

COP 30 Leadership Circles Guidelines

Building a New Climate Pact:

Implementar com Justiça, Ética e Corresponsabilidade

KEYWORDS:

Global climate governance; Fair climate finance; Traditional peoples and communities; Ethics and shared responsibility; Implementation of the Paris Agreement.

1. Presentation

COP30 marks a decisive point for the international climate regime and for Brazil. Thirty-three years after Rio-92, the country once again hosts the main conference on climate change in a critical context: only 111 of the 197 countries submitted their new NDCs¹ so far, and the world witnesses the gradual advance of global warming, to the detriment of international agreements.

It is in this scenario that Brazil, presiding over the 30th Conference, proposed a new governance architecture, action-oriented and structured in four Leadership Circles — Circle of Presidents, Circle of Finance Minister for the Roadmap from Baku to Belém, People's Circle, and Circle of Global Ethical Stocktake — conceived as permanent spaces of convergence between science, politics, civil society, and the private sector, transforming the COP into a **continuous process of building and implementing solutions**.

The **Instituto Democracia e Sustentabilidade (Democracy and Sustainability Institute - IDS Brazil)** presents this *policy brief* as a contribution from civil society to the 30th Conference of the Parties, resulting from the **Pre-COP30 Debate Cycle**, held between June and September 2025. The process involved reviewing the state of the art on the four thematic axes, drafting conceptual notes, convening experts, forming debate panels, and systematizing the discussions, culminating in the formulation of recommendations directed at policymakers.

This document is the result of this process and is intended for national and international decision-makers, presenting recommendations to the Circles of the COP30 Presidency towards a **New Climate Pact**, guided by **implementation, justice, and integrity**. It is based on the principle that **the effective implementation of the Paris Agreement requires strengthening social organizations, improving democratic institutions, expanding citizen participation, aligning financial flows with climate commitments, and consolidating a global ethic of co-responsibility**.

2. Leadership circles

Leadership Circles were conceived as permanent spaces for convergence between science, politics, and society, created by the Presidency of COP30 to translate global commitments into concrete actions. Defined around four axes, they aim to overcome the episodic nature of conferences by expanding social and territorial participation, consolidating cooperation networks, and promoting a continuous and democratic implementation approach for the climate agenda.

¹ **NDCs (Nationally Determined Contributions)** are the commitments made by each country in the Paris Agreement to reduce emissions and adapt to climate change, periodically reviewed to incorporate new targets for the countries.

CIRCLE OF PRESIDENTS: GLOBAL CLIMATE GOVERNANCE

Three decades after the creation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the multilateral system faces challenges of legitimacy, fragmentation, and decision-making slowness. The Paris Agreement, established in 2015 based on the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities, introduced a regime of voluntary targets (NDCs) that aimed to strike a balance between ambition and flexibility. However, before the opening of COP30, **only 41% of the signatory countries had presented their new targets for 2035**, and the commitments submitted remain insufficient to contain global warming.

This scenario highlights the limitations of a governance model centered on negotiation between states, without a clear connection to the effective implementation of actions. Thus, the central objectives of the Circle of Presidents are to **accelerate the implementation of the Paris Agreement** and **strengthen multilateralism and global climate governance**. The proposal is to transition from a **COP of promises to a COP of deliveries**, with mechanisms that ensure integrity, transparency, and accountability. In this way, IDS's debate on this topic emphasized the importance of multilateralism **focused on implementation**. This approach unites national governments, subnational players, the private sector, and civil society in a cooperative, decentralized structure.

Main challenges identified:

Institutional fragmentation between the mechanisms of the UNFCCC and other environmental conventions, which hinders the coordination of goals and commitments.

Low accountability for non-compliance with the NDCs, as the Paris Agreement adopts facilitating mechanisms without sanctions.

Deficit of democratic legitimacy in global governance, with reduced participation of indigenous peoples, youth, women, and local communities.

Misalignment between international commitments and national policies, compromising the coherence of implementation.

Absence of ethical and transparency indicators capable of translating the moral and intergenerational dimension of the climate crisis.

Summary

The strengthening of global climate governance depends on an institutional framework that combines **transparency, equity, and decentralization**. A new multilateral agreement based on trust, science, and shared responsibility requires recognizing that addressing the climate crisis is a **shared civilizational project**, whose success depends both on cooperation between states and the coordinated action of societies, territories, and generations.

CIRCLE OF FINANCE MINISTERS FOR THE ROADMAP FROM BAKU TO BELÉM: FINANCING FOR A JUST ECOLOGICAL TRANSFORMATION

No ecological transition will be possible without a profound transformation in the architecture of international climate financing. Since the creation of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the implementation mechanisms of the Paris Agreement, resource flows have remained concentrated in developed countries and large financial intermediaries, thus reproducing historical asymmetries and access barriers.

Despite recent advances, such as the promise to mobilize \$1.3 trillion annually by 2035 and the creation of innovative instruments like the BIP Platform, the global financial system still lacks coherent and just mechanisms. Public grants for fossil fuels continue to exceed by more than ten times the amount of funds allocated to adaptation and mitigation. At the same time, indigenous peoples, quilombolas, and traditional communities face bureaucratic and institutional obstacles to accessing resources.

By bringing together experts, economists, social leaders, and representatives of multilateral funds, the pre-COP dialogue promoted by IDS on financing for a just ecological transformation highlighted the urgency of redirecting climate financing towards a logic of reparation, inclusion, and just transition, recognizing the different roles and vulnerabilities of countries, territories, and populations. COP30 must consolidate a new financial ethic based on transparency, redistribution, and solidarity.

Main challenges:

Structural contradiction between the increase in climate financing and the maintenance of subsidies for activities that intensify the crisis, such as oil, coal, and intensive agribusiness.

Concentration of financial flows in large banks and international funds, without reach in territories and local economies.

Low social and territorial representation in the governance mechanisms of climate funds.

Risk of financialization of the climate agenda, with instruments that prioritize economic returns to the detriment of socio-environmental outcomes.

Summary

The ecological transformation depends on technology and investment that reach local populations through the redistribution of power and resources. For financing to fulfill its role in climate agreements, it is necessary to overcome the logic of exclusion and financialization and replace it with justice. COP30 must consolidate a **life-oriented financial agenda**, where every dollar raised contributes to restoring ecosystems, reducing inequalities, and revaluing communities and their assets.

PEOPLE'S CIRCLE: TRADITIONAL PEOPLES AND COMMUNITIES AT THE CENTER

The climate crisis is a civilizational crisis. It highlights historical injustices in the exploitation of natural resources, the uneven distribution of risks, and the disparities in geographical and ethnic vulnerabilities. Indigenous peoples, quilombolas, riverside dwellers, extractivists, and other traditional communities are among those who have **contributed the least to global warming** and who **contribute the most to its mitigation**—by protecting ecosystems essential for the planet's climate balance—yet they are also the ones who **suffer the most from its effects**.

The People's Circle proposes to place **peoples and territories at the center of global climate action**, recognizing their knowledge, practices, and cosmologies as essential to science, social technology, and future strategy. The debate promoted by IDS directed at this circle highlighted that **there is no climate justice without territorial and racial justice**. Combating climate change must go hand in hand with land demarcation, strengthening community autonomy, and addressing environmental racism and gender-based violence.

This perspective broadens the scope of ecological transition beyond mitigation and adaptation goals, introducing dimensions of **historical reparation, power redistribution, and recognition of diverse knowledge matrices**. By recognizing peoples as political subjects of climate transformation, COP30 has the opportunity to place an agenda that unites biodiversity, culture, and rights at the center of the global climate commitment.

Main challenges:

Environmental racism and the historical exclusion of peoples and communities from decision-making processes and climate governance structures.

Institutional disregard for traditional knowledge as legitimate form of science and technology.

Land and territorial conflicts that hinder the protection of ecosystems and communities that are guardians of biodiversity.

Underrepresentation of women, youth, and community leaders in formal climate policy spaces.

Absence of adequate legal and financial instruments to ensure direct access to climate funds and projects.

Summary

Placing people at the center means recognizing that Amazonian and traditional territories are not frontiers for exploitation, but matrices for the future. The global climate agenda must overcome the colonial logic and establish the paradigm of care, reciprocity, and repair. This requires reconnecting nature and society, economy and culture, science and tradition. By adopting territorialized and plural knowledge about the ecological transition, COP30 must reiterate the **centrality of protecting people for the protection of life**.

CIRCLE OF GLOBAL ETHICAL STOCKTAKE: GLOBAL CALL TO CLIMATE ACTION FOR ETHICS

Structural inequalities impact the causes and effects of climate change: a minority concentrates emissions and benefits, while vulnerable populations bear the losses and damages. In this context, the Presidency of COP30 proposes the Global Ethical Balance (BEG), an initiative that reintroduces values such as care, responsibility, interdependence, and justice among peoples and species at the center of climate action. Within the scope of the BEG, the dialogue promoted by IDS emphasized aligning goals and commitments with effective accountability mechanisms. It also promoted transitioning from a human-centered model of life to an ethics of the community of life and transforming the climate agenda into a common agenda capable of rebuilding social bonds and guiding public and private decisions. Therefore, implementing what has been agreed upon becomes an ethical imperative of political and moral coherence.

Main challenges:

- Deficit in implementation and ethical accountability**, with fragile monitoring of climate goals and absence of coercive mechanisms for non-compliance with NDCs.
- Persistence of values and economic incentives** that prioritize material accumulation and maintain the logic of environmental degradation.
- Risk of expansion of new **models of extractive colonialism**, which perpetuate historical inequalities and create **sacrifice zones** in the Global South.
- Low incorporation of the ethics of care** in climate policies, especially in relation to the most vulnerable populations.
- Fragmentation of public space and weakening of democratic debate on **shared values and responsibilities**.
- Insufficiency of global governance to **turn commitments into effective mitigation and adaptation actions**.
- Undervaluation of education, culture, and science** as instruments of ethical reconstruction and citizen formation for sustainability.

Summary

The Global Ethical Balance reaffirms that ethics guide action: it requires aligning thought, speech, and practice. This change presupposes replacing anthropocentric logic with an interdependent approach to nature, with a focus on the pillars of education, culture, and science, as well as reorienting economic incentives through pricing of externalities, the gradual elimination of fossil fuels, and ecological restoration. It is imperative for the Parties to commit to updating the NDCs and building a global map that leads to the end of fossil fuels and deforestation. The transition must promote the fight against inequalities, linking investments for development to the protection of human rights and the integrity of territories.

3. Recommendations

Circle of Presidents

1. Reform the decision-making process of the COPs, expanding the criteria of transparency and legitimacy in the selection and conduct of presidencies and creating mechanisms of effective accountability.
2. Create a Climate Change Council at the United Nations (UN), with strength and legitimacy, to periodically assess the integrity of the NDCs and their compatibility with the assumptions of the Paris Agreement.
3. Strengthen network governance by integrating local governments, cities, and regions in the execution of climate commitments.
4. Unify global environmental regimes, promoting convergence between the Climate, Biodiversity, and Desertification conventions, under the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals.
5. Create an Ombudsman for Future Generations, with advisory power, to monitor the ethical coherence of climate policies and ensure the incorporation of the principle of intergenerational equity.
6. Establish a Global Climate Implementation Summit, aimed at monitoring the execution of national targets between COPs, with the participation of subnational governments and civil society.
7. Foster peer learning networks and open data systems that enable technical cooperation and the exchange of experiences on best practices for mitigation and adaptation.

Circle of Finance Ministers for the Roadmap from Baku to Belém

- 1.** Reorient the international financial system to halt the flow of capital intended for activities with high environmental and social impact, ensuring coherence between economic policies and climate commitments.

- 2.** Ensure that funding for climate adaptation is primarily through donations, recognizing that loans increase the debt of developing countries and reproduce structural inequalities, which compromise the principle of climate justice.

- 3.** Establish direct, flexible, and participatory access mechanisms for indigenous peoples, quilombolas, and traditional communities, providing technical and legal support for effective resource management.

- 4.** Democratize the governance of climate funds, ensuring effective representation of civil society, youth, and territories in decision-making.

- 5.** Review risk assessment models, incorporating social, ethnic, and territorial dimensions, and prioritize projects that promote solidarity, circular, and regenerative economies.

- 6.** Link climate financing to social justice, allocating resources to reduce inequalities and strengthen local capacities.

- 7.** Enhance transparency in financial flows and eligibility criteria, with accessible accountability mechanisms that promote societal oversight.

- 8.** Foster innovative financial instruments, such as green sovereign funds, climate justice bonds, and sustainable development community banks.

- 9.** Guide that the National Adaptation Plans of the Party Countries establish a national policy of climate coherence, conditioning access to public and private credit on the fulfillment of measurable and verifiable environmental and social goals, aligned with sustainable and resilient development pathways.

- 10.** Incorporate the principle of historical reparation, recognizing that the ecological debt accumulated by the economies of the Global North must be translated into concrete financial commitments with the countries of the Global South.

People's Circle

1. public policy formulation, promoting epistemic parity in the processes of the UNFCCC and the IPCC Panel.

2. Integrate climate, environmental, and territorial policies, ensuring that the demarcation of indigenous and quilombola lands is prioritized for climate action and direct mitigation.

3. Establish mechanisms for direct and streamlined financing for indigenous peoples, quilombolas, and traditional communities, with specific safeguards and autonomy in resource management.

4. Develop intersectional monitoring indicators that incorporate criteria of gender, race, age, and territory in assessing the impacts of climate policies.

5. Ensure permanent seats for representatives of traditional peoples and communities in national and international climate governance mechanisms, such as the Finance Committee, the Green Fund, and implementation forums.

6. Address environmental racism through legal instruments and integrated public policies, recognizing the centrality of racial and gender justice in climate action.

7. Institutionalize the Amazon Peoples' Summit as a permanent space for dialogue and social monitoring of multilateral decisions.

8. Strengthen female leadership and youth participation in deliberation and negotiation spaces, ensuring access to training, visibility, and protagonism.

9. Incorporate Afro-Amerindian ancestry and original worldviews as ethical foundations of a new climate governance.

Global Ethical Balance Stocktake

1. Establish mechanisms for accountability and ethical transparency at COPs, with clear rules for monitoring, sanctions, and public accountability regarding the fulfillment of NDCs.

2. Establish an international coalition of Countries committed to the early update of NDCs, ensuring more ambitious targets aligned to limit global warming to 1.5°C, as provided for in the Paris Agreement.

3. Define a global map to eliminate fossil fuels and deforestation, with schedules, financing, and technological cooperation, inspired by experiences such as the Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Deforestation in the Legal Amazon.

4. Condition public and private financial decisions on verifiable ethical criteria and continuous social monitoring, reorienting economic incentives through carbon pricing, subsidy revision, and the adoption of credit criteria aligned with ecological limits and social justice.

5. Link transition projects to robust socio-environmental safeguards, preventing extractive projects in the Global South in critical mineral chains and infrastructure.

6. Adopt the ethics of care as a cross-cutting principle in climate policies, prioritizing women, Black populations, Indigenous peoples, immigrants, refugees, riverside dwellers, quilombolas, and peripheral areas.

7. Strengthen the common agenda with social participation, open governance, and auditable public data.

8. Integrate education, culture, and science into climate action: citizen training for sustainability and teaching and research networks focused on regenerative practices.

9. Consolidate COP30 as the COP of implementation, transforming ethical principles into policies, investments, and concrete behaviors at all levels of society.

4. Final considerations

COP30 will be remembered not only for what Brazil does as the host country but for what the world decides to do in the face of the climate urgency: either we deepen cooperation to protect the living conditions on the planet, or we perpetuate a model that generates inequality and destruction and threatens the very future of humanity.

The guidelines gathered in this policy brief demonstrate that the effective implementation of the Paris Agreement requires a paradigm shift: from negotiation to action, from competition to solidarity, and from profit to ethics. This transition will only be possible if the four dimensions presented here are treated as complementary and interdependent: global governance, fair financing, the centrality of people, and ethical responsibility.

Hosting COP30 in the Amazon is a political and symbolic milestone. It means recognizing that responses to the climate crisis will not only come from centers of power but also from territories, forests, rivers, and communities that have maintained the cultural relationship between people and nature for centuries.

We hope that the recommendations presented here will serve as technical and ethical support to guide the decisions of negotiators in Belém, the host of the 30th Conference of the Parties, inspiring a new cycle of international cooperation based on co-responsibility, equity, and ethics.

5. Technical sheet

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Instituto Democracia e Sustentabilidade (IDS Brasil) is a socio-environmental think tank founded in 2009 that integrates democracy and sustainability, recognizing that sustainable practices enhance democratic values and that democratic societies are essential for sustainability.

More information at: <https://www.idsbrasil.org/>

6. Sources

SOURCES	LINK	QR CODE
1º Debate Preparatório para a COP30: Soluções para a governança climática global	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P6od70yA8dY	
2º Debate Preparatório para a COP30: Financiamento para a Transformação Ecológica Justa	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cnpy150uMul	
3º Debate Preparatório para a COP30: Povos no Centro	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XGfzUf3EuJE	
4º Debate preparatório para a COP30: Ética Global	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cVtBv3A4cHw	