

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.

- **First dialogue:** 3 September 2025, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (as a part of the Implementation Forum during the [Second Climate Week](#) – Turning Ambition into Action)
- **Second dialogue:** Pre-COP, Brasilia, Brazil, on 13 or 14 October 2025
- **Mandated Thematic Workshop:** Belém, Brazil, in conjunction with COP 30, between 3 and 7 November.

Objectives of the Dialogue

- Build trust and mutual understanding between local communities, Parties, and the incoming COP 30 Presidency.
- Listen to lived realities of local communities – their experiences, perspectives, key challenges and innovations.
- Highlight leadership and good practices in holistic, community-based climate solutions.
- Identify concrete, scalable ways to strengthen local community participation in NAPs, NDCs, and national communications.
- Inform the design of future dialogue(s), and guide the implementation of mandates concerning local communities, including work undertaken through the LCIPP and its FWG.

Participants

The dialogue will take place as part of the Implementation Forum during Climate Week in Ethiopia, and is open to all registered participants. Active engagement is especially encouraged from:

- 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 has been conducting outreach to mobilize local communities to enhance their engagement in the UNFCCC process. More information is available through the [event webpage on the LCIPP web portal](#).

Proposed Date and Location

Preferred Date and Time: 3 September 2025; 14:00-18:00

Location: Meeting Room 3, Addis International Convention Center, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Languages: Arabic, English, French, Portuguese (offered through support from incoming COP 30 Presidency) & Spanish

Format: Hybrid. Please write to LCIPP@unfccc.int, if you would like to contribute to the dialogue virtually.

Moderated by Alexandra da Costa (incoming COP 30 Presidency)

Time	Session Overview
14:00-14:10	Opening Remarks by Ronaldo Santos, Secretary of Policies for Quilombolas, Peoples and Traditional Communities of African Descent, Terreiros and Romani of the Ministry of Racial Equality
14:10 – 15:00	<p>Session 1: Community Solutions Rooted in Lived Realities <i>Objective: Spotlight frontline community voices and innovations, showing how locally-led solutions are driving stronger and more sustainable climate actions.</i></p> <p><u>Voices from the Ground - Community Exchange</u> A storytelling session where local community representatives are encouraged to share pictures and stories</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ on the shared realities and experiences that shape your community's response to climate impacts;▪ that highlights solutions or practices that your community has led to adapt to and mitigate climate change <p>Please share pictures in advance with LCIPP@unfccc.int</p> <p><i>Virtual participants are encouraged to add their community's stories on the Community Board by visiting this link:</i> https://www.kudoboard.com/boards/KS8MKNuA</p>
15:00 – 15:50	<p>Session 2: Recognizing and Empowering Local Communities in National Climate Policies and Actions <i>Objective: Examine how local communities are recognized and meaningfully engaged in national climate strategies such as NAPs and NDCs; Share experiences, challenges, and lessons to strengthen inclusive participation.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <u>Panel Discussion</u> on Party Approaches to Local Community Inclusion (20 mins) <i>Presentation on how local communities are included in national climate policies and actions</i> Panelists:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Edel Moraes, National Secretary of Traditional Peoples and Local Communities and Rural Sustainable Development, Brazil• Foday Couch Bayoh, Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, Liberia• Ministry of Forests and Environment, Nepal▪ <u>Open Dialogue</u> (30 mins) <i>Interactive discussion to share experiences and best practices from diverse country perspectives.</i>

	<p>Guiding Question: How are local communities being recognized and included in national climate policy, and what lessons can strengthen meaningful participation?</p> <p>Contributors: Expression of interest received from Gambia, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Senegal, South Sudan.</p> <p><i>Parties are encouraged to take the floor and respond to the above guiding question.</i></p>
15:50-16:00	Coffee Break
16:00 - 16:50	<p>Session 3: Enabling Conditions for Local Engagement <i>Objective: Explore how local communities organize to lead climate action and how regional organizations support their efforts, highlighting strategies, challenges, and enabling conditions that strengthen meaningful participation and leadership.</i></p> <p><u>Community Exchange</u> <i>Open discussion to share insights on enabling conditions that strengthen local leadership and engagement</i></p> <p>Guiding Question:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>For Local Communities:</u> How are you organizing yourselves to lead, collaborate, and sustain engagement in climate action? 2. <u>For organizations implementing projects:</u> How do you connect with and engage local communities, and what strategies ensure meaningful participation? <p><i>Each participant taking the floor is requested to provide a brief intervention and at the end summarize your intervention in a sentence or in a few words.</i></p>
16:50 - 17:40	<p>Session 4: Listening and Learning Together <i>Objective: Provide an open space for local community representatives to share experiences, highlight priorities, and propose directions for future dialogues.</i></p> <p>▪ <u>Discussions and Testimonies</u></p> <p>Guiding Question:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What key challenges and opportunities do local communities want to bring to the forefront? 2. What topics or approaches should future dialogues explore to respond to these realities?
17:40 – 17:50	<p>Wrap-Up Discussion Identification of key messages, priorities, and areas for further work</p>

17:50 - 18:00	Closing Remarks by Edel Moraes, National Secretary of Traditional Peoples and Local Communities and Rural Sustainable Development, Brazil
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