 30’s decisions and their implications for on-ground climate action. Bringing together policymakers, practitioners, and experts, the dialogue will unpack the outcomes on mitigation, adaptation, and finance, and explore how India and other developing countries can navigate the evolving global landscape to strengthen domestic implementation pathways and safeguard equity within the climate regime.

The Dialogue will aim to go beyond immediate reactions and evaluations of the COP 30 outcome and deliberate on the following questions:

1. What are the challenges for multilateral cooperation on climate change that underpinned COP 30 negotiations, and how they may be dealt with at country, region, and global levels?
2. The shrinking carbon budget for meeting the Paris goals has made adaptation an equal, and perhaps, overriding priority for developing countries over mitigation. How does the COP 30 outcome on the Global Goal on Adaptation reflect on this urgency? How should countries like India think about adaptation now?
3. How feasible is the implementation of the Baku to Belém Roadmap on climate finance is under current geopolitical circumstances? What additional burden does it put on developing countries?
4. What role should India play in protecting the process?

## Tentative Agenda

<i>Schedule</i>	<i>Particulars</i>
9:30 - 10:00	Registration and Tea
10:00 - 10:40	<b>Inaugural Session:</b>  <b>Welcome Remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr Vibha Dhawan, Director General, TERI</li> <li>• Mr. Shishir Priyadarshi, President, CRF</li> </ul>
10:40 - 12:00	<b>Session 1</b>  <b>Interpreting COP 30: Implications for Global Mitigation and Adaptation Targets</b>  <i>The overarching objective of this discussion session is to unpack COP 30 decisions on global mitigation &amp; adaptation goals and assess their implications for India's climate policy.</i>  <b>Moderator:</b> RR Rashmi, Distinguished Fellow, TERI  <b>Panellists</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms Leena Nandan, Former Secretary, MoEFCC</li> <li>• Prof. Ajay Mathur, School of Public Policy, IIT-D</li> <li>• Ms Ruchika Drall, Deputy Secretary, MoEFCC</li> <li>• Mr Kirtiman Awasthi, Senior Advisor and Programme Head, GIZ- India</li> <li>• Ms. Suruchi Bhadwal, Senior Fellow and Programme Director, TERI</li> </ul> Framing Presentation by Dr. Pooja Sehbag, Research Associate, Chintan Research Foundation

12:00 –12:15	<b>Tea and Networking Break</b>
12:15 –13:30	<p><b>Session 2</b></p> <p><b>Financing the Transition: COP 30 Outcomes on Climate Finance</b></p> <p><i>This session aims at exploring how COP 30 reshapes global climate finance flows and identify pathways for improved access and mobilisation for developing countries.</i></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Gaurie Dwivedi, NDTV</p> <p><b>Panellists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amb. Manjeev Puri, Distinguished Fellow, TERI</li> <li>• Dr Ashish Chaturvedi, Head- Action for Climate and Environment- UNDP India</li> <li>• Neha Kumar, Climate Bonds</li> <li>• Saliem Fakir, Executive Director, Africa Climate Foundation (Joining Virtually)</li> </ul> <p>Framing Presentation by Dr Manish Kumar Shrivastava, Senior Fellow, TERI</p>
13:30 onwards	<b>Vote of Thanks followed by Lunch</b>

