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COP30

Key takeaways

10-21 November 2025

Belém, Brazil



Executive summary

COP30: From ambition to action, with the private sector taking a central role.

COP30 marks a shift from negotiations to implementation. The Global Stocktake held at COP28, revealed some major gaps, and countries are now relying on the private sector as core solution providers. Reinforcing the importance of multilateral approaches, COP30 also acknowledged the aim to not exceed the 1.5°C goal, with a focus on rapid, high-integrity implementation.¹

Climate finance is becoming deal-specific, global trade and climate frameworks are converging, a fossil-fuel transition roadmap is emerging, and Artificial Intelligence (AI) is rapidly becoming increasingly important. These developments are now shaping the global transition, and companies are actively adapting.

In Belém, at the Deloitte pavilion, C-suite leaders emphasized that embedding sustainability into core decision-making is tied to growth, resilience, and access to capital.

Let's take a closer look...



COP30 at a glance

1

Private sector is increasingly central to delivering adaptation and mitigation projects.

2

Climate finance is becoming more deal-driven and blended.

3

Sustainability and trade are converging through climate-related trade measures and annual meetings.

4

A coalition of countries plan to advance fossil-fuel and deforestation transition roadmaps outside the formal COP process.

5

AI is a transformative tool to accelerate sustainability priorities and optimize reporting.



Key takeaway 1

Private sector is increasingly central to delivery

COP30 represents a notable evolution in the role of business: not as supportive actors, but as structural contributors to implementation.

To support this shift, the Brazilian presidency consolidated hundreds of fragmented voluntary initiatives into a coherent Action Agenda² organized into six themes and 30 key objectives, aligned to a new five-year implementation cycle linked to the Global Stocktake.

The Action Agenda is now matched to the gaps identified in the Global Stocktake, meaning private sector solutions are being curated and aligned with areas where negotiated outcomes simply cannot deliver alone. The Sustainable Business COP (SB COP) process³ is creating lasting, standing working groups that gather experiences and case studies, distill some of the strongest examples, and integrate perspectives of business into the formal negotiations—a level of integration between practitioners and policy-makers which hasn't been done previously. Launch of the Global Implementation Accelerator (GIA)¹ as a facilitative mechanism to accelerate action, is another area of opportunity for solution providers and private finance to be integrated into the international climate negotiation and implementation process. With dialogues set for 2026 at the 64th session of the Subsidiary Bodies under UNFCCC in June 2026 and COP31 in November 2026,¹ the scope of this

new mechanism will be further refined to help ensure it actualizes the intended impact.

For organizations, this shift creates a strategic opening. The question is no longer 'Should we engage?' but 'Where can we credibly lead?' Organizations that surface their highest-integrity projects, operational innovations, financing structures, or community-driven models could find themselves shaping expectations instead of reacting to them. This is the moment to identify lighthouse projects, refine them into scalable models, and participate in working groups where policy and markets collaborate.



Key takeaway 2

Climate finance is becoming more deal-driven

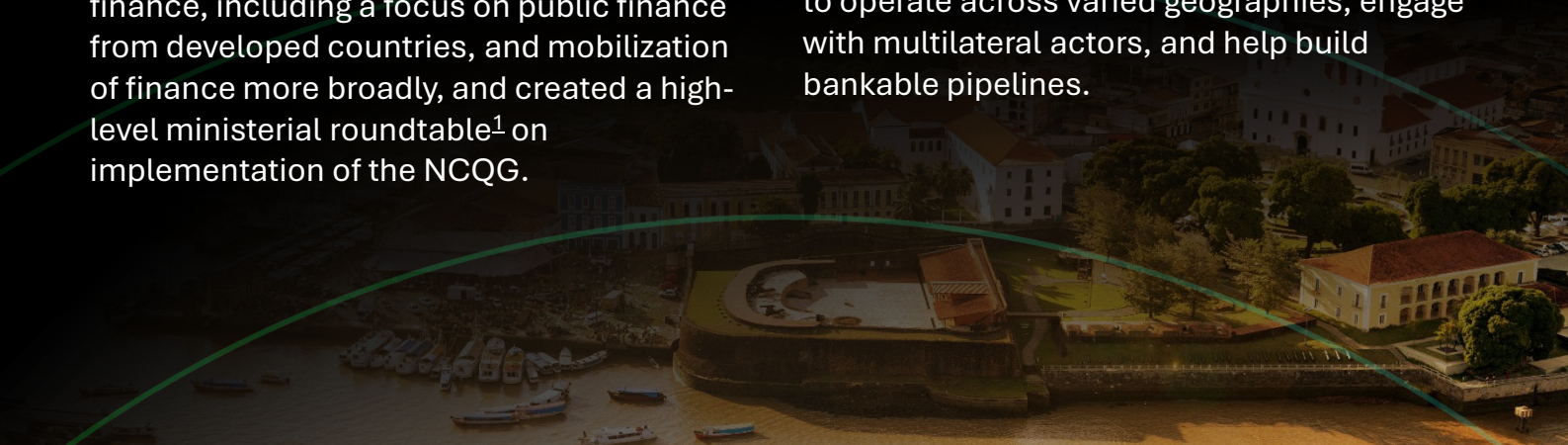
The finance conversation at COP is maturing rapidly. With the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) agreed at a COP29 setting a US\$300 billion annual target for climate finance by 2035 and an ambition to mobilize US\$1.3 trillion,¹⁴ the focus has shifted decisively to how deals are structured. Instead of broad pledges, discussions now focus on questions: For example, what blend of concessional capital, public finance, commercial investment, and risk guarantees will help unlock a specific renewable project in Namibia? What financing structure best supports forest conservation in Honduras? The degree of concessionality matters for affordability and catalyzing the multiplier effect necessary to reach trillions when mobilized. Nature-based solutions, forest finance, and biodiversity risk featured prominently across COP30, reinforcing the need for integrated climate–nature–land approaches within deal structures.

COP30 agreed to triple adaptation finance by 2035,¹ reinforcing the scale of investment required to help build resilience, launched a two-year “work programme”¹ for climate finance, including a focus on public finance from developed countries, and mobilization of finance more broadly, and created a high-level ministerial roundtable¹ on implementation of the NCQG.

Separately the new “Veredas dialogue” was established on aligning finance flows with climate goals through 2028.¹³ With these examples, emphasis shifts to understanding and advancing the characteristics needed to crowd in private finance going forward.

New mechanisms are emerging to support this shift, including the launch of the Tropical Forest Forever Facility (TFFF)⁴—a blended finance model already capitalized with US\$6.7 billion in commitments— which aims to combine a targeted US\$25 billion in public/philanthropic funds with a targeted US\$100 billion in private capital to incentivize large-scale forest conservation.^{5,17}

For organizations, this could demand a new level of sophistication. Blended finance fluency, country-context awareness, and understanding of risk instruments are now important capabilities. At the same time, scrutiny is increasing around risk premiums in emerging markets;^{15,16} whether they reflect underlying risk, or reinforce old patterns of capital allocation. Organizations seeking credibility should demonstrate a willingness to operate across varied geographies, engage with multilateral actors, and help build bankable pipelines.



Key takeaway 3

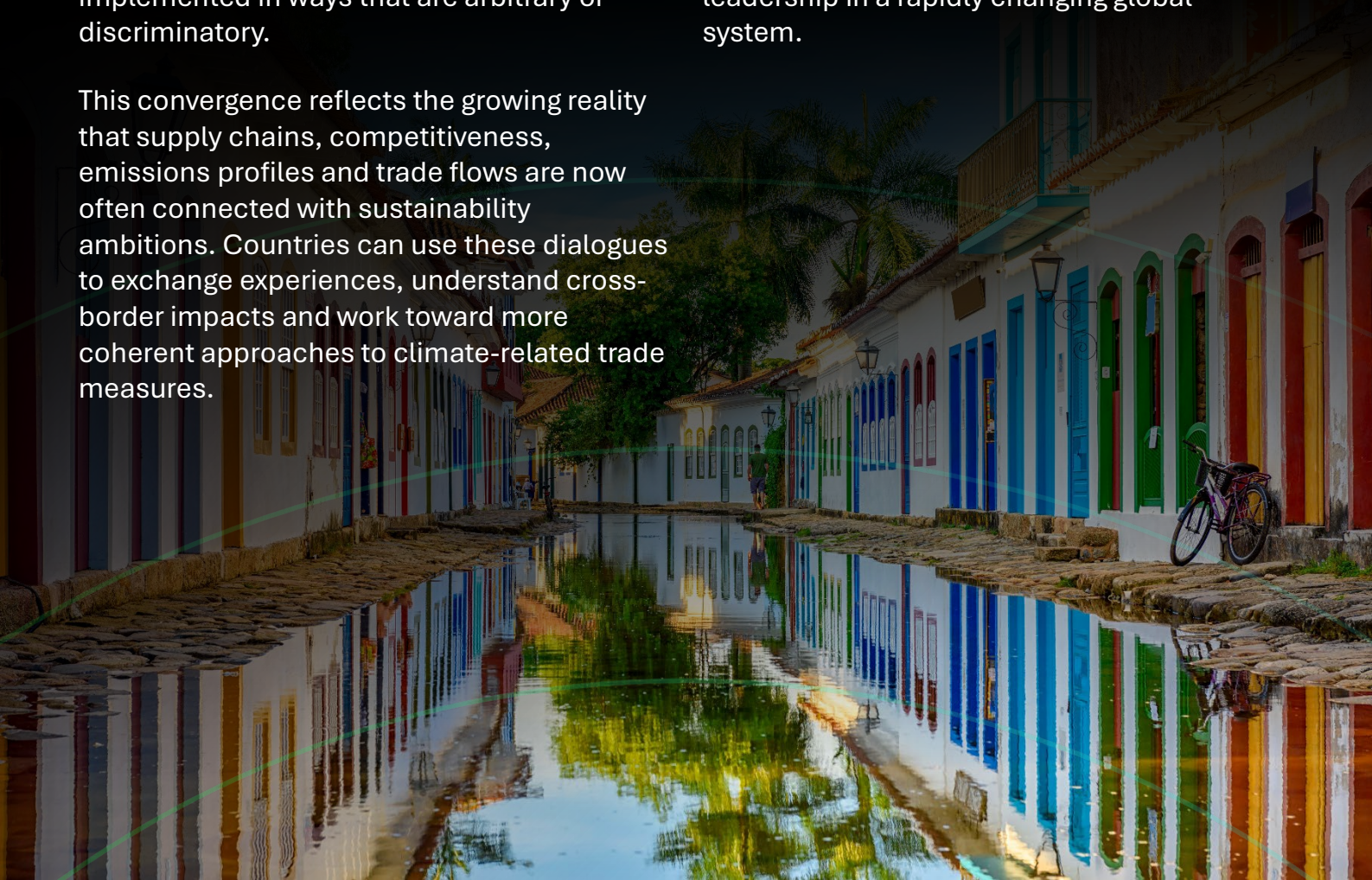
Convergence of sustainability and trade

COP30 marked a significant shift by including, for the first time, the formal recognition of climate-related trade measures in a COP decision.¹ This signals that climate policy and global trade rules are becoming increasingly interconnected. The Global Mutirão decision established annual climate–trade dialogues (2026–2028)¹ involving key international trade institutions, aimed at improving cooperation, strengthening transparency and helping to ensure that climate related trade measures—including unilateral tools such as carbon border adjustment mechanisms—are not implemented in ways that are arbitrary or discriminatory.

This convergence reflects the growing reality that supply chains, competitiveness, emissions profiles and trade flows are now often connected with sustainability ambitions. Countries can use these dialogues to exchange experiences, understand cross-border impacts and work toward more coherent approaches to climate-related trade measures.

For organizations, this shift raises both expectations and opportunities.

Businesses should enhance supply-chain transparency, understand their exposure to carbon-intensive trade routes, and prepare for evolving reporting requirements and product-level emissions data. At the same time, companies that proactively align with emerging low-carbon trade standards through investment in cleaner production, advanced emissions accounting and traceability could be better positioned to access new markets, reduce regulatory risk and demonstrate leadership in a rapidly changing global system.



Key takeaway 4

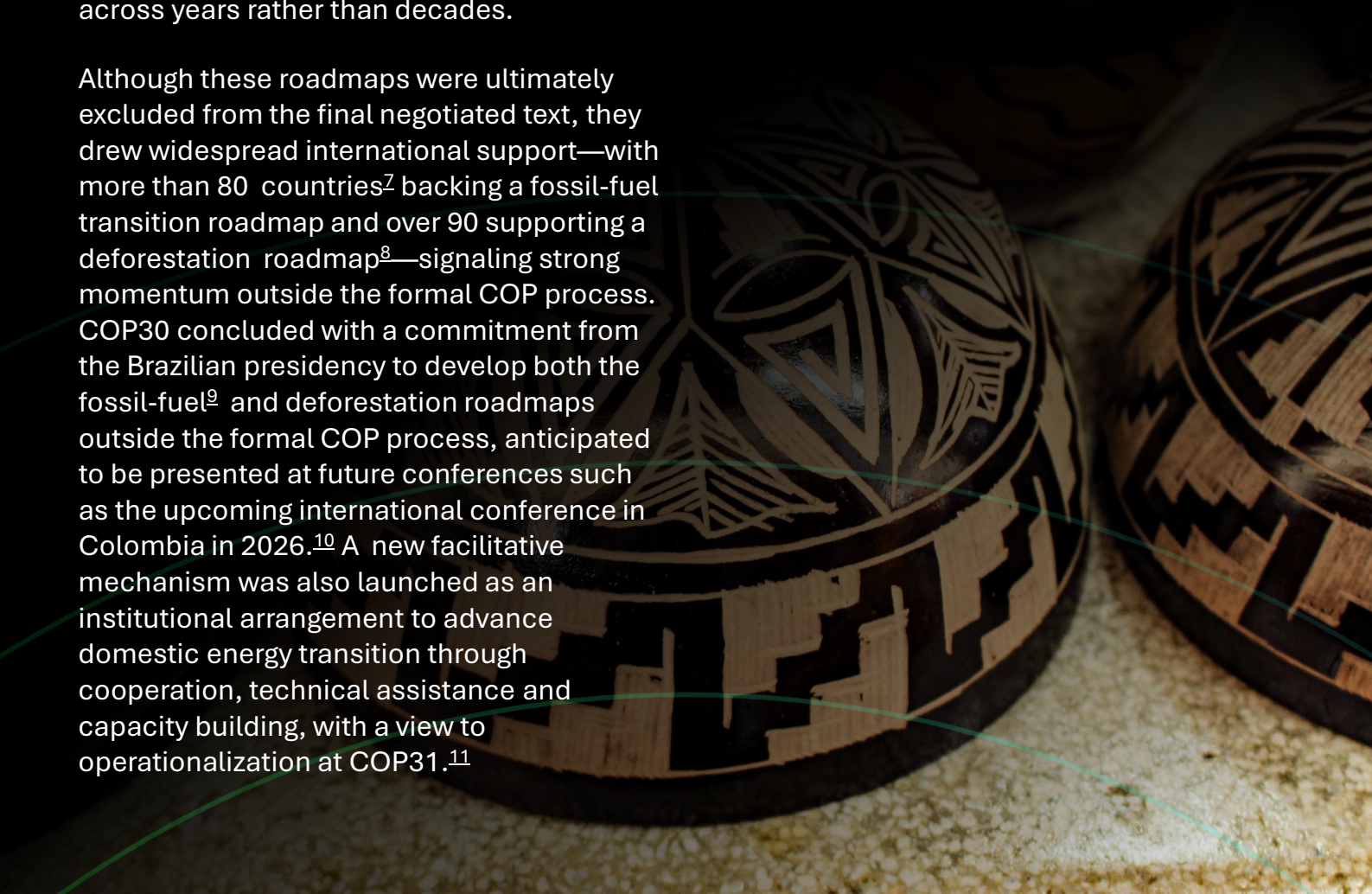
Countries continue momentum on transition roadmaps

Negotiators at COP30 actively explored a shift toward structured roadmaps to “transition away from fossil fuel” and help address deforestation informed by the Global Stocktake. In early versions of the text under this model, countries would agree to roadmaps that articulate pathways and convene annually to review progress, troubleshoot challenges, and adapt plans.⁶ This would mark an evolution in the role of COPs from prolonged negotiation cycles to continuous implementation, providing clearer signals for markets and policy alignment across years rather than decades.

Although these roadmaps were ultimately excluded from the final negotiated text, they drew widespread international support—with more than 80 countries⁷ backing a fossil-fuel transition roadmap and over 90 supporting a deforestation roadmap⁸—signaling strong momentum outside the formal COP process. COP30 concluded with a commitment from the Brazilian presidency to develop both the fossil-fuel⁹ and deforestation roadmaps outside the formal COP process, anticipated to be presented at future conferences such as the upcoming international conference in Colombia in 2026.¹⁰ A new facilitative mechanism was also launched as an institutional arrangement to advance domestic energy transition through cooperation, technical assistance and capacity building, with a view to operationalization at COP31.¹¹

For organizations, this potential shift carries significant implications.

Roadmaps can create a more predictable framework for transition planning and detail expectations of accountability and speed. Businesses could face more frequent scrutiny and be expected to demonstrate progress against clearer global benchmarks—not just domestic policy. The organizations that thrive will likely be those with credible, adaptable transition strategies, scenario-planning capability, and the readiness to make moves even when policy uncertainty remains.



Key takeaway 5

AI as an accelerator

AI is emerging as one of the most powerful enablers of fast, high-integrity sustainability action. At COP30, AI was recognized for its role in strengthening carbon market integrity (e.g., forest permanence, ecosystem monitoring), optimizing energy systems, modeling energy transition pathways, and unlocking efficiencies that could reduce reliance on costly infrastructure upgrades. In many cases, AI enables countries to extract more value from what they already have, creating an important advantage in resource-constrained contexts where the pace of the energy transition far outstrips available resources. At COP30, Deloitte sessions highlighted AI-enabled grids, digital twins for resilient cities, and automated sustainability reporting as real-world examples already reshaping sustainability action.

Multiple Action Agenda workstreams now explicitly integrate AI into monitoring,¹² modeling, verification and systems optimization, positioning it as a foundational capability for implementation. As we enter into an age of intelligent climate solutions, the ability to foster collaboration to accelerate adoption will be an important contributor to scalability.

However, AI's potential raises an important challenge: the digital divide. Developing nations are being asked to accelerate transition with fewer tools, less infrastructure, and limited data availability.^{12,18} Ensuring inclusive access to sustainability related AI is becoming a central challenge. It is also important to keep in mind that as AI develops, it is done so in a way that is sustainable.²²

For organizations, the task is twofold: build AI capability into sustainability strategy, and support collaborators and geographies where those tools could have the greatest system-wide impact. This will become a baseline expectation in the next era of action.



Definitions of terms

Action Agenda: Launched first at COP21, the Action Agenda created the Climate High-level Champions and the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action to strengthen collaboration between Parties and non-Party stakeholders on voluntary climate action. COP30 saw the Action Agenda aligned to the Global Stocktake and organized into six thematic pillars and 30 key objectives across mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology and capacity-building.²

Sustainable Business (SB COP): A global initiative led by the Brazilian National Confederation of Industry (CNI), launching at COP30 but extending to future COPs, with the aim of structuring and strengthening private sector participation in global climate negotiations.³

Tropical Forest Forever Facility (TFFF): A blended finance mechanism launched at COP30, combining US\$25bn in public/philanthropic funds with a targeted US\$100bn in private capital to incentivize large-scale forest conservation.⁴

Global Stocktake (GST): A five-year review mechanism under the Paris Agreement that assesses collective global progress towards mitigation, adaptation and finance goals; it identifies gaps and informs the next generation of nationally determined contributions (NDCs).¹⁹

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC): The primary global climate treaty, adopted in 1992, aimed at the stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere, to prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system; it sets the architecture for international climate action.²⁰

Lighthouse projects: High-integrity, scalable demonstration initiatives that showcase best-in-class climate, nature or infrastructure solutions; they serve as “models others can follow” and were prominent in COP30’s solution-provider narrative.²¹

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Endnotes

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