

# Summary of UNFCCC COP30

## Introduction

This COP's context was already a challenge in itself: Trump recently declaring climate change to be “the greatest con job”, criticism mounting that COPs are a form of “geopolitics of climate procrastination” that generates extremely high emissions, and the chosen location that made participation very costly. However, with global warming of 1.6°C recorded in 2024, Brazil had announced that COP30 in Belém would be an “implementation COP”.

In the end, the ambitions of the negotiations were challenged by growing divisions with oil-producing countries, and it was the voluntary agreements and parallel declarations of countries, initiatives and international organisations that gave substance – and meaning – to this international meeting

## A COP in the heart of the Amazon

Although it created major logistical difficulties, COP30 in the heart of the Amazon was marked by a strong presence of both indigenous peoples and the subject of nature.

Despite unprecedented mobilization among indigenous peoples, the final text contains no truly binding measures to protect their rights, nor any solid timetable for combating deforestation or reducing dependence on fossil fuels – which has deeply disappointed many communities. This lack of strong commitments shows that indigenous peoples and their demands are still too often relegated to the background of a summit dominated by geopolitical and economic interests.

On the other hand, the theme of nature has never been so central to the negotiations, reflecting a greater recognition of the links and interdependencies between climate, biodiversity and, to a lesser extent, pollution. Brazil has launched a global forest fund with around US\$6 billion. Despite this, many consider the commitments made are not ambitious enough.

## The issue of waste: methane and nothing else?

COP30 marked a rise in the importance of waste in climate action. However, although issues such as social justice and support for informal workers were raised, most of the discussions focused on methane emissions, thus still overlooking the importance of a holistic approach to waste and resource management.

Organic waste management was widely discussed at this COP, demonstrating that the international community now recognises this stream as a major lever for reducing emissions of methane, a short-lived GHG (12 years) with a warming effect 80 times more important than CO<sub>2</sub> over 20 years.

### Global Methane Status Report

Since the creation of the *Global Methane Pledge* in 2021 (endorsed by 159 countries, for a 30% reduction in emissions by 2030), the *Global Methane Status Report* highlights that emissions continue to rise, but that projections for 2030 have fallen. Indeed, significant efforts have been made in terms of regulations on organic waste management in Europe and North America. The report shows that the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and national methane plans submitted by mid-2025 could lead to an 8% reduction in methane emissions in 2030 compared to 2020.

### New initiatives

Two flagship initiatives were launched at COP30. The *Circular Economy NOW! (No Organic Waste) initiative*, led by UNEP and the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC), aims to transform global organic waste management by promoting source separation, composting, anaerobic digestion and new recovery methods: the goal is to accelerate the achievement of the 30% reduction target for these emissions by 2030. This initiative is implemented by the Global Methane Hub, with a mobilisation of \$30 million (USD) for project co-funding. Twenty-five cities in 18 countries have committed to the initiative.

In addition, the *Food Waste Breakthrough* initiative launched by UNEP and its partners aims to reduce food waste in cities and supply chains by supporting governments in halving food waste by 2030 and strengthening food security. This initiative is part of the *Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action* and one of its objectives is to reduce methane emissions by 7%.

### A COP day dedicated to circular economy

For the first time at a COP, a *Circular Economy Day* was organised, focusing on waste prevention, resource efficiency and the circular economy as central pillars of climate policy. Discussions highlighted their potential to reduce emissions across value chains, particularly by limiting resource extraction and developing reuse and recycling. Although discussions on waste and resource management remain fragmented, this dedicated day to circular economy shows that international interest in the issue is growing.

## Events in which ISWA participated:

Pre-COP Webinar	Post-COP 29 webinar (early 2025) with partners
	Waste Atlas Launch (organized by FSWP)
Pre-COP Sessions	Sessions at IFAT Brazil (25-27 June)
	Session at the ISWA World Congress, Argentina
	Sustainable Cities, Waste and Circularity: Pathways to a 3D Future (6/11)
During COP Webinars	SUEZ dedicated session (12/11)
	Live at COP (18/11)
During COP	Solid Waste in Climate Action: Closing Landfills, Renewable Energy, and International Cooperation for Climate Justice (11/11)
	Preventing Methane Emissions from Landfills (12/11)
	Future-Proofing Industries: Strengthening Sustainable Supply Chains for Just Transition (13/11)
	Partnership for our Goals: The Sarawak Journey (13/11)
	Super pollutant's solutions pavilion (13/11)
	From Pledges to Progress: Implementing the Global Methane Pledge with Proven Solutions (14/11)

## Online articles:

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D'Auria, M. (Nov. 17, 2025). Global Momentum Grows for Methane Reductions as New Report Highlight Clear Path to 2030 Goal. *COP30 Brasil Amazônia*. <https://cop30.br/en/news-about-cop30/new-report-shows-global-progress-but-not-enough-in-methane-reduction#:~:text=The%20No%20Organic%20Waste%20%28NOW%29%20Plan%20to%20Accelerate,into%20opportunities%20for%20climate%20action%2C%20nutrition%2C%20and%20livelihoods.>

GMH (Nov. 11, 2025). The Global Methane Hub Announces New \$30 Million Investment in Circular Economy NOW! Initiative. *Global Methane Hub*. <https://www.globalmethanehub.org/2025/11/11/the-global-methane-hub-announces-new-30-million-investment-in-circular-economy-now-initiative/#:~:text=The%20No%20Organic%20Waste%20%28NOW%29%20Plan%20to%20Accelerate,into%20opportunities%20for%20climate%20action%2C%20nutrition%2C%20and%20livelihoods.>

IISD (Nov. 22, 2025). COP 30 Outcome: What it means and what's next. *International Institute for Sustainable development*. <https://www.iisd.org/articles/insight/cop-30-outcome-what-it-means-and-whats-next>

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Trump, D. (Sep. 23, 2025). In. "Trump tells UN that climate change is a 'con job'". *Reuters*.  
<https://www.reuters.com/video/watch/idRW731723092025RP1/>

Tsayem, M. (Nov. 7, 2025). De COP en COP, une géopolitique de la procrastination climatique. *The Conversation*.  
[https://theconversation.com/de-cop-en-cop-une-geopolitique-de-la-procrastination-climatique-268952?utm\\_source=MSN&utm\\_medium=related-link&utm\\_campaign=related-link0-2&utm\\_content=article-270475](https://theconversation.com/de-cop-en-cop-une-geopolitique-de-la-procrastination-climatique-268952?utm_source=MSN&utm_medium=related-link&utm_campaign=related-link0-2&utm_content=article-270475)

UNEP (Nov. 2025). *Global Methane Status Report*. United Nations Environment Program.  
<https://wedocs.unep.org/items/5711c0ab-d298-4d2d-8283-387d89b2325b>

UNEP (n.d.). Food Waste Breakthrough. *United Nations Environment Program*.  
<https://www.stopfoodlosswaste.org/advocacy/food-waste-breakthrough#:~:text=Launched%20by%20the%20UN%20Environment%20Programme%20%28UNEP%29%20and,t%20SDG%2012.3%20and%20the%20Global%20Methane%20Pledge.>