

CLIMATE AND DEVELOPMENT MINISTERIAL 2025

14th October 2025 | Brasilia, Brazil | Co-hosted by: COP30 Presidency (Brazil), the UK, Vanuatu, and Uganda

MINISTERIAL SUMMARY

The UK, Vanuatu, Uganda, and Brazil as COP30 Presidency co-hosted the fifth Climate and Development Ministerial (C&DM) on 14th October 2025 in Brasilia, Brazil. Leaders, ministers, and representatives from UAE, South Africa, Poland, Malawi, Italy, Zimbabwe, Palau, Denmark, European Union, Tuvalu, Barbados, DRC, Ethiopia, Saudi Arabia, Paraguay, Australia, Marshall Islands, Russia, Turkey, Republic of Korea, Peru, Morocco, Netherlands, Iraq, Japan, Republic of the Congo, Pakistan, Switzerland, Papua New Guinea, France, Tanzania, Uruguay, Norway, Dominican Republic, Panama, Indonesia, Belgium, Germany, Burkina Faso, Canada, Azerbaijan, Adaptation Fund, Maldives, and Nepal engaged in the meeting.

This high-level forum, initiated at COP26, continues to serve as a critical platform for countries and institutions championing solutions to address the persistent barriers faced by Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in accessing affordable and timely adaptation finance. The focus of the Ministerial was on highlighting actions taken to achieve the three goals agreed upon at [C&DM 2023](#): Improving adaptation finance provision to LDCs and SIDS by:

- 1. Goal 1: Enhancing country-owned programmatic approaches;**
- 2. Goal 2: Easing access to adaptation finance and;**
- 3. Goal 3: Scaling adaptation finance from all sources.**

This year's Ministerial opened with a sobering assessment from the COP30 Presidency, which highlighted that the climate crisis is advancing faster than the collective response, and there are insufficient means to translate adaptation plans into concrete results. Minister of the Environment and Climate Change of Brazil, Hon. Marina Silva, emphasised that the Global Stocktake (GST) does not indicate a lack of solutions, but rather a lack of political will to implement them. She underscored the ethical imperative for urgent reform of the International Financial Architecture (IFA) to ensure that the most vulnerable nations have foreseeable and just access to resources. This sentiment was echoed by [H.E. Amina Mohammed](#), Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, who stated that the world is "dangerously off-track" on adaptation, despite renewed commitments, and called for a "joint adaptation package" to be a critical part of the COP30 outcome. In the same vein, the Special Envoy for Climate from Vanuatu, Hon. John Salong framed adaptation finance as an imperative for SIDS' survival, and valued the C&DM as a space to hear directly from SIDS and LDCs on how to better integrate adaptation finance into national systems.

Attendees articulated their commitment to addressing the severe impacts of climate change and emphasised the urgent need for enhanced and scaled adaptation finance for LDCs and SIDS.

UPDATES ON C&DM GOALS

Goal leads provided updates on the concerted efforts over the past year to move from commitment to implementation:

Goal 1: Enhancing country-owned programmatic approaches (Vanuatu): The update reinforced that adaptation is a daily reality, and action is what stands between erosion and survival. The work under this goal is guiding partners away from fragmented initiatives and towards Country Platforms (CPs) embedded in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). At the heart of this approach is Vanuatu's Climate Finance Country Platform, a nationally led and inclusive mechanism developed over the past 14 years to align finance with the implementation of climate policies and programmes. Embedded in NDC 3.0, the Platform coordinates multiple sources of finance—including bilateral, multilateral, private, philanthropic, insurance, and innovative finance—through national systems and operationalised climate funds, ensuring resources are prioritized according to national policy. It also enables a range of disbursement modalities, from cash transfers and small grants to direct procurement of services, while empowering local and subnational stakeholders to lead adaptation action and directly access finance.

Goal 2: Easing access to adaptation finance (the UK): The UK's Special Representative for Climate, Rachel Kyte, reaffirmed the commitment to driving system reform and improving access to adaptation finance. The UK pledged to be an "active shareholder" in all Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) and National Development Banks (NDBs) to drive system reform, particularly in a time when shareholder unanimity is lacking. Work on this goal includes developing new searchable databases to improve transparency and a task force dedicated to understanding smaller-scale approaches. Crucially, the approach stressed that access mechanisms must be context-based, citing Uganda's Country Finance Unit as an example.

Goal 3: Scaling adaptation finance from all sources (The Adaptation Fund): The Adaptation Fund (AF) highlighted the significant finance gap, noting that \$350 billion is needed annually while only approximately \$40 billion is currently flowing. The AF, which channels 50% of its portfolio to SIDS, is pioneering new innovative finance strategies, emphasising that public funds alone are insufficient to meet adaptation needs. The focus is on leveraging innovative resource mobilisation—including private sector funds, resilience bonds, and blended finance—to align diverse resources with local leadership and enhance coordination.

C&DM Secretariat update: The Secretariat provided an update on the tools being developed to underpin the C&DM's work and ensure long-term accountability. In line with its mandate to move from dialogue to action, the Secretariat announced the forthcoming Country Platforms Toolkit, a practitioner's guide to support SIDS and LDCs with tools and case libraries tailored for country practitioners, scheduled for launch

early next year. Complementing this, a compendium of case studies will be produced, with four to five deep-dive studies by the end of 2025, consolidating lessons and best practices on easing access to finance and scaling up investments. The Secretariat also reaffirmed its commitment to collaborate with both current and incoming COP presidencies, ensuring that insights from these technical outputs contribute meaningfully to global processes.

KEY TAKEAWAYS AND MESSAGES

The open dialogue with LDCs, SIDS, Donors, and Institutions underscored a persistent urgency to address both the quantity and quality of adaptation finance.

The Imperative of Adaptation and Access Reform

Leaders from SIDS and LDCs provided direct feedback on the challenges of access, with Palau (as AOSIS chair) and the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) declaring that adaptation is not a choice, but a matter of national security and survival.

- **Simplify and harmonise:** A unified call was made to simplify and harmonise access procedures, as the current process is too burdensome due to complex allocation, limited institutional capacity, and high and varied reporting requirements. Panama and Tuvalu explicitly called for aligned processes and a common application process for funds, to replace complexity with alignment and coherence.
- **Country ownership in practice, not by label:** Participants emphasized that solutions must be nationally owned and regionally anchored, and that the form of such mechanisms may differ across contexts. Several participants—including the Republic of the Marshall Islands, which has established its own national fund (MIRA) to implement its adaptation plan—highlighted that access to finance and support should not depend on whether a national mechanism is formally labelled a “country platform.” The United Kingdom also underscored that country platforms can take different forms, and that the key is for development partners to align behind nationally defined structures and priorities rather than impose external models.
- **Concessional finance and debt:** Tanzania and Nepal, among others, reinforced that finance must not increase or exacerbate the debt burden on the most vulnerable countries, necessitating a greater volume of grant-based and concessional finance.
- **Special Needs:** Tuvalu called for clear recognition of the special circumstances of SIDS and LDCs, including the need for dedicated windows and direct modalities to fast-track access. Tanzania proposed a dedicated agenda on the special needs and circumstances of Africa.

Political signals for COP30 and accountability

The C&DM was identified as the crucial space to send a strong, clear political signal ahead of COP30. Discussion focused on the following:

- **Financial reform and accountability:** The UNFCCC Executive Secretary emphasised that the Ministerial should send a clear signal that adaptation is essential and financial reform is necessary. The COP29 Presidency (Azerbaijan) emphasised the Presidency's role to hold countries accountable, citing delivery of the goal to double adaptation finance as a 'litmus test' for multilateralism, and noting that donors must take responsibility for delivery at COP30. As noted by the UK, tracking adaptation finance is essential, especially given that a significant amount is coming from outside formal UNFCCC mechanisms.
- **Commitment to NCQG:** The EU committed to scaling up grant and concessional finance, affirming that the needs of SIDS and LDCs are at the heart of the NCQG. The Champions Group on Adaptation Finance (co-chaired by the Netherlands) reiterated that adaptation action saves lives, with a \$1:10 cost-benefit ratio, and called for the NCQG to ensure a balance between adaptation and mitigation.
- **COP30 as the implementation COP:** Brazil stated that COP30 must be the "implementation COP". Brazil called for the endorsement of the [Belem Declaration](#), which links climate resilience with social justice, positioning social protection as the foundation of resilience and empowering small-scale producers as agents of change.

Looking ahead to COP30 and beyond

The Ministerial concluded with a shared understanding that while progress is being made, the world remains "far from where we need to be," and the barriers for SIDS and LDCs are both deeply political and financial. The Ministerial called on all stakeholders to carry forward momentum to COP30 and beyond, streamline processes, scale up finance from all sources, and ensure accountability in delivering the goal to double adaptation finance. By aligning global finance with local priorities, empowering communities, and embedding resilience in nationally led systems, the climate community can ensure that adaptation is both effective and equitable and serves the needs and priorities of the most climate vulnerable nations.

The Ministerial also demonstrated the continued relevance and significance of processes like this, which provide a critical space for vulnerable countries to shape the global adaptation finance agenda. Moving forward, it is essential that the C&DM continues to meaningfully contribute to global processes, translate insights from technical outputs into action, and forge strong partnerships with complementary initiatives, ensuring that the voices and priorities of SIDS and LDCs remain central.

Looking ahead, key steps will focus on consolidating progress and driving action:

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- Country Platforms: Co-develop a Joint Work Plan with partners such as SIDS, LDCs and groupings working with countries such as the V20 and the 2050 Pathways Platform, to be launched at COP30, charting concrete steps on peer learning, implementation, and coordination.
- Country Platforms Toolkit: Move from design to deployment with a full digital launch in early 2026, offering practical, modular tools and case libraries for country practitioners in SIDS and LDCs.
- Access and Scaling: Produce four to five deep-dive case studies by the end of 2025, to amplify learning and visibility of effective national models.
- C&DM Strategic Review: Ensure the process remains fit-for-purpose by strengthening LDC and SIDS leadership, clarifying the Secretariat's mandate, and enhancing transparency and communication.
- Strategic Engagement: Connect the outcomes of this Ministerial to broader global processes—from the COP30 Presidency and Activation Group 21, to the Adaptation Finance Acceleration Plan, the Baku-to-Belém Roadmap, and the evolving GGA discussions.

Note prepared by the C&DM Secretariat (E3G, the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)). Contact: cdm@iied.org

ANNEX 1: SPEAKERS' LIST

COUNTRY/ENTITY	REPRESENTATIVE	NAME
Adaptation Fund	Head of the Adaptation Fund	Mr. Mikko Ollikainen
Australia	Ministry for the Environment and Water	HE Murray Watt
Azerbaijan	COP 29 President	H.E Mr. Mukhtar Babayev
Barbados	Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister	Senator Dr. Shantal Munro-Knight
Brazil	Marina Silva	Minister of the Environment and Climate Change of Brazil
Climate and Development Ministerial Secretariat	IIED Senior Associate	Ms. Una May Gordon
	IIED Associate	Ms. Anaa Hassan
Democratic Republic of Congo	Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development	Eve Bazaiba Masudi
Denmark	Climate Ambassador	HE. Ole Thonkes

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European Union	Commissioner Wopke Hoekstra	Climate, Net Zero and Clean Growth
Maldives	Director General and Lead Negotiator, Ministry of Tourism and Environment	Amjad Abdulla
Marshall Islands	Climate Envoy	Hon. Tina Stege
Nepal	Minister for Forests and Environment & Prime Minister	Hon. Ain Bahadur Shahi Thakuri
Netherlands	Head of Delegation to UNFCCC, Ministry of Climate, Policy and Green Growth	Jori Keijsper
Palau	H. E. Steven Victor	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and the Environment
Panama	Mr. Juan Carlos Monterrey	Special Representative for Climate Change of the Ministry of Environment and the Ambassador of Panama in Brasil
Tanzania	AGN Chair and Special Envoy and Advisor to Dr. Richard S. Muyungi the President on Environment and Climate Change	
Tuvalu	Minister of Home Affairs, Climate Change & Environment	H.E. Dr. Maina Vakafua Talia
United Kingdom	Special Representative for Climate	Rachel Kyte
Vanuatu	Special Envoy for Climate Change	H.E. John Salong



Climate and Development Ministerial 2025 Family Photo. Credit: COP30 Presidency