

# Durham University COP Report 2025-26

COP30 and the year ahead





United Nations  
Climate Change

WELCOME TO #COP30  
BEM-VINDO(A) A #COP30

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# Foreword

**There was no alarm when a pavilion caught fire during COP30. Negotiations came to a standstill, at a critical time when the Brazilian Presidency was trying to unite humanity behind the Mutirão – as a global mobilisation against climate change. Even seeing the volunteers running towards the exits – who had seen the flames and smelled the smoke early – did not convince everyone that there was an emergency. Could this not be just another form of climate activism?**

While some delegates acted quickly, others delayed, and many needed to see the unfolding emergency with their own eyes.

But eventually, everyone had to take action.

It took another day, but the Global Mutirão: Uniting humanity in a global mobilisation against climate change was eventually adopted.

It recalls the Paris Agreement, the importance of human rights in the fight against climate change, gender equality, empowerment of women and intergenerational equity and it underlines the necessity for strengthened efforts. It unites Parties in the celebration of the 10-year anniversary of the Paris Agreement. Furthermore, and '[m]indful of being in the heart of the Amazon', Parties emphasise 'the importance of conserving, protecting and restoring nature and ecosystems towards achieving the Paris Agreement temperature goal, including through enhanced efforts towards halting and reversing deforestation and forest degradation by 2030 in accordance with Article 5 of the Paris Agreement'. Yet in the presence of new negotiating blocs, formed based on States' positions on fossil fuels, and in the absence of real progress in the text with respect to ending fossil fuels, the acknowledgement that without collective progress under the Paris Agreement the expected temperature increase would have exceeded 4°C, could appear to be the main positive takeaway.

Starting in 2021, agreement to tackle fossil fuel subsidies had emerged from COP's cover decisions for three years in a row but this trend was already interrupted at COP29 in Baku. In 2021, COP26 foresaw 'accelerating efforts towards the phasedown of unabated coal power and phase-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies'.



**Prof Petra Minnerop**

Director of the Centre for Sustainable Development Law and Policy and Head of Durham University's COP Steering Group

COP27 repeated this language. COP28, in the outcome decision of the global stocktake, speaks of '[t]ransitioning away from fossil fuels in energy systems, in a just, orderly and equitable manner, accelerating action in this critical decade, so as to achieve net zero by 2050 in keeping with the science' and the '[p]hasing out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies that do not address energy poverty or just transitions, as soon as possible'. At COP30, the UNFCCC Executive Secretary Simon Stiell confirmed in his closing speech that without claiming to be winning the climate fight 'we are undeniably still in it'. There is hope that solidarity indeed will win and that the global transition to low greenhouse gas emissions is the trend of the future, that therefore, including fossil fuel language has been paused rather than ended.

Looking at the Mutirão in a more optimistic way, some hidden positive developments can indeed be extracted from the text. Parties recognise once again the need for urgent action and support for achieving deep, rapid and sustained reductions of greenhouse gas emissions in line with 1.5 °C pathways. Renewing the emphasis on the target of 1.5 °C in the aftermath of the Advisory Opinion on Climate Change of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) is significant. The ICJ confirmed that based on COP decisions from previous years, Parties had interpreted the long-term temperature objective of the Paris Agreement and formed a new consensus target of 1.5 °C instead of well below 2 °C. This confirmed that COP decisions can represent authentic means of treaty interpretation, and the continued focus on 1.5°C that resonates from COP30 shows that States continue to endorse the scientific evidence - even if more ambition is needed to align national climate policies with it.

# Key Takeaways

**The Parties 'decided' – on these actionable elements in the Mutirão:**

- To launch the Global Implementation Accelerator, as a cooperative, facilitative and voluntary initiative and to start the Belém Mission to 1.5.
- To urgently advance actions to enable the scaling up of financing for developing country Parties for climate action from all public and private sources to at least USD 1.3 trillion per year by 2035.
- To convene a high-level ministerial round table to reflect on the implementation of the new collective quantified goal on climate finance, including on the quantitative and qualitative elements related to the provision of finance.
- To establish a two-year work programme on climate finance, including on Article 9, paragraph 1, of the Paris Agreement in the context of Article 9 of the Paris Agreement as a whole.
- For the scientific community, there is a clear imperative to 'provide best available scientific inputs' to inform the second global stocktake, especially at the beginning of a new assessment cycle of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, given that Parties acknowledge the 'critical importance of the outputs of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change'.
- From an interdisciplinary perspective, the newly launched just transition mechanism, 'the purpose of which will be to enhance international cooperation, technical assistance, capacity-building and knowledge-sharing, and enable equitable, inclusive just transitions' is an important development that defines a clear task for the research community to fill it with substance and actionable content.





Photo: © UN Climate Change - Kiara Worth

# COP30 Belém, Brazil

Located on the edge of the Amazon, the city of Belém in the northern state of Para, served as a symbolic and appropriate backdrop to this year's climate negotiations. Belém is home to almost 1.4 million people and is located only 150 kilometres from the equator.

Despite the tropical environment, the crumbling colonial buildings, high-rise apartments and shopping boulevards give Belém a thoroughly urban feel with the heat and humidity sometimes serving as the only reminder of the rainforest that surrounds. The city has a vibrant food scene, a buzzing nightlife and is home to the Ver-o-Peso market, one of the oldest markets in Brazil, where you can find fresh fish, gigantic tropical fruits and local handicrafts.

From the city, you can reach the Amazon rainforest in a matter of minutes by boat. Having once been one of the world's largest carbon sinks and now arguably a carbon emitter, **the decision to host COP30 in the Amazon provided a timely reminder of the need for urgent action on climate change.**

## Key Facts: Belém

Location: **Brazil, State of Para**

Population: **1,400,000**

Distance to the equator: **150 kilometres**

Average November temperature: **33°C daily high - 25°C daily low**

Average November rainfall: **51mm**



# COP30 Activities Executive Summary

Durham University played a highly visible and influential role at COP30 through an extensive programme of academic, policy, and advocacy engagements across the full duration of the negotiations. Durham delegates contributed to high-level UN processes, official UNFCCC side events, closed policy dialogues, scientific briefings, and civil society forums, reinforcing the University's position as a leader in evidence-based, rights-centred climate action.

A major highlight was **Durham University's UNFCCC Official Side Event, *Implementing Evidence-Based NDCs 3.0 through Integrated, Gender-Responsive Just Transitions***, organised by **Prof Petra Minnerop** and the Durham Centre for Sustainable Development Law and Policy (CSDLP), and co-hosted with CARE International. The event showcased Durham-led research from the **ELEVATE ProClima project**, funded by the British Academy, and provided a platform for direct engagement with policymakers, negotiators, and international partners on strengthening nationally determined contributions through law, science, and gender-responsive governance.

Durham also **hosted a high-profile event at the Ocean Pavilion, *New Research Frontiers in Law and Science: From the Deep Sea to Rising Sea Levels***, organised and moderated by **Prof Petra Minnerop**. This event exemplified Durham's leadership in interdisciplinary climate scholarship, bridging legal analysis and cutting-edge scientific research to address ocean and sea-level challenges central to the COP30 agenda.

**Prof Petra Minnerop**, as Head of Durham University's COP Steering Group, provided strategic leadership throughout COP30. She represented Durham in numerous high-level policy dialogues, negotiations, and international forums, coordinated institutional engagement across themes and pavilions, and ensured that Durham's research expertise informed key discussions on climate law, governance, finance, and accountability.

**Prof Elisa Morgera** made an exceptional contribution not only given **the importance** but also through the **sheer breadth and volume of her engagements**, participating in an extensive number of official UNFCCC side events, high-level dialogues, press engagements, closed workshops, and meetings with state delegations, Indigenous leaders, youth groups, and civil society organisations. Her work consistently foregrounded human rights, climate justice, defossilisation, and accountability, significantly amplifying Durham University's visibility and impact across multiple COP30 constituencies.

The presence of **Prof Chris Stokes**, a leading cryosphere scientist, was critically important in ensuring that **the latest climate science directly informed negotiations**. Through his participation in events organised by the International Cryosphere Climate Initiative (ICCI), including the launch of the *State of the Cryosphere Report 2025*, Prof Stokes provided clear scientific evidence on ice-sheet instability, glacier loss, and temperature thresholds. His on-the-ground engagement enabled direct interaction with policymakers and negotiators at a crucial moment for ambition-raising discussions.

Overall, Durham University's COP30 delegation demonstrated the value of **integrated leadership across law, science, economics and human rights**, combining strategic coordination, high-impact research dissemination, and sustained policy engagement. The scale and depth of Durham's participation underline the University's growing influence in shaping international climate policy debates and advancing just, science-based climate action.

# Durham University's COP30 delegation



## Our 7 delegates

*Image from left to right: Prof Petra Minnerop, Prof Chris Stokes, Prof Laura Marsiliani, Prof Elisa Morgera, Dr Owen Boyle, Ghulam Mustafa Kamran, Zonash Aasim.*

**Prof Petra Minnerop** is a Prof of International Law in the Durham Law School. She is also the Director of the Centre for Sustainable Development Law and Policy and serves as Chair of Durham University's UN SDG Group. Her research spans international law, the process of law-making and the implementation of international law at the domestic level, with a particular focus on environmental challenges and climate change.

**Prof Chris Stokes** is a Prof in the Department of Geography. His research focusses on the response of glaciers to climate change and the impacts on sea level. Most recently, Chris' work has examined the sensitivity of the ice sheets to specific temperature targets, such as those in the Paris Climate Agreement. His activities at COP30 will focus on explaining the increasing threat of rapid and irreversible sea level rise, especially if the 1.5 °C temperature target is exceeded.

**Prof Laura Marsiliani** is an economist in the fields of public, environmental, natural resource and energy economics. She is currently a Prof of Economics, the Business School Faculty's Associate Dean for Ethics, Responsibility and Sustainability (ERS), a Fellow of both the Durham Energy Institute and Centre for Sustainable Development, Law and Policy and Co-Director of the Centre for Environmental and Energy Economics at Durham University Business School.

**Prof Elisa Morgera** is the UN Special Rapporteur on Climate Change and Human Rights. Based at Durham University, she is a Prof of International Law and Sustainability as well as an Adjunct Prof in International and European Union Environmental Law at the University of Eastern Finland. She has published extensively on human rights and the environment, the human right to science, as well as the human rights of small-scale fishers, Indigenous Peoples, and children, at the climate-biodiversity and climate-ocean nexus.

**Dr Owen Boyle** is the Project Manager on the JusTNOW Project. He has a background in international human rights law and international development. He has worked in academia, in the private sector and for international organisations such as the United Nations and the Red Cross. At COP30, Owen worked with colleagues from Durham's Centre for Sustainable Development Law and Policy to examine how science and evidence informed climate policy is utilised within negotiations.

**Ghulam Mustafa Kamran** is a Postgraduate Research associate at the Durham Centre for Sustainable Development Law and Policy and a member of the Durham University COP Steering Group. He is a PhD Candidate at Durham Law School, focusing on the centralisation of human dignity, in the global efforts to regulate AI, and to promote human-centred and planet-centred use of AI.

**Zonash Aasim** is a Business and Management undergraduate at Durham University, currently serving as President of Enactus Durham. She is also part of the Advisory Board at the Durham Energy Institute, where she contributes to discussions around sustainability and energy innovation. With a strong interest in climate policy and youth engagement, Zonash works closely with Pakistan's Ministry of Climate Change on initiatives aimed at building climate resilience and promoting sustainable growth.

# Durham University UNFCCC Official Side Event



“Our project proved extremely relevant at COP30 where the newly submitted NDCs 3.0 and gender responsiveness featured as key themes throughout the conference period.”

Prof Petra Minnerop

Image from left to right: Prof Petra Minnerop, Irene Chekwoti, Prof Mari Sundli Tveit, Marlène Achoki (Co-Host), Prof Elisa Morgera and Ram Das.

## ELEVATE-ProClima

This year, **Prof Petra Minnerop**, **Dr Owen Boyle** and **Ghulam Mustafa Kamran** attended COP30 as part of the British Academy funded project ELEVATE-ProClima. The project, carried out in partnership with the University of São Paulo in Brazil, is split into three work packages, one of which specifically explores how the COP process can drive scientifically rigorous and gender-responsive policymaking at the international level. Additionally, the project explores how the outcomes of the first global stocktake are reflected in the nationally determined contributions (NDCs) that all countries have to publish as part of the Paris Agreement. The project proved to be extremely relevant at COP30 where the newly submitted NDC 3.0 and gender responsiveness both featured as key themes throughout the conference period.

# Durham University UNFCCC Official Side Event

## *Implementing evidence-based NDCs 3.0 through integrated, gender-responsive Just Transitions*

15:00 – 16:30 | Friday 14<sup>th</sup> of November | Side Event Room 5

Blue Zone, COP30, Belém, Brazil

Panel discussion on how the first Global Stocktake is shaping NDCs 3.0 under the best available science, with a focus on evidence-based implementation, gender-responsive approaches, and just transitions.

**Prof Petra Minnerop**  
(Moderator)

Professor of International Law  
Durham University

**Irene Chekwoti**

Principal Climate Change Officer-at the  
Ministry of Water and Environment-  
Climate Change Department, Uganda

**Prof Mari Sundli Tveit**

Chief Executive of the Research Council of  
Norway, President of Science Europe

**Marlene Achoki**

(Co-Host)

Global Policy Lead, Climate Justice  
CARE International

**Prof Elisa Morgera**

UN Special Rapporteur on Climate  
Change and Human Rights, Professor of  
International Law, Durham University.

**Ram Das**

Country Director  
CARE Bangladesh



**COP30**  
**BRASIL**  
**AMAZÔNIA**  
BELÉM 2025

# Durham University's Ocean Pavilion Event

## New Research Frontiers in Law and Science: from the Deep Sea to Rising Sea Levels



By hosting this Ocean Pavilion event, Durham University brought together an exceptional and inspiring panel: Pam Pearson, Director of the International Cryosphere Climate Initiative; Dr Filipa Bessa, a marine biologist from the University of Coimbra; Prof Elisa Morgera, UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and Climate Change; and Ana Paula De Souza, Human Rights Officer at the OHCHR. Concluding remarks were provided by U.S. Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (Rhode Island).

The discussion was chaired by Prof Petra Minnerop and structured around three guiding questions:

1. How can stringent due diligence standards for NDCs be determined and operationalised from a science/law perspective?
2. How should we define "appropriate action" from a science perspective, to protect the climate system from GHG emissions?
3. How can new thresholds be identified for GHG emissions - and when are they?



The event attracted an amazing audience, so that once capacity was reached in the room, a crowd gathered outside, listening to the conversations and shaping discussions on the theme of *New Research Frontiers in Law and Science: From Deep Sea to Rising Sea Levels*. Interdisciplinarity has truly arrived at the UN Climate Change negotiations.

# Durham University's Ocean Pavilion Event

## New Research Frontiers in Law and Science: From the Deep Sea to Rising Sea Levels



**"Congratulations on this excellent event! It was a privilege to be on such a panel."**

Pam Pearson  
Director, International Cryosphere  
Climate Initiative Reports (ICCI) ICCI

### Key takeaways from the panel discussions

- Sea level rise threatens not only livelihoods in coastal areas, but it will also lead to the complete loss of States.
- A holistic and human rights approach is necessary to wean the international community from fossil fuel dependency, to move away from the many different ways in which the production and the consumption of fossil fuels impact our health.
- Marine biologists, climate scientists and lawyers will work together to define what stringent due diligence standards are in relation to obligations under the UNFCCC, the UNCLOS, as referred to by the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea/Tribunal international du droit de la mer and the Paris Agreement.
- Taking appropriate action to protect the climate system from GHG emissions means that States must regulate the fossil fuel industry by setting legal targets to transition away from fossil fuels.
- There is enough science available, including from the IPCC, to define economy-wide NDC targets that are aligned with the long-term temperature goal of the Paris Agreement of 1.5°C - the new consensus target.
- There is one Paris Agreement long-term temperature goal – not goals – and even that will lead to several meters of sea-level rise over the coming centuries. References that add the plural 's' in negotiating texts must be corrected.
- Countries that articulate capacity limits to include science in NDCs should receive the support they need in monitoring and reviewing their targets and progress. Providing this support flows from the obligation of international cooperation under international law.
- Not all States measure the health impacts of extreme weather events, and it is in that respect that more data from climate science, attribution science, is needed.

# Launch of the State of the Cryosphere Report 2025 @ COP30

Prof Chris Stokes joined fellow reviewers at the COP30 Cryosphere Pavilion to launch the latest [State of the Cryosphere Report 2025](#). Since 2021, these reports have been published annually by the ICCI, to keep up with the pace of observed changes and projections of the Cryosphere.

As part of the Pavilion event, Chris highlighted the findings of his recent research report published in *Nature Communications Earth & Environment* which finds that even “Warming of +1.5 °C is Too High for Polar Ice Sheets” (2025).

Key points for policymakers included:

- Ice sheet mass loss has **quadrupled since the 1990s** and now dominates contributions to sea-level rise, outpacing thermal expansion.
- Sustained warming at or below 1.5 °C still commits the planet to **several metres of sea-level rise over coming centuries**, posing severe challenges for adaptation and coastal communities.
- To substantially slow ice-sheet-driven sea-level rise, global temperatures may need to be kept **closer to or below ~1.0 °C** above pre-industrial, underscoring that every fraction of a degree of warming matters.

The session underscored the urgency of deep, near-term emissions reductions—not only to strive for the 1.5 °C limit but also to consider even more ambitious long-term targets that could help stabilise the cryosphere. Framed within the Pavilion’s broader aim of integrating cryosphere science with climate policy, the talk highlighted how the latest research should inform negotiations on mitigation, adaptation, and finance at COP30.

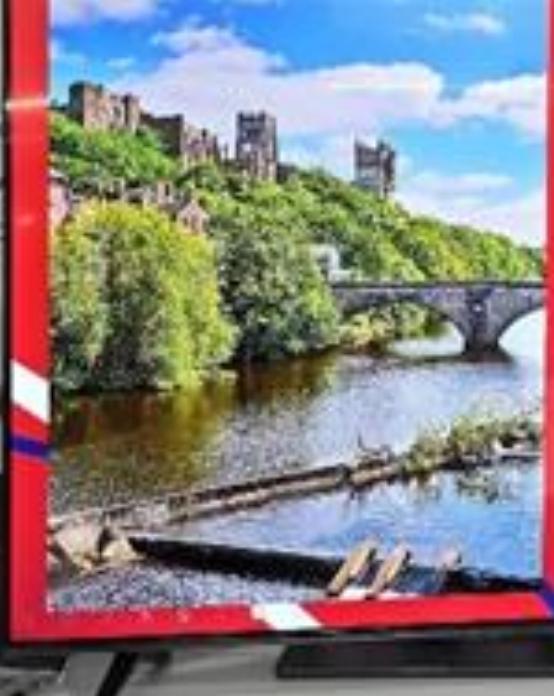


Panel image from left to right: Prof Chris Stokes, Prof Gustaf Hugelius, Dr Miriam Jackson, Prof Hugues Lantuit and Dr James Kirkham.

**“Limiting warming to 1.5°C would be a major achievement and this should absolutely be our focus.** However, even if this target is met or only temporarily exceeded, people need to be aware that **sea level rise is likely to accelerate to rates that are very difficult to adapt to** – rates of one centimetre per year are not out of the question within the lifetime of our young people.”

**Prof Chris Stokes**  
Department of Geography





# Launch of Durham Declaration

Durham University hosted an in-person roundtable at COP30 in Belém, Brazil, on behalf of the Coimbra Group at the Union for the Mediterranean Pavilion, convening universities and university alliances from across the world. The event explored how regional higher education initiatives can be aligned into a connected global climate ecosystem capable of delivering impact at scale. **A central highlight was the launch of the Durham Declaration on Climate Change and Sustainability, introduced by Prof Petra Minnerop.** Adopted at the Coimbra Group Climate Symposium, the Declaration reflects a shared commitment by leading European universities to embed climate action and sustainability across teaching, research, governance, and engagement. Discussions recognised the Declaration and its Seven Principles as a leading framework for universities to act as drivers of climate resilience and societal transformation. Participants also examined emerging regional coordination models, including the Euro-Mediterranean University Initiative for Climate Action, inspired by the Girona Manifesto, alongside initiatives in Africa, ASEAN, and Latin America. Durham University also showcased progress on its ELEVATE ProClima research project. The event concluded with a call to action to build a global coalition of regional university climate initiatives, with momentum towards COP31 and beyond.

## Durham University Roundtable: Higher Education as a Climate Catalyst: From Regional Cooperation to Global Scale

On behalf of the Coimbra Group universities across Europe



# COP30 Gallery



**Prof Elisa Morgera was invited to speak at the COP30 Presidency Event on Women and Girls of African Descent. Organised by the COP30 Presidency Team. and UNFCCC Gender Team**



**Dr Owen Boyle served as a panellist at the Digital Innovation Pavilion as part of the COP Simulation led by the British University in Egypt.**



**ACE in Action:  
Gendering the Just  
Transition and  
Enhancing Climate  
Education and  
Youth Diplomacy**

# Planning for COP31

## November 2026



The COP Steering Group is an informal group within the Centre for Sustainable Development Law and Policy (CSDL).

The Group organises the University's participation in the UNFCCC processes and meetings.

Since 2021, the University has held observer status meaning we can make submissions to the UNFCCC, apply for side events, and for exhibitions. Participation is regulated through the UNFCCC Secretariat through the allocation of badges.

**We welcome expressions of interest from staff and students interested in participating in future COP activity.**

To be considered for the COP31 Durham Delegation, submit an expression of interest statement, of no more than 500 words, identifying the COP event or activity you would like to attend. Within your statement, please provide an outline of your rationale and available resources. Please note that we cannot provide funding but can support funding applications. Numbers of badges are limited. In the past years, we were able to obtain additional badges through partners and to distribute all badges to allow for a wide representation of expertise at COP.

Please submit your expression of interest to [csdlp@durham.ac.uk](mailto:csdlp@durham.ac.uk) by the end of June each year if you are interested in attending COP.

If you are interested in attending one of the smaller conferences (SB conference) in Bonn (June each year), please submit an expression of interest by end of April of the same year.



Expressions of interest should be sent to the CSDL email inbox [csdlp@durham.ac.uk](mailto:csdlp@durham.ac.uk).

## Rationale

Outline your reasons for attending the conference in terms of (a) links to your existing or future research activities (b) links to impact and engagement activities and (c) the anticipated outcomes from attending.

## Resources

Outline how you (a) intend to fund the cost of attending (flights, accommodation, subsistence) and (b) ensure you are available to attend key dates (e.g. support from department).

## Selection

Decisions on who will be selected to attend will be based on the number of badges issued by the UNFCCC and the rationale and resources for participation.

# What's on Calendar 2026

## Lead up to COP31

Activities for the coming year	Date
<b>COP30 Debrief Event</b> The Durham Delegation report back to the student body and local community on COP30 outcomes	<b>17 February</b> 8pm to 9.30pm
<b>COP30 Outcomes and the Road Ahead for Global Climate Action Webinar</b> This 90-minute webinar examines the key decisions, breakthroughs, and unresolved tensions emerging from COP30 in Belém. Through expert dialogue, the event explores legal, governance, and regional perspectives on translating COP30 outcomes into effective global climate action. It is jointly organised by the <b>Centre for Sustainable Development Law &amp; Policy (CSDLPL)</b> , <b>Durham University</b> and the <b>Centre for International Law (CIL)</b> , <b>University of Singapore</b> .	<b>12 March</b> 8.30am to 10am <b>With CIL/ NUS</b>
<b>Fossil Fuel Phase Out &amp; Just Transitions Conference, Durham</b> CSDLPL will organise this two-day, expert-focused workshop that will convene academics, policymakers, and advocates to advance research and policy perspectives on fossil fuel phase-out, just transition, and defossilization strategies ahead of the Santa Marta Conference in Colombia (April 2026).	<b>19-20 March</b> <b>With OHCHR</b>
<b>International Conference on the Just Transition Away from Fossil Fuels, Colombia</b> UN Special Rapporteur on Climate Change and Human Rights (Prof Elisa Morgera) will attend this conference that is being co-hosted by the governments of <b>Colombia</b> and <b>The Netherlands</b> .	<b>28-29 April</b>
<b>SB64, Bonn, Germany</b> Prof Chris Stokes and colleagues will attend <b>the 64th session of the UNFCCC Subsidiary Bodies (SB64)</b> feeding into this key technical meeting for climate negotiations in the lead up to COP 31.	<b>8-18 June</b>
<b>Climate Change and Sustainable Development E-Academy</b> CSDLPL and <b>CIL</b> are jointly offering a modular online course, providing expert insights into international climate governance and the latest COP30 outcomes.	<b>May to September</b> <b>With CIL/NUS</b>
<b>Just Transitions to a Net Zero World, Third Annual International Conference</b> CSDLPL and the <b>European Center of Just Transition Research and Impact-Driven Transfer (JTC)</b> at <b>Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg</b> , will once again jointly convene an international conference in Durham in September 2026.	<b>9-11 September</b> <b>With JTC/ Halle University</b>
<b>COP31 Antalya, Turkey</b> The Durham Delegation will attend COP31.	<b>9-20 November</b>





# Final Thoughts



Photo: © UN Climate Change - Kiara Worth

Reflecting on COP30, the conference underscored both the scale and urgency of the climate crisis, while also highlighting the evolving role that Durham University can play in helping to address it. A striking feature of this year's negotiations was the extent to which Durham has become an established and recognised presence within the COP process. This reflects the sustained commitment and collective efforts of colleagues across successive COPs to build the University's international profile, credibility and influence in global climate policy spaces.

The Durham delegation was honoured to welcome Prof Elisa Morgera to the team this year. In her role as United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the Context of Climate Change, we witnessed first-hand the energy and dedication with which she fulfilled this mandate. Prof Morgera consistently provided a vital voice for under-represented groups and communities, those who are too often excluded from policymaking discussions, despite being among the most directly affected by climate impacts.

Key highlights of COP30 included Durham University's Official UNFCCC Side Event and the University's well-attended pavilion event. Together, these demonstrated Durham's capacity to convene diverse stakeholders, bridge disciplines, and translate cutting-edge research into policy-relevant dialogue. Such engagements further reinforced Durham's position as a trusted and constructive contributor to global climate governance.

While the failure to agree on a clear roadmap for transitioning away from fossil fuels was disappointing, advancing work on fossil fuel phase-out remains a priority for the Durham CSDLP team. In the months ahead, one of our activities will include hosting a pre-event in Durham to support research and impact in advance of the International Conference on the Just Transition Away from Fossil Fuels, which will be convened by the Governments of Colombia and the Netherlands in April 2026.

We extend our sincere thanks to all collaborators and partners for their continued engagement and support. As Durham looks ahead from COP30 to COP31, these partnerships, alongside our shared commitment to just and equitable transitions to net zero, will remain central to our collective efforts.



# Appendix COP30 Activities

## COP30 – Week One Activities (10–15 November 2025)

- Climate Change and Human Rights | Elisa Morgera | Council of Europe; Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB)
- Integrating Human Rights in Climate Action (Dinner Discussion) | Elisa Morgera | OHCHR; Centre for International Environmental Law (CIEL)
- Climate Disinformation: Responding to Youth | Elisa Morgera | Council of Europe; Youth and Environment Europe (YEE)
- Reclaiming Our Energy Future: Overcoming Inequalities for a Just Transition | Elisa Morgera | Oxfam; Climate Action Network (CAN)
- Climate Policy for All: LGBTQ+ Inclusive and Gender-Transformative Climate Action | Elisa Morgera | OUT4S; GAGGA; Global Green grants Fund; Manusher Jonno Foundation; WEDO
- Just Transition or Just Extraction: Transition Minerals Rush | Elisa Morgera | Climate Rights International; Transforma; Natural Resource Governance Institute
- Launch of the European Environmental Human Rights Defenders (EHRD) Forum | Elisa Morgera | Council of Europe; OHCHR
- Indigenous Caucus Meeting | Elisa Morgera | International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change (IIPFCC)
- ECO2 Smart Schools Climate Conference (Day 1) | Chris Stokes | ECO2 Smart Schools
- Addressing the Point of No Return: Human Rights and Climate Tipping Points | Elisa Morgera | OHCHR; Just Atonement Inc.; AwareNearth
- A Hora é Agora: Human Rights and State Obligations in Climate Action | Elisa Morgera | Brazilian Ministry of Human Rights; COP30 Special Envoy; OHCHR; UN Special Rapporteur on Climate
- Higher Education as a Climate Catalyst – Durham Declaration Launch | Petra Minnerop | Coimbra Group; Union for the Mediterranean
- The Time Is Now: Defossilising Our Economies (Closed Workshop) | Petra Minnerop; Elisa Morgera | Brazil COP30 Special Envoy
- ECO2 Smart Schools Climate Conference (Day 2) | Mustafa Kamran; Katalin Sulyok | ECO2 Smart Schools
- Generation Emergency: Youth Growing Up in the Climate Crisis | Elisa Morgera | Climate Justice for Rosa
- Workshop on Defossilisation | Elisa Morgera | COP30 Special Envoy for Human Rights; Federal University of Pará
- After the COP of Truth: Climate Information Integrity in Canada | Elisa Morgera | CAPE (Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment)
- Warming of 1.5°C is Too High for Polar Ice Sheets | Chris Stokes | International Cryosphere Climate Initiative (ICCI)
- Justice, Climate and Human Rights | Elisa Morgera | Brazilian Supreme Court; Itamaraty; STF; STJ
- State of the Cryosphere Report 2025 – Launch | Chris Stokes | ICCI
- Durham University UNFCCC Official Side Event: Evidence-Based NDCs 3.0 | Petra Minnerop; Durham CSDLP Team | CARE International
- Cryosphere Tipping Points: Glaciers, Ice Sheets and Sea-Level Rise | Chris Stokes | ICCI; SCAR; Iceland; CPC; GWU; Karuna Foundation
- Investment Treaties as a Barrier to Achieving Climate Goals | Elisa Morgera | IISD; E3G; CIEL
- The Belém Health Action Plan: Climate Justice and Health | Elisa Morgera | UNU-IIGH; WHO
- International Law for Climate: Advisory Opinion and Litigation | Petra Minnerop | Science Pavilion Partners



# Week One (continued)

## COP30 – Week One Activities (10–15 November 2025)

- Trading Fairly in a Warming World | Petra Minnerop; Mustafa Kamran | British University in Egypt; Federal University of Pará
- New Research Frontiers in Law and Science: From the Deep Sea to Rising Sea Levels | Petra Minnerop | Ocean Pavilion
- Protecting Indigenous Food Systems in the Climate Crisis | Elisa Morgera | AAC; IITC
- Accelerating Climate Resilience in Health Systems | Elisa Morgera | WHO; UNU

## COP30 – Week Two Activities (17–21 November 2025)

- Legal Strategy, Attribution Science and Climate Accountability | Petra Minnerop; Mustafa Kamran | FILE Foundation; LACLIMA
- YOUNGO Coordination Meeting | Zonash Aasim | YOUNGO
- RINGO Coordination Meeting | Owen Boyle | RINGO
- Shaping the Future of Mineral Governance (Policy Roundtable) | Elisa Morgera | Grassroots Movements for Climate; OHCHR
- Translating the ICJ Advisory Opinion into Equitable Climate Action | Elisa Morgera | UNFCCC Climate Champions; The Elders; COP30 Youth Climate Champion
- Live from COP30: Student Engagement Session | All Delegates | Durham University
- Corporate Climate Responsibility: From Voluntary Action to Legal Obligation | Petra Minnerop | Science for Climate Action Pavilion
- Youth, Health and Climate Action | Elisa Morgera | UNU-IIGH; World Youth for Climate Change; OHCHR
- Global Ethical Stocktake | Elisa Morgera; Laura Marsiliani | Brazilian Government
- ACE in Action: Gendering the Just Transition | Owen Boyle | Rotary International; British University in Egypt
- International Courts and Advisory Opinions on the Climate Emergency | Petra Minnerop; Elisa Morgera | FILE; LACLIMA
- Youth Voices for Food Security and Human Rights | Elisa Morgera | YOUNGO; IAAS; Global Flagship Initiative for Food Security
- Bridging the Finance Divide | Laura Marsiliani | International Chamber of Commerce
- Gender Equality and Climate Policy Scorecard – Launch | Owen Boyle | UN Women
- Practitioners of Law Advancing Climate Mitigation and Adaptation | Petra Minnerop; Mustafa Kamran | International Bar Association; American Bar Association; Brazilian Bar Association
- Towards a People-Centred Climate Action | Elisa Morgera | COP30 Presidency; UNFCCC Gender Team
- From GC26 to COP30: Child-Sensitive Climate Action | Elisa Morgera | Terre des Hommes Germany; YOUNGO
- Press Conference: Colombia – Transition Away from Fossil Fuels | Elisa Morgera | UNFCCC; CIEL
- People's Plenary | Durham Delegates | COP30 Civil Society

For further information on Durham University's COP Delegation, please contact the JusTNOW Project Manager, Dr Owen Boyle, [owen.d.boyle@durham.ac.uk](mailto:owen.d.boyle@durham.ac.uk)



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