

CANSA's Post-COP30 Debrief Webinar - A Report

Date: 26 November 2025

Format: Online webinar (≈44 participants)

Speakers: Harjeet Singh, Shailendra Yashwant, Manjeet Dhakal, Dulari Parmar, Rixa Schwarz, Sehr Raheja, Farah Kabir, Zeenat Niazi, Sanjay Vashist (also moderator).

Overview

COP30 convened against a backdrop of pressing climate challenges, with a focus on adaptation, finance, loss and damage, gender, urban issues, circular economy, just transition, and the evolving role of trade and fossil fuel policies. While branded as a “COP of Implementation, Truth, and Indigenous Voices,” outcomes reflected mixed progress across sectors.

CANSA organised a Post-COP30 webinar where civil society observers and negotiation participants reflected on COP30 outcomes with a focus on finance, adaptation, loss & damage, fossil fuels, just transition, cities, circular economy, gender, and negotiation dynamics. Recurrent observations: weak finance outcomes, diluted adaptation/GGA indicators, absence of fossil fuel language in final texts, and both process and political concerns about ambition.

Finance and Adaptation

Key Observations:

- Finance negotiations were dominated by Article 9 discussions and NCQG (New Collective Quantified Goal) considerations, influencing multiple tracks.
 - **Harjeet Singh** highlighted that adaptation finance remained weak, with baseline definitions unresolved, complicating indicator formulation. Developed countries' reluctance to front-load finance risks shifting burden onto developing countries. Current pledges, including the Loss and Damage Fund, fall short of scale: ~\$819 million against \$400 billion needed annually. Rapid response and community-level accessibility remain insufficient.
 - **Sehr Raheja** noted compromises in Article 9.1, with a 2-year work program established instead of the 3-year plan advocated by developing countries. The Baku-to-Belem roadmap was significantly watered down in its final iteration, limiting operational guidance on mobilizing \$1.3 trillion. Article 9.5 communications and accountability mechanisms were similarly diluted, undermining transparency on finance provision.
 - Observers highlighted the “NDC ambition death loop”: demands for higher ambition without guaranteed means of implementation risk unrealistic commitments.
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Loss and Damage

- The **Loss and Damage Fund (FRLD)** launched a call for proposals, yet funding remains a fraction of actual needs.
 - Scale, speed, and focus on rehabilitation versus humanitarian support are limited. Community access and small-grants programs have been sidelined.
 - Institutional clarity improved with the WIM (Warsaw International Mechanism) review process, clarifying the roles of the Santiago Network and FRLD.
 - Progress is symbolic, but the fund's replenishment cycle is not set to begin until 2027, leaving near-term gaps unaddressed.
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Gender Action Plan

- **Farah Kabir** emphasized that the Belem Gender Action Plan (GAP) lacks binding indicators and financial guarantees.
 - Positives include support for national gender and climate focal points, responsive budgeting, recognition of structurally excluded groups, and guidelines to protect women environmental defenders.
 - Key gaps remain in foundational human rights language, enforceable accountability, and meaningful participation for women-led and youth organizations. Without resources, implementation risks remaining optional.
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Urban and Cities Focus

- **Dulari Parmar** highlighted the limited representation of cities and informal settlements in COP30 outcomes.
 - Urban content in NDCs increased globally but remains skewed towards developed countries. Only 44% of NDCs address both mitigation and adaptation, with adaptation measures in informal settlements largely absent.
 - GCF allocations to informal settlements over 20 years account for just 3.5% of funding, with only 2% of proposed projects sanctioned.
 - COP30 discussions on cities occurred in parallel spaces (cities pavilion, ministerial meetings on urbanization, and the Marrakech Partnership working group), but civil society participation and direct negotiation influence were minimal.
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Circular Economy and Mitigation Work Program

- **Sanjay Vashist** noted the inclusion of circular economy principles in the UNFCCC Mitigation Work Program, primarily within waste sector approaches (recycling, reuse), with limited links to sustainable consumption or adaptation.
 - Globally, 27% of NDCs reference circular economy; South Asian potential exists in textiles, construction, and food processing. While modest, inclusion signals recognition of circular economy as a mitigation strategy.
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Just Transition and Process Observations

- **Shailendra Yashwant** highlighted civil society wins in the Just Transition Work Program, establishing a rights-based, inclusive framework encompassing workers, indigenous people, and marginalized communities.
 - Weaknesses include omission of gender, fossil fuels, trade measures, and softening of 1.5°C language.
 - **Rixa Schwarz** and **Manjeet Dhakal** observed that Brazil's package approach and presidency diplomacy affected negotiation flow, with challenges in sequencing, clarity, and civil society engagement. Parallel people's summits provided alternative engagement spaces.
 - Just transition now offers a foundation for national, regional, and sectoral implementation beyond coal-focused interventions.
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Trade Measures, Tropical Forest Facility, and Fossil Fuels

- **Sehr Raheja** flagged climate-related trade measures (CBAM) as a continuing tension, with developing countries emphasizing cost pass-through risks and alignment with UNFCCC principles. Dialogue on trade-climate linkages is emerging but unresolved.
 - **Tropical Forest Facility (TFF)** pre-COP pledges totaled ~\$5 billion, short of the intended \$25 billion mobilization target. Participation from key governments (UK, Germany) is limited.
 - Fossil fuel phase-out discussions were largely absent from COP30; follow-up initiatives, including Colombia-led conferences, are emerging as alternate fora for advancing phase-out commitments.
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India and Regional Perspectives, Science, and IPCC Engagement

- **Harjeet Singh** noted India's limited engagement, including delayed NDC submissions, minimal pressure response, and prioritization of carbon capture and storage investments.
 - Developing countries bear a growing share of emissions (~2/3), highlighting concerns on historical responsibility and adaptation finance deficits.
 - **Sanjay Vashist** emphasized the rationale behind emerging economies' reduced engagement: past financial burden-shifting by developed countries.
 - **Zeenat Niazi** queried India's engagement with scientific findings on tipping points and adaptation urgency, underscoring the need for balanced communication between mitigation, adaptation, and justice considerations.
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Closing Plenary and Indicator Process

- **Sehr Raheja, Harjeet Singh, Rixa Schwarz, and Manjeet Dhakal** noted the procedural continuity with prior COPs: decisions on GGA indicators remain open for future technical sessions.
 - Mixed support and strategic interventions from India and other countries influenced procedural outcomes, though substantive changes were limited.
 - Trade, just transition, and 1.5°C language remain contested in regional and global contexts, with ongoing negotiations required for alignment.
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Summary of Key Takeaways

1. **Finance:** Baselines, scale, and predictability remain inadequate; NCQG-linked accountability mechanisms are diluted.
2. **Loss and Damage:** Institutional clarification achieved, but replenishment and community access remain insufficient.
3. **Gender:** GAP is progressive in principle but lacks enforceable finance and accountability.
4. **Cities and Informal Settlements:** Marginalized in negotiations; funding remains minimal; parallel engagement spaces partially compensate.
5. **Circular Economy:** Recognition in mitigation programs is positive, but sectoral scope is narrow.

6. **Just Transition:** Inclusive language and structures are wins, but fossil fuels and gender are underrepresented.
 7. **Trade and Fossil Fuels:** Emerging tensions around climate-linked trade measures; COP absent on phase-out decisions.
 8. **Regional and India-specific Observations:** Large emerging economies are reassessing engagement; adaptation finance and just transition are critical gaps.
 9. **Science and IPCC:** Communication gaps persist; scenarios and burden-sharing remain points of debate.
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Conclusion

- COP30 reflected significant gaps between pledges and action: finance, adaptation, gender, cities, and circular economy require continued advocacy.
- Brazilian presidency's package approach ensured process coherence, but critical issues (scale, accountability, Global South priorities) remain unresolved.
- India's engagement and broader South Asian coordination will influence outcomes in 2026 negotiations.
- Complementary fora (People's Summit, Colombia fossil fuel phase-out conference) may shape progress outside UNFCCC structures.



