

The COP30 Simulation

Coursework Briefs

The British university in Egypt
Cairo- Egypt

Disclaimer

This document, titled “The COP30 Simulation ” contains information related to the COP Simulation Programme organized by The British university in Egypt in cooperation with the UNDP. The trademark associated with " COP Simulation " is owned by The British University in Egypt. All rights are reserved.

Unauthorized use, reproduction, or distribution of any part of this document is strictly prohibited. You may not disclose, copy, or use this information for any purpose other than the intended purpose of the Simulation activities.

By accessing or using this document, you agree to respect the intellectual property rights policy of The British University in Egypt.

Prohibited Use: The following use of The British University in Egypt's copyrighted materials are strictly prohibited and the ownership of the trademark " COP Simulation ":

- Commercial use without written permission.
- Modification or alteration of the materials without written permission.

The COP30 Simulation Research Themes, Guidelines and Assessment Rubric

1. COP30 Simulation Research Topics

Introduction

With Brazil hosting COP30 in 2025, the incoming presidency has articulated an ambitious vision to accelerate climate action, centered on the notion of a collective contribution by all nations and stakeholders. This approach reframes the outcome of the Paris Agreement’s first Global Stocktake (GST) as a unified “Globally Determined Contribution”, emphasizing that implementation, justice, and equity must guide every aspect of the climate agenda. This memo outlines seven strategic focus areas highlighted by the COP30 Presidency: Mitigation, Adaptation, Loss and Damage, Climate Finance, Capacity Building & Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE), Climate Justice & Security, and Global Stocktake & COP30 Implementation Themes – summarizing key initiatives, recurring motifs, and challenges in each domain.

COP30 Research Themes
Mitigation: Scaling up ambition through NDCs, net-zero targets, and carbon markets for a just global energy and industrial transition.
Adaptation: Strengthening resilience through National Adaptation Plans, the Global Goal on Adaptation, Sharm El-Sheikh Adaptation Agenda and nature-based solutions for climate-vulnerable systems.
Loss and Damage: Addressing irreversible climate impacts through the Loss and Damage Fund, justice frameworks, and support for displaced and affected communities.
Climate Finance: Reforming and scaling climate finance to meet the \$300B and NCQG goals with fair access, debt justice, and innovative instruments.
Capacity Building and ACE: Empowering communities through education, technology transfer, youth participation, and institutional capacity building for climate action.
Climate Justice, Ecocide & Security: Advancing climate justice by tackling ecocide, human rights threats, and conflict-driven emissions through inclusive and secure governance.
Global Stocktake & COP30 Implementation Agenda: Driving global implementation by translating the Global Stocktake into collective action, accountability, and justice-centered delivery at COP30.

Explanatory details

A. Mitigation

Scaling up ambition through NDCs, net-zero targets, and carbon markets for a just global energy and industrial transition.

Mitigation for 1.5°C – Urgency, Equity, and Implementation

The Mitigation Pillar addresses how the global community reduces greenhouse gas emissions to limit global warming to 1.5°C, as set by the Paris Agreement [1]. With COP30 hosted in Brazil, the presidency is pushing for a new level of **collective climate implementation** ("**mutirão**"), where national and subnational actors (cities, businesses, and civil society) all contribute toward faster, more effective emissions reductions. [2]

The focus is now on turning **ambition into implementation**, by revising Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), scaling up sectoral transitions, and embedding accountability frameworks. COP30 is poised to serve as a platform to respond to the **Global Stocktake (GST)** and launch **enhanced NDCs (NDC 3.0)** [3]. The Brazil presidency is also promoting circular economy strategies, local mitigation contributions, and finance for clean transitions as core enablers of progress [4]. And more focus now is on **fossil fuel phase-out** momentum post-Bonn, especially the Just Energy Transition Partnerships (JETPs) and methane pledges. [4]

Key pillars for mitigation

- Tripling renewables and doubling energy efficiency, decarbonization of heavy sectors, clean mobility, infrastructure reform (Axis I).
- Carbon market harmonization, climate investment frameworks, carbon pricing mechanisms and low-emission tech finance, Article 6 cooperation (Axis VI).
- Nature-based solutions through stewarding forests, oceans, and biodiversity (Axis II).
- Food system decarbonization (Axis III).

Research topics that may be addressed

Brazil's Agenda: Brazil's presidency uses local-global synergy (“mutirão”) and circular economy to redefine mitigation action [5].

- NDC 3.0 and GST: show how countries are expected to revise and strengthen their mitigation commitments after the Global Stocktake.
- Sectoral Transitions: Focus on implementation challenges in high-emitting sectors, and how national and subnational coordination can overcome barriers [6].
- Just Transition: Examine how equitable climate strategies are integrated into national mitigation policies.
- Modeling Deep Decarbonization Pathways by Sector: What are the most feasible 1.5° C-aligned decarbonization scenarios for energy, transport, and heavy industry by 2050?
- Assessing Carbon Market Design and Emissions Integrity: How can carbon credit methodologies be improved to ensure additionality and prevent double counting in Article 6.2/6.4 transactions?
- Scaling Nature-Based Carbon Sinks in Tropical Forests: What methodologies can be used to quantify and monitor carbon sequestration through forest restoration in the Amazon and other biodiverse hotspots?
- Evaluating the Emission-Reduction Potential of Food System Transitions: What mitigation gains can be achieved through shifts in agricultural practices, supply chains, and dietary patterns?
- Technological Solutions for Hard-to-Abate Sectors: What is the role of green hydrogen, CCS, and electrification in decarbonizing steel, cement, and shipping?
- Energy Efficiency and Renewable Deployment Pathways: What are the barriers and enabling conditions for tripling global renewable energy capacity and doubling energy efficiency by 2030?
- Reforming NDC Governance to Close the Emissions Gap: How can COP30 support standardized review mechanisms and accountability frameworks to improve NDC transparency and ambition?

- Equitable Net-Zero Transitions in Emerging Economies: What principles and financial mechanisms are necessary to ensure just transitions for fossil-fuel-dependent developing countries?
- Mitigation Diplomacy: Balancing Geopolitics and Climate Equity: How can international climate negotiations address the geopolitical power imbalances influencing mitigation responsibilities and funding?
- Subnational and Non-State Actors in Driving Ambition: What policy pathways enable city governments and private actors to meaningfully contribute to national mitigation outcomes?
- Nature-Based Mitigation and Climate Justice: How can forest-based mitigation policies uphold Indigenous rights and avoid land-use conflicts while contributing to NDC targets?

Global Frameworks and Initiatives

- 2025 Bonn Conference (SB62) – urgency to Phase-down of fossil fuels [8] for health and climate benefits [9], expansion of renewable capacity & decarbonization of heavy sectors (steel, cement, chemicals).
- COP29 – the Mitigation Work Programme for sharing strategies and scaling emission reductions [10]. The Marrakech Partnership also broadened its climate action agenda to include key sectors like energy, transport, and industry [11].
- 2025 G20 side event on climate – Sustainable Finance Working Group advanced crucial standards for carbon market transparency and mitigation finance [12], reaffirming commitment to just and inclusive decarbonization processes [13].

Additional Resources for Student Research

COP30 Presidency & Brazil Agenda

ACT Alliance. (2025, June 27). Bonn climate talks (SB62) key outcomes and the road to COP30.

ACT Alliance. <https://actalliance.org/act-news/bonn-climate-talks-sb62-key-outcomes-and-the-road-to-cop30/>

Paraguassu, L. (2025, June 20). Brazil to push for corporate, local government climate targets at COP30. *Reuters*. <https://www.reuters.com/sustainability/cop/brazil-push-corporate-local-government-climate-targets-cop30-2025-06-20/> .

Lehtonen, K. (2025, July 17). Why Brazil should put the circular economy at the heart of climate talks at COP30. *Reuters*. <https://www.reuters.com/sustainability/climate-energy/why-brazil-should-put-circular-economy-heart-climate-talks-cop30-2025-07-17/>

SB62 – June 2025 Bonn

Climate Action. (2025, June 25). *COP30 President Designate Outlines Vision for Action Agenda to Implement Paris Agreement—Climate Action*. Retrieved 30 July 2025, from <https://www.climateaction.org/news/cop30-president-designate-outlines-vision-for-action-agenda-to-implement-pa>

Bansard, J., Akanle Eni-Ibukun, T., Bertram, D., & Toussaint, P. (2025, June 26). *Bonn Climate Change Conference (SB 62): Summary report, 16–26 June 2025*. Earth Negotiations Bulletin. International Institute for Sustainable Development. Retrieved July 30, 2025, from [Summary report 16–26 June 2025](#)

Glauda, A. (2024, November 13). COP29 Spotlight | Loss and Damage: At the forefront of climate impacts. *Foresight*. <https://www.climateforesight.eu/articles/cop29-spotlight-loss-and-damage-at-the-forefront-of-climate-impacts/>

COP29 – Baku 2024

Goldberg, M. (2025, January 9). *Key COP29 outcomes* [Policy brief]. Woodwell Climate Research Center. Retrieved July 30, 2025, from <https://www.woodwellclimate.org/key-cop29-outcomes/>

UNFCCC. (2024, November 22). *Summary of global climate action at COP 29*. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Summary_Global_Climate_Action_at_COP_29.pdf.

Glauda, A. (2024, November 13). COP29 Spotlight | Loss and Damage: At the forefront of climate impacts. *Foresight*. <https://www.climateforesight.eu/articles/cop29-spotlight-loss-and-damage-at-the-forefront-of-climate-impacts/>

G20 2025

Martinez, M., Kumwenda-Mtambo, O., Gumbi, K., Martinez, M., Kumwenda-Mtambo, O., & Gumbi, K. (2025, July 19). G20 finance chiefs back central bank independence in first communique since October. *Reuters*. <https://www.reuters.com/sustainability/climate-energy/g20-finance-chiefs-back-central-bank-independence-first-communicue-since-october-2025-07-18/>

G20 Sustainable Finance Working Group (SFWG). (n.d.). *Homepage*. <https://g20sfwg.org/>.

World Resources Institute. (2024, November 19). *Statement: G20 Summit reaffirms support for inclusive, just climate action*. <https://www.wri.org/news/statement-g20-summit-reaffirms-support-inclusive-just-climate-action>.

FfD4 – Seville 2025

United Nations Development Programme. (2025, April 28 - May 1). *2025 ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development: 4th PrepCom for FfD4. SDG Finance.* <https://sdgfinance.undp.org/news-events/2025-ecosoc-forum-financing-development-4th-prepcom-ffd4>

Ellmers, B. (2025, March 12). *First draft of the outcome document: Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4).* UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs. <https://financing.desa.un.org/sites/default/files/2025-03/FFD4%20Outcome%20First%20Draft.pdf>.

United Nations Development Programme. (2025, April 28 - May 1). *2025 ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development: 4th PrepCom for FfD4. SDG Finance.* <https://sdgfinance.undp.org/news-events/2025-ecosoc-forum-financing-development-4th-prepcom-ffd4>

Additional Reading (NGOs, Analysts)

Sins, V. (2025, July 18). Letter: Brazil's oil ambitions are a bet against net zero. *Financial Times.* [Letter: Brazil's oil ambitions are a bet against net zero](#)

Lempriere, M., & Gabbatiss, J. (2025, June 27). *Bonn climate talks: Key outcomes from the June 2025 UN climate conference.* Carbon Brief. <https://www.carbonbrief.org/bonn-climate-talks-key-outcomes-from-the-june-2025-un-climate-conference/>

World Resources Institute. (2025, November 19). *Statement: G20 Summit reaffirms support for inclusive, just climate action.* <https://www.wri.org/news/statement-g20-summit-reaffirms-support-inclusive-just-climate-action>

References

- [1] Climate Action. (2025, June 25). *COP30 President Designate Outlines Vision for Action Agenda to Implement Paris Agreement—Climate Action*. Retrieved 30 July 2025, from <https://www.climateaction.org/news/cop30-president-designate-outlines-vision-for-action-agenda-to-implement-pa>
- [2] Observatório do Clima. (2025, March 10). *COP30 Presidency Letter Inspiring but Excludes Elephant in the Room*. <https://www.oc.eco.br/en/cop30-presidency-letter-inspiring-but-excludes-elephant-in-the-room/>
- [3] UNFCCC. (2025, June 20). *Fourth Letter from COP 30 President-Designate*. [Fourth Letter from COP 30 President-Designate | UNFCCC](#)
- [4] COP30 Brazil. (2025, June 20). *COP30 Action Agenda calls for accelerating the implementation of the Global Stocktake*. <https://cop30.br/en/news-about-cop30/cop30-action-agenda-calls-for-accelerating-the-implementation-of-the-global-stocktake>
- [5] UNFCCC. (2025, June 20). *Fourth Letter from COP 30 President-Designate*. [Fourth Letter from COP 30 President-Designate | UNFCCC](#)
- [6] European Environment Agency. (2025, July 1). *Climate change mitigation: Reducing emissions*. <https://www.eea.europa.eu/en/topics/in-depth/climate-change-mitigation-reducing-emissions>
- [7] World Bank. (2022, May 17). *What you need to know about Article 6 of the Paris Agreement*. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2022/05/17/what-you-need-to-know-about-article-6-of-the-paris-agreement>
- [8] Lempriere, M., & Gabbatiss, J. (2025, June 27). *Bonn climate talks: Key outcomes from the June 2025 UN climate conference*. Carbon Brief. <https://www.carbonbrief.org/leon-climate-talks-key-outcomes-from-the-june-2025-un-climate-conference/>

[9] Climate and Health Alliance. (2024, November, 11-22). *A COP29 for People and Planet Recommendations from the international health and climate community.* climateandhealthalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/COP29-Digital-Report.pdf

[10] Goldberg, M. (2025). *Key COP29 outcomes* (Policy brief). Woodwell Climate Research Center. Retrieved July 30, 2025, from <https://www.woodwellclimate.org/key-cop29-outcomes/>

[11] UNFCCC. (2024, November 22). *Summary of global climate action at COP 29.* United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Summary_Global_Climate_Action_at_COP_29.pdf

[12] G20 Sustainable Finance Working Group (SFWG). (n.d.). *Homepage.* <https://g20sfwg.org/>.

[13] World Resources Institute. (2024, November 19). *Statement: G20 Summit reaffirms support for inclusive, just climate action.* <https://www.wri.org/news/statement-g20-summit-reaffirms-support-inclusive-just-climate-action>

B. Adaptation

Strengthening resilience through National Adaptation Plans, the Global Goal on Adaptation, Sharm El-Sheikh Adaptation Agenda and nature-based solutions for climate-vulnerable systems

Adaptation is recognized as one of the five pillars of the UNFCCC, and a central theme to be discussed at COP30 as stated by the COP30 Presidency [1], and a key area of the UAE–Belém Work Programme, [2] with a strategic focus on protecting people and ecosystems from the mounting impacts of climate change. [3] The Brazilian presidency is pushing for a rights-based and development-oriented approach to climate resilience, with emphasis on:

- **Building urban resilience** (Axis IV): [4] strengthening cities, infrastructure, and water systems to withstand climate shocks.
- **Transforming food systems** (Axis III): [5] enhancing climate-resilient agriculture and ensuring food security, as was discussed in the Sharm El-Sheikh Joint Work [6] (SJWA) and reflected in the food systems indicators in the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) in a just and equitable manner. [7]
- **Investing in people** (Axis V): [8] promoting health, education, and local adaptation capacity for vulnerable communities, while ensuring gender equity, human rights, and the inclusion of vulnerable communities including youth, children, women, marginalized, and displaced people in decisions affecting their own welfares.
- **Scaling finance and capacity** (Axis VI): [9] mobilizing support for Adaptation Finance, National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), [10] and operationalizing the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA). [11]

Adaptation at COP30 also seeks to close the funding and implementation gap through increased global cooperation, knowledge sharing, and support for developing countries that bear the brunt of climate risks. During SB62, while a lot of work was done on refining the GGA indicators and the Nairobi Work Programme, no decision was reached on NAPs and the Baku Adaptation Roadmap (BAR). With no adaptation finance targets specified under the \$1.3 Trillion Baku to Belem Roadmap, [12] it is thus crucial that adaptation gets the spotlight it

requires during the upcoming negotiations in November this year, and that Parties commit to doubling adaptation finance as previously agreed by 2025. [13]

The **Sharm El-Sheikh Adaptation Agenda (SAA)**, launched at COP27 under Egypt's presidency, continues to shape adaptation efforts globally. It remains a cornerstone reference for adaptation implementation strategies leading up to COP30, especially for vulnerable nations. The Agenda emphasizes **food systems transformation, water security, resilient infrastructure, and health system preparedness**, and has mobilized strong Global South leadership on adaptation. As the COP Simulation is hosted in Egypt, participants are strongly encouraged to incorporate the pillars and objectives of the SAA in their research and negotiation strategies, particularly when addressing resilience and development co-benefits.

Research topics that may be addressed

Policy-Focused Research Areas:

1. **Operationalizing the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA):** What governance mechanisms and measurement frameworks can be developed to make the GGA actionable, equitable, and country-driven? And how can indicators be further refined to reflect the current gaps in climate finance, gender equity, and human rights?
2. **Integrating Climate Adaptation into National Development Planning:** How can National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) be aligned with poverty reduction, gender equality, and sustainable development strategies?
3. **City-Level Governance for Resilient Infrastructure:** What institutional arrangements empower municipalities to lead on climate-resilient urban planning, including flood protection and mobility systems? And how can innovative urban resilience solutions, especially youth-led solutions, be further supported?
4. **Strengthening Adaptation Finance & Equitable Allocation:** How can adaptation funds be equitably distributed to support the most vulnerable communities, especially

Indigenous groups and smallholder farmers? And how can adaptation finance be integrated in existing frameworks, amidst the climate finance-mitigation bias?

5. **Cross-Border Adaptation Cooperation:** What policy frameworks can enable transboundary water management, migration governance, and shared adaptation strategies in regions facing common climate risks?

6. **Localizing Adaptation through Multilevel Governance:** What roles can subnational governments and community-based organizations play in designing and implementing effective adaptation policies?

7. **Operationalizing the SAA through National Adaptation Plans (NAPs):** How can the Sharm El-Sheikh Adaptation Agenda be localized through NAPs and aligned with the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA)?

8. **Bridging the Adaptation Implementation Gap:** What role can Egypt and other African states play in regionalizing the SAA pillars, such as climate-smart agriculture, drought resilience, and early warning systems?

9. **Mainstreaming Water Security and Climate-Smart Health Systems:** How can health and water—two of the SAA’s focus areas—be embedded into adaptation finance priorities and cross-sectoral NDC updates?

Technical-Focused Research Areas:

1. **Modeling Climate Risks to Urban Infrastructure:** What tools can cities use to assess and map risks to infrastructure systems (e.g. transport, drainage, housing) under different climate scenarios?

2. **Designing Climate-Resilient Water Management Systems:** What innovations in flood control, groundwater recharge, and drought resilience are most applicable to water-stressed urban and rural areas?

3. **Climate-Resilient Agricultural Practices:** What specific practices (e.g. agroecology, climate-smart irrigation, seed diversification) can enhance the resilience of smallholder farming systems? And how can just transition be ensured in the shift to more ecological and climate-smart practices?
4. **Monitoring and Evaluating Adaptation Outcomes:** What indicators and methodologies can be used to track the effectiveness of adaptation measures at the local and national level? How can GGA indicators be better refined especially when it comes to climate finance, gender equity, and human rights?
5. **Resilient Health Systems under Climate Stress:** How can health systems be designed to respond to climate-induced disease patterns, heatwaves, and infrastructure disruptions?
6. **Building Early Warning Systems and Climate Data Infrastructure:** What are the technical requirements for deploying community-centered early warning systems and enhancing climate information services?

References

- [1], [13] COP30 Brazil. (2025, February 26). *Adaptation will be a central theme of COP30, said André Corrêa do Lago*. <https://cop30.br/en/news-about-cop30/adaptation-will-be-a-central-theme-of-cop30-said-andre-correa-do-lago>
- [2], [11] COP30 Brazil. (2025, May 23). *Third letter from the presidency*. <https://cop30.br/en/brazilian-presidency/letters-from-the-presidency/third-letter-from-the-presidency>
- [3], [4], [5], [8], [9] COP30 Brazil. (2025, June 20). *Fourth letter from the presidency*. <https://cop30.br/en/brazilian-presidency/letters-from-the-presidency/fourth-letter-from-the-presidency>
- [6] UNFCCC. Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI). (2025, June 25). *Sharm el-Sheikh joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security. Draft conclusions proposed by the Chairs | UNFCCC*. <https://unfccc.int/documents/648139>

[7], [11] UNFCCC. (2025, June 16-26). *Matters relating to the global goal on adaptation: Draft conclusions proposed by the Chairs.* unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/sb2025_L04E.pdf

[12] Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI). (2025, July 1). *Post-SB62 debrief: Insights from Bonn: Three voices from Bonn on adaptation progress, setbacks and priorities for COP30* <https://www.sei.org/events/post-sb62-debrief-insights-from-bonn/>

C. Loss and Damage

Addressing irreversible climate impacts through the Loss and Damage Fund, justice frameworks, and support for displaced and affected communities.

Loss and Damage (L&D) refers to the **unavoidable and irreversible climate impacts** that occur beyond the limits of adaptation—such as destroyed homes, submerged coastal zones, or cultural heritage loss. COP30 will address mounting pressure from vulnerable countries to deliver on past commitments, particularly the **Loss and Damage Fund** created at COP27 and operationalized at COP29 with initial pledges. (Bhandari, et al., 2025).

More priority now needs to be on **fund disbursement mechanisms** that were piloted under the Santiago Network’s first implementations post-COP29. However, implementation remains weak: financing is insufficient, disbursement mechanisms are unclear, and accountability gaps persist. Trust is eroding between the Global North and South, with developing countries calling for historical emitters to take moral and financial responsibility. (Lowy Institute, 2024).

Aligned with:

- **Axis II:** Ecosystem-based protection to reduce irreversible losses. (Sinimbú, 2025).

According to COP30 Brazil (2025a), This axis, framed as "Stewarding Forests, Oceans, and Biodiversity," directly relates to minimizing irreversible losses, which is a core aspect of Loss and Damage, as embedded in COP30 Action Agenda. Moreover, The COP30 Presidency emphasizes objectives such as halting and reversing deforestation and forest degradation, and conserving,

protecting, and restoring nature and ecosystems. These efforts are crucial for climate, biodiversity, and desertification, and contribute to averting and minimizing loss and damage by strengthening natural defenses and reducing vulnerabilities to climate impacts (COP30 Brazil, 2025b).

- **Axis V:** Safeguarding human development and displacement responses. (COP30 Brazil, 2025).

According to COP30 Brazil (2025a), The COP30 Action Agenda includes "Fostering Human and Social Development" as a key axis, with objectives pertinent to safeguarding human development and addressing displacement. This encompasses actions like promoting resilient health systems, reducing the effects of climate change on eradicating hunger and poverty, and education, capacity-building, and job creation to address climate change.

While not explicitly naming "displacement responses," safeguarding human development intrinsically links to addressing the social and humanitarian impacts of climate change, which often include displacement due to extreme weather events and slow-onset processes, as highlighted in broader discussions on Loss and Damage. The significant work at the Subsidiary Bodies (SB62) in June 2025 further underscores the critical need for financial and technical support to address the human impact of climate crises, including the displacement of over 800,000 people due to extreme weather in 2024 alone. (The Loss and Damage Collaboration, 2025).

- **Axis VI:** Scaling and governing the Loss and Damage Fund effectively. (COP30 Brazil, 2025).

According to (COP30 Brazil, 2025b), This axis is directly addressed by the ongoing efforts related to the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD). The primary focus is on establishing interim procedures and modalities for a start-up phase by COP30 as a test case for its long-term approach. There is a recognized need to scale up climate finance to developing countries, and consultations on the workplan for the "Baku to Belém Roadmap to 1.3T" are critical opportunities to address the failure of previous climate finance goals to deliver on Loss and Damage finance. The current pledges to the FRLD (approximately \$768.40 million) and the Santiago Network (\$40.6 million) are significantly lower than the estimated \$395 billion in annual funding needs for

Loss and Damage in 2025, underscoring the urgent need for robust resource mobilization strategies and effective governance. (The Loss and Damage Collaboration, 2025).

COP30 is a make-or-break moment for turning symbolic commitments into operational tools that protect the most affected and promote **climate justice and international solidarity**.

Research topics that may be addressed

Policy-Focused Research Areas:

1. **Governing the Loss and Damage Fund: Principles and Structures:** What governance models can ensure the Fund operates transparently, equitably, and quickly to support climate-vulnerable countries?
2. **Equity and Historical Responsibility in Loss and Damage Finance:** How can COP30 address debates on fair burden-sharing and acknowledge historical emissions in funding obligations?
3. **Operationalizing Accountability in L&D Finance:** What accountability mechanisms (e.g. grievance procedures, reporting standards) are needed to monitor Fund disbursement and outcomes?
4. **Global Solidarity and Legal Obligations for L&D:** To what extent can legal or quasi-legal frameworks under the UNFCCC recognize loss and damage as an obligation rather than charity?
5. **Supporting Displaced and Stateless Climate-Affected Communities:** What international policy instruments exist—or are needed—to protect climate refugees and displaced populations?
6. **Bridging the Trust Gap Between Global North and South:** How can transparency and inclusive governance in L&D financing help rebuild trust and improve negotiation outcomes?

Technical-Focused Research Areas

1. **Quantifying Irreversible Climate Losses: Methods and Metrics:** What tools and indicators can be used to quantify non-economic losses (e.g. cultural heritage, biodiversity, mental health)?
2. **Climate Disaster Attribution and Financial Compensation:** How can science-based attribution models be linked to L&D claims for specific climate disasters (e.g. floods, hurricanes)?
3. **Designing Efficient L&D Disbursement Mechanisms:** What models (insurance-based, trigger-based, or social protection schemes) can ensure rapid and needs-based funding deployment?
4. **Integrating Nature-Based Buffers to Minimize Future Loss:** How can forest and ocean ecosystems be restored or protected to prevent irreversible damage and reduce future L&D claims?
5. **Data Infrastructure for Monitoring L&D in Vulnerable Regions:** What are the data gaps in assessing loss and damage, and how can satellite, local, and open-source data be integrated for real-time monitoring?
6. **Forecast-Based Action and Preparedness Systems:** How can anticipatory financing and early-warning systems be expanded to minimize future loss and reduce funding needs?

References

Bhandari, P., Warszawski, N., Cogen, D., & Gerholdt, R. (2025, May 5). *What is 'loss and damage' from climate change? 8 key questions, answered.* World Resources Institute. [What to Know About "Loss and Damage" from Climate Change | World Resources Institute](#)

COP30 Brazil. (2025a). *COP30 Action Agenda calls for accelerating the implementation of the Global Stocktake.* <https://cop30.br/en/news-about-cop30/cop30-action-agenda-calls-for-accelerating-the-implementation-of-the-global-stocktake>

COP30 Brazil. (2025b). *Fourth letter from the presidency.* <https://cop30.br/en/news-about-cop30/fourth-letter-from-the-presidency>

Pill, M. & Hammersley, G. (2024, September, 9). *A climate loss and damage fund that works*. Lowy Institute. [A climate loss and damage fund that works | Lowy Institute](#)

Schalatek, L. (2025, March 27). *What to expect for the Fund for responding to Loss and Damage in 2025*. Heinrich Böll Stiftung. [What to expect for the Fund for responding to Loss and Damage in 2025 | Heinrich Böll Stiftung | Washington, DC Office - USA, Canada, Global Dialogue](#)

Sinimbú, F. (2025, June 20). *COP30 president proposes global action agenda for the conference*. Agência Brasil. <https://agenciabrasil.ebc.com.br/en/geral/noticia/2025-06/cop30-president-proposes-global-action-agenda-conference>

The Loss and Damage Collaboration. (2025, June 13). *What is at stake on Loss and Damage at the 2025 Bonn Climate Conference?* [What is at stake on loss and damage at the 2025 bonn climate conference?](#)

D. Climate Finance

Reforming and scaling climate finance to meet the \$300B and NCQG goals with fair access, debt justice, and innovative instruments.

Theme Overview: Climate Finance at COP30

Climate finance is the lifeblood of climate action, enabling both mitigation and adaptation. After years of unmet pledges and eroding trust, COP30 arrives at a turning point, with a newly adopted **New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG)** targeting at least **\$300 billion annually by 2035**, and aspirations for **\$1.3 trillion/year** from all sources thereafter.

The Brazilian presidency emphasizes transforming not just the **volume**, but also the **quality** and **governance** of finance: prioritizing **grants over loans, debt relief, equity in access**, and **financial system reform**. Key priorities include:

- **Axis VI:** Operationalizing NCQG, reforming MDBs, and de-risking green investment.
- **Axis II:** Linking finance to verified forest protection outcomes (e.g., Brazil’s Tropical Forests Forever Facility).
- **Axis I:** Financing just energy transitions and clean tech in industry.

COP30 will also feature **South-South cooperation** efforts—like the BRICS-led “Baku to Belém” roadmap—and explore innovative tools including **climate debt swaps, insurance schemes**, and **private capital mobilization**.

Research topics that may be addressed

Policy-Focused Research Areas:

1. **Reforming the Architecture of Climate Finance for Equity and Access:** How can the NCQG be governed to ensure predictable, transparent, and needs-based funding for developing countries?

2. **From Pledges to Disbursement: Tracking Climate Finance Delivery:** What mechanisms are needed to ensure delivery and accountability of developed country pledges under the NCQG frameworks?
3. **MDB Reform and Global South Representation:** How can multilateral development banks (MDBs) be restructured to prioritize concessional finance and equitable voting power for climate-vulnerable nations?
4. **Debt Justice and Climate Resilience: The Case for Debt-for-Climate Swaps:** What role can debt relief and swaps play in enabling climate investments without exacerbating financial burdens in the Global South?
5. **Climate Finance for Forest Conservation: Incentivizing Results:** How can initiatives like the Tropical Forests Forever Facility ensure transparency and effectiveness in forest-based finance schemes?
6. **South-South Leadership in Climate Finance:** How are coalitions like BRICS reshaping the climate finance landscape through new funds, institutions, and diplomatic influence?

Technical-Focused Research Areas

1. **Designing Finance Instruments to De-Risk Clean Energy Investment:** What tools (e.g. green bonds, guarantees, blended finance) can best mobilize private capital for renewable energy in emerging economies?
2. **Tracking and Measuring Climate-Aligned Financial Flows:** What indicators and data systems are needed to assess alignment of global financial flows with Article 2.1© of the Paris Agreement?
3. **Innovative Insurance Mechanisms for Climate Risk Protection:** How can parametric insurance and sovereign risk pools be scaled to protect vulnerable countries from climate shocks?

4. **Mobilizing Forest-Based Finance: MRV Systems for Results-Based Funding:** What MRV (Measurement, Reporting, Verification) standards are needed to channel finance into forest conservation with integrity?
5. **Climate Finance Allocation Models for Adaptation vs Mitigation:** What formulas or models can guide more balanced and fair distribution of finance between mitigation, adaptation, and loss & damage?
6. **Digital Platforms for Climate Finance Transparency and Access:** How can digital tools (e.g. climate finance dashboards, blockchain) enhance the traceability and accessibility of funds?

References

- Blomfield, M. (2019). Historical emissions debt. In *Global justice, natural resources, and climate change* (online ed.). Oxford Academic. <https://doi.org/10.1093/oso/9780198791737.003.0009>
- Brasil, L. (2025, June 25). Unlocking climate finance through forests: Brazil, BRICS, and the road to COP30. *Brazil Office*. <https://www.braziloffice.org/en/articles/unlocking-climate-finance-through-forests-brazil-brics-and-the-road-to-cop30>
- BRICS. (2025, July 5). Climate financing is the focus of the BRICS Bank. *BRICS*. <https://brics.br/en/news/climate-financing-is-the-focus-of-the-brics-bank>
- Butt, D. (2016, July). *Historical emissions: Does ignorance matter?* (CSSJ Working Papers Series, SJ038). Centre for the Study of Social Justice, Department of Politics and International Relations, University of Oxford. https://www.politics.ox.ac.uk/sites/default/files/inline-files/SJ038_Ignorance_.pdf
- ECCO Climate. (2025, April 22). *Baku-Belém roadmap: The path to COP30*. <https://eccoclimate.org/baku-belem-roadmap-the-path-to-cop30/#:~:text=The%20goal%20of%20the%20'Baku,involves%20consultation%20with%20the%20Parties>

Jaïdi, L., Berahab, R., & Emran, S. (2024, December). *From one COP to the next: How has the climate finance commitment evolved during the past decades?* (Policy Paper No. 21/24). Policy Center for the New South. [https://www.policycenter.ma/sites/default/files/2024-12/PP_2124%20\(Larabi%20Jai%CC%88di,%20Rim%20Berahab,%20Sabrine%20Emran\).pdf](https://www.policycenter.ma/sites/default/files/2024-12/PP_2124%20(Larabi%20Jai%CC%88di,%20Rim%20Berahab,%20Sabrine%20Emran).pdf)

Souto, M. (2025, June 16). Latin American forests are vital to the climate crisis response. *COP30 Brazil*. <https://cop30.br/en/news-about-cop30/latin-american-forests-are-vital-to-the-climate-crisis-response>

United Nations Environment Programme. (2023). *Adaptation gap report 2023: Underfinanced. Underprepared – Inadequate investment and planning on climate adaptation leaves world exposed*. <https://www.unep.org/resources/adaptation-gap-report-2023>

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. (2024, November 24). COP29 UN Climate Conference agrees to triple finance to developing countries, protecting lives and livelihoods [Press release]. <https://unfccc.int/news/cop29-un-climate-conference-agrees-to-triple-finance-to-developing-countries-protecting-lives-and>

World Resources Institute. (2025, July 7). STATEMENT: BRICS countries rally around assertive climate agenda ahead of COP30. *World Resources Institute*. <https://www.wri.org/news/statement-brics-countries-rally-around-assertive-climate-agenda-ahead-cop30>

World Wildlife Fund. (2025, May 28). A breakthrough for forest finance: How the TFFF can deliver on its potential. *WWF*. https://wwf.panda.org/wwf_news/?14117466/A-breakthrough-for-forest-finance-how-the-TFFF-can-deliver-on-its-potential#:~:text=Against%20this%20backdrop%2C%20the%20new,t%20be%20eligible%20at%20all

E. Capacity Building and Action for Climate Empowerment

Empowering communities through education, technology transfer, youth participation, and institutional capacity building for climate action.

Capacity Building and Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) are complementary pillars that underpin effective climate action by strengthening the human, institutional, and knowledge base of societies.[1] COP30 is expected to build on previous efforts to elevate ACE from a support function to a strategic accelerator[2-1] [2-2], with emphasis on:

- **Education and Training for Green Jobs and Resilience (Axis V) [3]**
- **Technology Cooperation and Peer Learning Between Countries (Axis VI) [4]**
- **Community-driven Solutions in Energy and Agriculture (Axes I & III) [5]**

Brazil's COP30 presidency positions ACE as essential to linking climate ambition with people's lives, particularly through youth empowerment, inclusive participation, and local innovation. The goal is not only to implement climate policies but to empower people to drive implementation through access to knowledge, resources, and institutional support.[6-1] [6-2]

The following research themes are provided as illustrative examples. Researchers are encouraged to propose additional topics that align with ACE principles and COP30 thematic priorities.

Researchers are encouraged to explore the following areas:

1. Policy-Oriented Research Themes:

- a. **Mainstreaming ACE into National Climate Strategies:** How can countries integrate ACE principles into NDCs, Long-Term Strategies (LTS), and national climate laws to ensure inclusive and sustained climate action, especially in light of the Global Stocktake outcomes?

- b. **South-South Cooperation and Peer Learning Platforms:** What models of South-South exchange best promote local ownership of climate solutions and equitable technology transfer?
 - c. **Youth and Gender Equity in Climate Decision-Making:** What institutional mechanisms are needed to ensure meaningful representation of youth, women, and Indigenous peoples in climate governance?
 - d. **Financing Capacity-Building: From Pilots to Systemic Support:** How can COP30 incentivize predictable, long-term financing for ACE-related initiatives beyond short-term or donor-driven models?
 - e. **Climate Literacy and Education Reform:** What are best practices for embedding climate change into national education systems, particularly in countries vulnerable to climate disruption or with large youth populations, and how can this support long-term climate readiness?
 - f. **Workforce Development for the Green Transition:** How can national job training and vocational programs be aligned with the emerging demands of climate-resilient and low-carbon economies?
2. Technically-Oriented Research Themes:
- a. **Scaling Green Technical Training and Certification:** What core competencies and training standards could best support clean energy deployment, sustainable farming, and climate services?
 - b. **Deploying Climate Tech through Local Innovation Hubs:** How can regional innovation hubs foster community-based solutions and support SME-led climate adaptation and mitigation efforts?
 - c. **Digital Tools for Capacity-Building and Climate Learning:** What role can online platforms, mobile apps, or AI-driven tools play in democratizing climate knowledge and training at scale?
 - d. **Knowledge Sharing for Clean Energy and Agriculture:** What knowledge-exchange frameworks best support the diffusion of renewable energy systems and climate-smart agriculture in the Global South?

- e. **Monitoring and Evaluating ACE Impact:** How can countries track progress on ACE implementation, and what qualitative or quantitative indicators best reflect learning, participation, and empowerment?
- f. **Integrating Indigenous Knowledge in Climate Solutions:** What institutional mechanisms could enhance the representation of youth, women, and Indigenous peoples in national adaptation and mitigation programs?

F. Climate Justice, Ecocide & Security

Advancing climate justice by tackling ecocide, human rights threats, and conflict-driven emissions through inclusive and secure governance.

The COP30 summit in Belém, Brazil, arrives at a critical juncture for global climate governance, where climate breakdown is no longer a distant future but a present-day crisis intersecting with justice, power, and planetary survival. COP30 elevates discussions not only on climate mitigation and adaptation but also on the ethical, geopolitical, and justice dimensions of climate action.

Amid mounting ecological degradation, ecocide, defined as extensive damage or destruction of ecosystems, has emerged as a term of legal and ethical urgency, challenging global governance frameworks to treat environmental crimes with the same severity as war crimes or genocide. Yet, transnational corporate actors often evade accountability, protected by Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) systems that prioritise profits over people and the planet (Amnesty International, 2025). A growing global demand calls for dismantling these mechanisms in favour of frameworks that end corporate impunity and hold polluters accountable (COP30 Brazil, 2025).

The COP30 Presidency has underscored that climate action is “an ethical and transversal issue,” stressing the judiciary’s role in safeguarding environmental and human rights (COP30 Brazil, 2025). Speaking at a climate justice event hosted by Brazil’s Supreme Federal Court, Alice Amorim, Director of Programs for the COP30 Presidency, emphasized that “remaining inactive is not neutral, it is an ethical choice” (COP30 Brazil, 2025). The event highlighted the judiciary’s

obligation to uphold the rights of the most vulnerable in the face of climate-induced disasters, including droughts and floods that are already devastating Brazil (COP30 Brazil, 2025).

The idea of a Global Ethical Stocktake (GES), proposed under COP30, encourages interdisciplinary reflection, from philosophers to policymakers, on how climate action must be driven not only by science but by shared moral values (COP30 Brazil, 2025). This ethical lens supports the prioritization of Indigenous rights, climate justice, and the integration of gender and social equity across negotiations.

Additionally, the COP30 Local Leaders Forum, to be held in Rio de Janeiro, centres the vital role of cities and subnational actors in implementing climate solutions. According to COP30 President-Designate Ambassador André Corrêa do Lago, this collective effort, *mutirão*, places “every voice and every level of governance” at the heart of climate action (Bloomberg Philanthropies, 2025). The forum will bridge local realities and global commitments, particularly around renewable energy, adaptation, and multilevel climate finance.

Gender equality will also feature prominently. COP30 is set to adopt a revised Gender Action Plan on Climate Change (GAPCC), building on the Lima Work Programme and prioritising women’s full and meaningful participation across climate policy (UN Women, 2025). The plan emphasises that climate justice cannot be achieved without recognising the differentiated impacts of climate change on women and marginalised groups. The implications of **critical minerals governance** and **supply chain transparency** are some of the main focuses of COP30 & G7/20 agendas this year.

Research topics that may be addressed:

1. Policy-Focused Research Areas:

- a. What mechanisms are needed to make the just transition actionable and inclusive, especially in fossil-fuel-dependent economies?
- b. What are the current legal frameworks and diplomatic options for codifying ecocide under international law?
- c. How can Indigenous Peoples be meaningfully integrated into national climate decision-making processes and equitably access climate finance mechanisms, in line with principles of climate justice and rights-based governance?
- d. What legal and institutional mechanisms can be introduced at COP30 to hold transnational corporations accountable for ecocide and climate-related human rights violations?
- e. How can the role of the judiciary in international climate governance be formalised to ensure accountability and action when governmental political institutions fall short?
- f. What frameworks can support cross-border cooperation on climate adaptation, especially in transboundary water governance, climate migration, and regional resilience?
- g. How can the Global Ethical Stocktake contribute to integrating moral philosophy, legal accountability, and scientific consensus into climate negotiations?
- h. To what extent can gender-responsive climate policies, such as the Enhanced Gender Action Plan, advance both mitigation and adaptation in vulnerable communities?

2. Technical-Focused Research Areas:

- a) What geospatial tools and indicators can be used to identify areas where climate risks overlap with conflict, migration pressures, or weak governance?
- b) How can early-warning and data systems be strengthened to track and prevent violence against environmental and land defenders?
- c) What analytical frameworks can assess how climate shocks in cities contribute to social instability or conflict risk?

- d) How can the environmental, economic, and social impacts of ecocide be quantified to support legal accountability and reparations?
- e) How can national adaptation and disaster risk strategies incorporate conflict sensitivity and security risk assessments, especially in fragile or post-conflict settings?
- f) What metrics can be used to monitor whether climate policies are advancing equity, protecting rights, and benefiting the most vulnerable?

References

Amnesty International. (2025, June 16). *COP30 Climate Change Conference in Brazil: Essential need-to-know for human rights*. Amnesty International USA. <https://www.amnestyusa.org/reports/cop30-climate-change-conference-in-brazil-essential-need-to-knows-for-human-rights/>

Bloomberg Philanthropies. (2025, June 24). COP30 Presidency and Bloomberg Philanthropies announce the COP30 Local Leaders Forum in Rio de Janeiro to elevate local climate action. <https://www.bloomberg.org/press/cop30-presidency-and-bloomberg-philanthropies-announce-the-cop30-local-leaders-forum-in-rio-de-janeiro-to-elevate-local-climate-action/>

COP30 Brazil. (2025, June 5). The judiciary discusses climate justice and environmental protection as fundamental rights. <https://cop30.br/en/news-about-cop30/the-judiciary-discusses-climate-justice-and-environmental-protection-as-fundamental-rights>

UN Women. (2025, July 7). *COP30 on the horizon: How to achieve gender equality in climate governance and planning?* UN Women – Americas and the Caribbean. <https://lac.unwomen.org/en/stories/noticia/2025/07/cop30-en-el-horizonte-como-aterrizar-la-igualdad-de-genero-en-la-gobernanza-y-planificacion-climaticas>

G. Global Stocktake & COP30 Implementation Agenda

Driving global implementation by translating the Global Stocktake into collective action, accountability, and justice-centered delivery at COP30

The Global Stocktake (GST) is the backbone of COP30’s collective ambition, interpreted by the Brazilian presidency as a proposed “**Globally Determined Contribution (GDC)**” – a shared global mandate that builds on the findings of the first stocktake (2023) to drive implementation “fast, everywhere, and for all.” [3][7] While this GDC framing is still unofficial, it signals a shift toward collective global ambition. [3]

This theme cuts across all COP30 axes:

- Framing GST as a “**global NDC**” to align actions worldwide.[8]
- Building an **Action Agenda** based on 6 axes and 30 objectives.[4][5]
- Promoting **Mutirão** – a Brazilian tradition of inclusive, community-based collective action.[6]
- Bridging negotiation outcomes and actual results through **technical GST modalities: transparency frameworks, equity indicators, and robust progress reviews.**[10]

Rather than creating siloed initiatives, COP30 seeks to scale existing efforts, fill key gaps, and build follow-through mechanisms that hold countries and stakeholders accountable for delivering on the Paris Agreement.[1][3]

Research Topics that may be addressed:

1. Policy-Focused Research Areas:

- a. **Embedding the GST as a Recurring Guiding Mechanism:** What institutional and diplomatic pathways can elevate the GST to a central, recurring benchmark for global ambition and equity?[4][7]
- b. **Towards a Globally Determined Contribution (GDC): Legal and Political Implications:** What are the implications of treating the GST outcome as a “Global NDC,” and how could this shape future rounds of national commitments?[3][8]

- c. **Accountability Systems for Post-GST Implementation:** What global and national-level governance mechanisms can enhance transparency, compliance, and mutual accountability in climate action?[9][11]
 - d. **Role of COP Presidencies in Continuity and Implementation:** How can successive COP presidencies, particularly COP28-COP30 Troika, coordinate to implement GST outcomes and ensure long-term continuity beyond negotiation cycles?[1][7]
 - e. **From Dialogue to Delivery: Engaging Non-State Actors in GST Follow-Up:** How can non-Party stakeholders (cities, civil society, business) be structurally integrated into the implementation roadmap of GST priorities?[3][9]
 - f. **Equity and Common but Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR) in the Post-GST Era:** How can implementation frameworks uphold CBDR principles while encouraging universal participation and ambition, building on equity-centered recommendations from SB62?[10][11]
2. Technical-Focused Research Areas:
- a. **Tracking GST Implementation through Integrated Monitoring Platforms:** What digital tools or systems are needed to track global, national, and sectoral progress toward GST-aligned targets?[3][10]
 - b. **Data-Driven Tools for GST Alignment Across Sectors:** How can countries map their national and sectoral pathways (e.g. energy, agriculture, finance) to the GST recommendations?[5][8]
 - c. **Quantifying Implementation Gaps from GST Findings:** What methodologies can identify and prioritize key implementation gaps revealed by the first GST and how can these inform COP30 decisions?[3][4]
 - d. **Operationalizing GST Insights into NDC Updates and LTS Pathways:** How can GST findings be translated into technical guidance for countries updating their NDCs or long-term strategies (LTS), especially in the 2025 submission cycle? [3][5]
 - e. **Sectoral GST Scorecards and Benchmarking Frameworks:** What indicators can be used to develop scorecards for tracking GST-aligned progress in critical sectors (e.g. energy, forests, finance)?[4][5]

- f. **Implementing Mutirão: Community-Led Climate Monitoring Models:** What models of participatory monitoring can empower local communities to track and report on climate action at the grassroots level?[6][9]

References

- [1] Jennifer. (2025, November 25). COP29 Key Outcomes: Milestones, Setbacks, and What Comes Next for Global Climate Action. *Carbon Credits*. [COP29 Key Outcomes: Milestones, Setbacks, and What Comes Next for Global Climate Action](#)
- [2]. Waskow, D., Larsen, G., Robinson, M., Alayza, N., Boehm, S., Srouji, J., Chakrabarty, S., Swaby, G., Warszawski, N., Garcia, M., Carter, R., Cogswell, N., Gerholdt, R., Molesworth, F., Yaakov, Y., Nilsson, K., McCoshan, K., Elliott, B., Null, S., & Layke, J. (2024, November 27). *Key Outcomes from COP29: Unpacking the New Global Climate Finance Goal and Beyond*. World Resources Institute. [COP29 Outcomes: Unpacking the NCQG and More | World Resources Institute](#)
- [3]. Climate Change High-Level Champions. (2024, June 20). *COP30 Action Agenda calls for accelerating the implementation of the Global Stocktake*. <https://www.climatechampions.net/news/cop30-action-agenda-calls-for-accelerating-the-implementation-of-the-global-stocktake/>
- [4]. Sinimbú, F. (2025, June 20). *COP30 president proposes global action agenda for the conference*. Agência Brasil. https://www.bing.com/search?pglt=299&q=COP30+president+proposes+global+action+agenda+for+the+conference.+Agência+Brasi&cvid=4d4faf8400094af19d5f80bfeb70522d&gs_lcrp=EgRIZGdIKgYIABBFgDkyBggAEEUYOTIHCAEQ6wcYQNIBBzQ0NWojGoAgCwAgA&FORM=ANNTA1&PC=HCTS
- [5]. Ventura, P. (2025, June 23). COP30 presidency presents the Belém action agenda.

- [6]. Michel, M. (2025, May 9). *COP30 presidency kicks off ‘pioneering experiment’ to mobilise bottom-up collective climate action*. CSO Futures [COP30 presidency kicks off ‘pioneering experiment’ to mobilise bottom-up collective climate action](#)
- [7]. UNFCCC. (2025, March 10). *Letter from COP 30 President-Designate*. [Letter from COP 30 President-Designate | UNFCCC](#)
- [8]. Whiting, K. (2025, February 11). *COP29 NDCs and why they matter*. World Economic Forum. <https://www.weforum.org/stories/2025/02/cop29-ndcs-and-why-they-matter/>
- [9]. Dima, E. (2025, July 21). *Reclaiming multilateral action for sustainable development & climate justice ahead of COP30*. ENA Institute. 10. [COP30: What are NDCs and can they get us to net zero? | World Economic Forum](#)
- [10]. Koren, J., & Miranda, D. (2025, June 26). *Setting the stage: Key debates and developments from SB62 Week 1*. CGIAR.
- [11]. Human Rights & Climate Change Working Group. (n.d.). *Integrating human rights into climate action: Briefing note for the Bonn Climate Change Conference SB62*. https://climaterights.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/HRCC-WG-BRIEFING-NOTE_-SB62-1.pdf

2. Egypt's Legacy and the Sharm El-Sheikh Adaptation Agenda (SAA)

As the home of this annual simulation, Egypt plays a unique role in global climate diplomacy. COP27, held in Sharm El-Sheikh, delivered several key milestones that continue to shape negotiations and serve as a reference point for the COP30 simulation.

The **Sharm El-Sheikh Adaptation Agenda (SAA)** launched a comprehensive, actionable framework to enhance resilience for 4 billion people living in the most climate-vulnerable communities. Its priority areas remain central to ongoing discussions, particularly in Global South contexts.

Students are encouraged to reflect Egypt's contribution and integrate the SAA in their research and negotiation strategies, especially in the following focus areas:

- **Food Systems Transformation** – Climate-smart agriculture, agroecology, and resilience for smallholder farmers
- **Urban Resilience & Infrastructure** – Nature-based solutions, early warning systems, resilient mobility, and green buildings
- **Water Security** – Drought resilience, water reuse, and integrated water resource management
- **Human Health and Livelihoods** – Health system preparedness, green jobs, and youth/women inclusion
- **Ecosystem Protection** – Restoring and conserving nature for both mitigation and adaptation co-benefits
- **Financing Adaptation at Scale** – Bridging the funding gap and unlocking finance for vulnerable nations

In line with Egypt's continued advocacy across COP27–COP30, students are especially encouraged to incorporate these themes in the **Adaptation, Loss and Damage, ACE, and Climate Finance** tracks of the simulation.

3. Assessments

Assessment	Assessment Deadline
Research Assignment	August 10 th , 2025
Presentation	August 8 th , 2025

2.1. Research Assignment

The final component of the program includes a research assignment aimed at deepening students’ technical expertise as well as policy literacy. It equips them to actively participate in pertinent, urgent, and diverse climate negotiations. The assignment offers two distinct tracks, allowing participants to select an approach that aligns with their interests and background while contributing to informed, negotiation-relevant outcomes.

2.1.1. Track One: Technical (Critical) Literature Review

Participants selecting Track 1 will conduct a literature review focused on the latest scientific, technical, and innovation-related developments relevant to international climate negotiations. This includes analyzing research outputs from authoritative sources such as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), particularly recent reports, special reports, and synthesis documents, as well as academic publications, reports from technical bodies, and verified global databases.

The review should emphasize emerging technologies, adaptation and mitigation solutions, or other science-driven advances that could influence negotiation priorities, implementation pathways, or global stock take assessments. Participants will identify opportunities and limitations within these developments and translate their findings into practical recommendations for negotiators or stakeholders to consider during future negotiation processes.

Examples of possible focus areas:

- Advances in renewable energy technologies (e.g., green hydrogen, offshore wind, energy storage)
- Nature-based solutions and forest finance mechanisms
- Adaptation technologies for water security, agriculture, or urban resilience
- Scientific findings on Loss and Damage risks and responses

Expected Output: A concise literature review summarizing the latest scientific or technical developments, highlighting their relevance to international climate negotiations, and providing concrete recommendations that can inform negotiation positions, implementation strategies, or stakeholder priorities.

Track One COP30 Simulation Role: These literature reviews will serve as technical briefings during the COP30 Simulation, enabling students to act as *subject-matter experts* or *technical advisors* to their country delegations or negotiation blocs. The evidence and insights gathered through this research will help shape realistic, well-informed proposals during negotiation tracks. Students will be expected to cite findings from their reviews during simulation sessions—particularly when advocating for technology pathways, adaptation strategies, or finance mechanisms aligned with their stakeholder positions.

2.1.2. Track Two: Policy Paper

Participants selecting track two will be asked to develop a well-researched and policy-relevant paper that analyses a specific issue within the UNFCCC process, negotiation dynamics, or thematic climate pillars, and provides actionable recommendations for decision-makers ahead of COP30.

Examples of possible focus areas:

- Analysis of implementation policies for the Loss and Damage Fund
- Private sector commitments under Race to Zero and their alignment with state-led targets
- Indigenous Peoples' proposals on nature-based solutions and governance rights

Expected Output: A structured policy paper analyzing a negotiation-relevant issue within the UNFCCC process or climate governance landscape and proposing actionable recommendations for policymakers or negotiation teams ahead of COP30. The paper should reflect an understanding of current negotiation dynamics, equity considerations, and implementation challenges.

Track Two COP30 Simulation Role: Policy papers will directly inform the *positioning and advocacy strategies* of students during the mock COP30 negotiations. Each student will act as a delegate or representative of a country/group and will be expected to use their policy paper as a foundation to build their bloc's proposals, influence consensus building, and justify amendments or interventions. The papers will also contribute to the drafting of negotiation texts and decision language within the simulation, simulating the real-world use of policy research to shape official outcomes.

Reading material can be found through the following links:

- <https://www.ipcc.ch/reports/>
- <https://cop29.az/en/pages/cop29-declaration-on-green-digital-action>
- https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/GCA_COP27_Summary_of_Global_Climate_Action_at_COP_27_1711.pdf
- <https://cop30.br/en/brazilian-presidency/letters-from-the-presidency/fourth-letter-from-the-presidency>
- [parisagreement_publication.pdf](#)
- [kpeng.pdf](#)

2.2.Presentation

The presentation will be on the same topic as the research assignment. ***Students will be asked to present a four to five-minute presentation, addressing their research process and outcomes. They will then receive feedback from their mentors to improve the content of their research; feedback and discussion will take place over four to five minutes.*** They will ultimately submit their final research assignment incorporating the revisions suggested by their mentors. Thus, please make sure to take notes of all of the mentor's comments.

Applicants will be assessed not only on the content of their presentations, but also on their presentation skills (i.e., voice, time management, body language, clarity of language, etc.).

All applicants are required to adhere to the following:

- Ensure that you have good internet connection
- Your cameras are open capturing a good position
- Try to minimize background noise and present in a well-lit space
- Have any slides prepared beforehand
- If you face any technical difficulties, notify your instructor as early as possible

2.2.1. Presentation Evaluation Sheet

Component	Grade	Comment
Content		
Relevance of Topics (15%)		
Validity of Arguments (15 %)		
Viable recommendations (15%)		
Presentation style		
Clarity of speech; eye contact (10%)		
Language and fluency (10%)		
Dress code observed (5%)		
Persuasive abilities (10%)		
Time frame		
Started on time (5%)		
Observed the time frame (5%)		
Responses to feedback		
Presenter's response to feedback (10%)		
Total Grade		

2.3. Submission Process

- Oral presentation of the paper is to be presented to mentors on **August 8th**.
- Final paper submission after incorporating mentor comments is scheduled for **August 10th**.
- Submissions will then be grouped into broader, thematic-based policy papers based on communication with authors.
- **Note:** It is advisable to stay updated with the outcomes and developments from COP30 as they become available, as this may provide valuable insights for your research.
- Feedback Process: Oral feedback will be provided directly by the moderator after completion of the student's presentation during the group meeting by **August 8th**.

3. Policy paper/Critical Review: Writing Guidelines

- Word limit: 1000-1500 words (excluding Key messages, tables, figures and references).
- Elements: Abstract (200 words), (2) Problem, evidence and presentation of arguments and cases, (3) solutions/ recommendations and (4) references.
- Research can include:
 - **Case Studies:** Identify and analyze at least two real-world case studies or initiatives related to your theme. These case studies should highlight successful efforts, innovative technologies, financial mechanisms, or policies that address climate challenges.
 - **Policies and Regulations:** Explore the policies and regulations that support or hinder the implementation of climate solutions within your theme. How do government policies impact technology adoption and finance in climate-related projects?
 - **Technology and Innovation:** Investigate the role of technology and innovation in advancing climate goals within your theme. How have technological advancements enabled progress in addressing climate challenges?
 - **Financial Mechanisms:** Analyze the financial mechanisms and sources of funding that have been instrumental in supporting initiatives related to your theme. How can innovative finance models be scaled up to bridge the climate finance gap?

- **Comparative Analysis:** Compare and contrast the case studies, policies, and best practices you've examined. Highlight similarities and differences in approaches, outcomes, and challenges.
- **Recommendations:** Based on your analysis, provide recommendations for future climate action within your chosen theme. What strategies, technologies, policies, or financial mechanisms should be prioritized for further advancement?

3.1. Paper structure

- Abstract: Key messages (200 words),
- Body: Problem, evidence and presentation of arguments and cases
- Solutions/ Recommendations
- References
- Endnotes (if any)

Tips on Writing the Policy Paper/Review

What the paper should include	What the paper should not include
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevance to the big picture as well as background and context: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A convincing statement of the urgency of the problem. • Enough, sound and firm evidence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Information and data ○ Brief generalized results of academic work. • Meanings, not methods: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Include what you found and what you recommend. No need to add the details of your methodology. • Policy Options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ About alternatives (in an objective brief). ○ Support one alternative (in an advocacy brief). • Stimulating statements to the reader to make a decision. • Visual figures/graphs/tables/pictures when relevant • Generally applicable conclusions. (can be turned into actions) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theory • Literature review (this pertains to students writing policy briefs) • Methods and models • Details • Long sentences/ paragraphs • Non-evident stories • Cliché arguments

4. Rubric and Grading Scheme

<p>Problem formulation and Relevance: (30%):</p> <p>It directly relates to the issue of climate change, the theme you picked and to the current evolving context of the selected problem.</p>
<p>Quality and Evidence-based arguments (30%):</p> <p>A debatable and supportable claim, logical reasoning to support your claim. Sound evidence and examples to justify the reasoning, and showing with data and information the urgency and importance of your argument</p>
<p>Proposed Solution (20%):</p> <p>propose doable solutions that are realistic and practical and that you will be able to present and argue for in the mock conference representing a country or organization.</p>
<p>Report Writing Skills (10%):</p> <p>Paper to be well structured, formal, objective, impersonal, coherent and contain technical language (grammar, spelling, clear sentence construction and punctuation, page numbers, list of contents, referencing). Avoid the use of certain types of language such as slang, racist, contractions and strong expression of opinions.</p>

*Your research will be assessed based on the depth of analysis, the clarity of presentation, critical thinking, and the relevance of recommendations to the chosen theme.

5. The Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

To maintain academic integrity and codes of ethics, the excessive use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools at any stage during the program is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, content generation, academic writing assistance, presentation generation, and content summarization.

This means that students are expected to submit and present original work that reflects their own understanding of the material, and their own creative ideas. Otherwise, participants will be strictly penalized.

6. Mentorship Framework

Students will be divided into groups. Each group will be assigned two mentors, who are responsible for the following:

- Provide feedback after students' presentation
- Close communications with students during the 10 days in case they have any questions.
- Following up on final submissions of research and performing an assessment per a shared rubric.
- Grading the presentation and research assignment