



CIPRIANI COLLEGE
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**FROM BAKU TO BELEM: PROPOSALS
AND PROSPECTS**

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From Baku to Belem: Proposals and Prospects

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The 29th Conference of Parties (COP) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Baku, Azerbaijan in 2024 was characterized as the “Finance COP”. It was hoped that the meeting would register meaningful progress in providing significant climate financing. That COP was tasked to establish a new finance goal (a New Collective Quantified Goal) to replace the goal earlier set in the Paris Agreement in 2015. That COP, however, experienced walkouts of delegations and flirted with near collapse. The meeting ended with anger, frustration and disappointment.

The Global South, it must be recalled, at COP 29 had proposed a sum of US \$1.3 trillion from the Global North for mitigation, adaptation and resilience, but in turn were offered the sum of US \$250 billion which was later amended to US \$300 billion. This sum was eventually accepted but was found by some developing countries to be “insufficient, inadequate and an insult” given the scale of the climate challenge. COP 30 is scheduled to be held in Belem, Brazil in November 2025 and it is hoped that since this COP is returning to the very origin of the UNFCCC process it will record progress in many difficult areas left outstanding from earlier COPs.

The mid-year meetings in Bonn, Germany have on occasion, offered a useful mechanism for resolving difficult issues prior to the formal COP later in the year. This year, however, “the dark shadows” of the Baku COP hung over the mid-year meeting and there was a prolonged struggle to find consensus, even on the agenda. The meeting, while it registered progress in some technical areas, left many areas in square brackets or “lacking consensus”. It is hoped that the inspired leadership of Brazil and the location of the meeting in the Amazon would engender a spirit of

compromise that would lead to progress. The Brazilian President-Designate of COP 30, Ambassador Andre Aranha Correa do Lago in a presentation to the United Nations in March of this year laid out the approach that Brazil will employ as Chair of COP 30. Brazil plans to launch a “Global Mutirao” which means “coming together to work on a shared task and support one another”. The approach is based on a Global Mobilization; an Action Agenda; formal UNFCCC negotiations and a Leader’s Summit.

In a letter to Parties of the UNFCCC, the President-Designate announced the launching of four Visionary Circles of Leadership: Circle of COPs Presidents; Circle of Peoples; Circles of Finance Ministers; and Global Ethical Stocktake Circle. Brazil has also made it clear that this approach would be founded on a belief in multilateralism and a respect for science. The year 2025 presents several interesting landmarks. The United Nations celebrates eighty (80) years since its establishment; it is twenty (20) years since the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol; and ten (10) years since the historic Paris Agreement. It is hoped that these landmarks portend major breakthroughs in several difficult areas.

At COP 30 in Belem, Brazil there are several outcomes from earlier COPs that are to be considered. There is for example, the need to implement the decisions of the *Global Stocktake (GST)* under the Paris Agreement. The GST had revealed that the global community was not on track and that there were numerous gaps in emissions, adaptation and finance. There is also one of the major decisions of COP 28 which was the “*just transitioning away from fossil fuel*”.

The *Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage* was one of the major achievements of COP 27 in Egypt. The Fund was later operationalized at COP 28 but has so far failed to attract the level of funding to make it the mechanism envisaged by its framers. The position of the United States Administration to the climate challenge has not gone unnoticed by the Developed Countries and there is an awareness that those remaining countries may have to fill the financing hole left by that country.

In the recent COPs there is a growing argument that there is a need for greater efficiency in the process. This is an issue that must be treated with some sensitivity since it could affect small delegations from developing countries. The large attendance at recent COPs and the continuous introduction of new agenda items have raised issues of carrying capacity and coherence.

COP 30 in Belem, Brazil can be “a shot in the arm” for the UNFCCC process. The President-Elect has articulated an interesting approach to change the trajectory of recent COPs. For the Global South and particularly for Small Island Developing Countries there is the hope that the UNFCCC process, led by Brazil, could finally bear fruit and revive their faith in the process.

We have our fingers crossed!