

Advancing the Role of Local Communities in the UNFCCC Process A Mandated Dialogue Convened by the Incoming COP 30 Presidency

Background

The COP and CMA have recognized the important role of local communities in effective action on climate change and urged Parties to actively involve them in designing and implementing climate action, as expressed in decisions 1/CP.21, 2/CP.23, 2/CP.24, 1/CP.26, 1/CMA.3, 16/CP.26, and 14/CP.29. These decisions, along with the adoption of the Baku Workplan under the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP), underscore the need to identify practical and inclusive ways to ensure that local communities are meaningfully involved in climate policy development and implementation.

In response to the mandate from COP 29, the incoming COP 30 Presidency will convene the first mandated dialogue with Parties, observers, and key stakeholders to explore how the knowledge systems, leadership, and lived experiences of local communities can be more effectively recognized and incorporated in the UNFCCC process. The dialogue will take place as part of the Implementation Forum during the [Second Climate Week](#) for this year 2025 (CW2) will be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from September 1 to September 6, 2025.

The second mandated dialogue will be held during the Pre-COP, in Brasilia, Brazil, on 13 or 14 October 2025.

The Mandated Thematic Workshop will be held in Belém, Brazil, in conjunction with COP 30, between 3 and 7 November.

Objectives of the Dialogue

- Strengthen trust and mutual understanding between local communities, Parties, and the incoming COP 30 Presidency.
- Understand the lived realities of local communities by actively listening to their experiences, key challenges and innovations.
- Showcase leadership and good practices by local communities in delivering holistic, community-based climate solutions.
- Identify concrete, scalable approaches to strengthen local community participation in NAPs and NDCs
- Provide input to the design of future dialogue(s), in an effort identify ways to further engage local communities in the UNFCCC process, including through the work of the LCIPP and its FWG

Participants

The mandated dialogue will be held as part of the Implementation Forum during Climate Week in Ethiopia, taking place on 3–4 September 2025. While the forum is open to all registered participants, active engagement from the following stakeholder groups is especially encouraged, as their contributions will enrich the dialogue and ensure a broad, inclusive exchange of perspectives:

- Local community representatives and networks from the five UN regional groups, including SIDS and LDCs.
- International organizations and knowledge partners supporting local community-led climate action.
- Party representatives, especially from countries that have integrated local community contributions in their climate strategies.

- Observers, relevant constituted bodies, and support agencies engaged in community-based adaptation and mitigation.

In the lead up to this dialogue, the incoming COP 30 Presidency will be undertaking outreach efforts to mobilize local communities to enhance their engagement in the UNFCCC process. More information will be made available through the [event webpage on the LCIPP WebPortal](#).

Proposed Date and Location

Preferred Date and Time: 3 September 2025; 14:00-18:00 **(TBC)**
 Location: Addis International Convention Center, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
 Interpretation : TBC
 Format : Hybrid (TBC)

Draft Dialogue Structure

Moderated by *incoming COP 30 Presidency (TBC)*

Time	Session Title
14:00-14:10	Opening Remarks <i>Framing the dialogue and its link to the mandates by the incoming COP 30 Presidency</i>
14:10 – 15:00	Session 1: Recognizing Local Communities in National Climate Policy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <u>Party Approaches to Local Community Inclusion</u> (20 mins) Presentation on how local communities are included in NAPs and NDCs ▪ <u>Open Dialogue</u> (30 mins) <i>Guiding Question: How is your country recognizing and including local communities in the development and implementation of national climate policies, and what lessons can be drawn to enhance their meaningful participation going forward?</i>
15:00 – 15:50	Session 2: Scaling Local Solutions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <u>Voices from the Ground - Community Exchange</u> Understanding the lived realities of local communities and showcasing good practices and innovations led by local communities in adaptation and mitigation. <i>Guiding Question: What do the lived experiences and locally led climate solutions tell us about the priorities, strengths, and needs of local communities in addressing climate change on the ground?</i>
15:50-16:00	Pause
16:00 - 16:50	Session 3: Enabling Conditions for Local Engagement

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <u>Local Leadership in Focus - A Panel</u> Presentations by representatives from local communities on the issues of engagement and leadership. ▪ <u>Community Exchange:</u> <i>Guiding Question: What enabling conditions, such as access to finance, policy inclusion, or recognition of traditional knowledge, are essential for strengthening local community leadership and meaningful engagement in climate action?</i>
16:50 - 17:40	Session 4: Listening and Learning Together <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <u>Discussions and Testimonies</u> An open space for local community representatives to share experiences and suggest future dialogue directions <i>Guiding Question: What key challenges and opportunities do local communities want to bring to the forefront and what topics or approaches should future dialogues explore to respond to these realities?</i>
17:40 – 17:50	Wrap-Up Discussion Identification of key messages, priorities, and areas for further work
17:50 - 18:00	Closing Remarks Reflections from the incoming COP 30 Presidency and next steps