COP30

Key ICC Messages & Strategic Plan

The global context: The Global Climate Agenda in 2025

- 2025 marks a pivotal moment for international climate action. The window to limit global warming to 1.5°C is rapidly closing—and yet, the political and financial momentum behind the Paris Agreement faces significant challenges. Only a small number of countries have submitted robust, investable new national climate action plans for far.
- Climate finance flows continue to fall far short of what is needed to accelerate decarbonization and critical adaptation efforts, particularly in emerging market and developing economies (EMDEs). While voluntary carbon markets (VCMs) made a breakthrough with Article 6 implementation at COP29, they remain underutilized and fragmented, leaving critical opportunities for private finance untapped.
- Amid these unprecedented challenges, the global climate framework has proven resilient—mobilizing governments, civil society, and, crucially, the private sector around a shared 1.5°C goal. It has created new business opportunities, driven innovation, growth, and jobs in many areas. Since Paris, clean energy investment has increased tenfold and over 80% of global GDP is now covered by net zero targets.
- But change is not happening fast enough. If the first decade of the Paris era was about building the machinery and setting ambition, the second must focus on *delivery* at scale—on the promises from Paris, Dubai, and Baku.
- Companies are ready to act, but policy uncertainty, regulatory bottlenecks, and fragmented implementation remain major barriers—and must be addressed as a priority. The global business community looks to Belém for tangible outcomes for the real economy, on climate finance, adaptation, and market integrity, unlocking private capital and accelerating the shift from statements to real climate projects on the ground.

What COP30 should deliver for business (and the planet!)

Business has understood that climate action is no longer only about managing risks—it is also about seizing opportunities. Belém can turn this vision into reality. As the leading voice of the global real economy in the UN climate process, ICC will champion a positive, forward-looking narrative on the global climate agenda and the opportunities it creates for business—through a global campaign "The Opportunity of a Lifetime"—while driving a clear agenda for policy action around the following strategic pillars:

1. Scaling Climate Finance for Mitigation

Current climate finance flows are far from sufficient, with developing countries receiving only a fraction of what's needed for clean energy transitions and to meet the first GST goals. The Baku–Belém $1.3 trillion process is welcome, but risks remaining abstract without a concrete policy agenda to unlock private capital. ICC calls for a comprehensive package at COP30 to turbocharge climate finance, including:

- Targeted adjustment and reform of Basel III rules to enable banking sector support for green infrastructure;
- More effective deployment of capital by development banks to catalyze private investment;
- Recognition of trade finance as a key enabler of climate-aligned growth;
- Delivery of concrete financing plans and investment roadmaps at the center of countries' new climate commitments to be delivered ahead of COP30.

2. Driving Private Investment in Climate Adaptation

Climate adaptation remains severely underfunded, receiving less than 10% of global climate finance, while the business case for investing in resilience is not widely understood. ICC will advocate for:

- Development of investable adaptation pipelines – backed by enhanced climate risk data, impact metrics and effective policies & incentives;
- Fully embedding private sector action and contributions into National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and the Global Goal on Adaptation;
- Creating and scaling of new instruments to price and transfer climate risk, including insurance solutions and resilience bonds.

3. Strengthening Article 6 and Voluntary Carbon Markets (VCMs)

Article 6 activities and voluntary markets can play a vital role in mobilising climate finance and conserving natural ecosystems — if designed and implement with integrity. ICC will work towards securing:

- Explicit recognition in new national climate plans of the role that Article 6 and VCMs can play in accelerating emissions reductions—supported by clear legal and regulatory frameworks;
- Global alignment on the acceptable uses of carbon credits to provide businesses with the confidence needed to scale investment;

- New tools and standards to strengthen transparency, credibility, and liquidity in voluntary markets

What ICC will bring to COP30: key deliverables

- To advance these calls, ICC has developed a series of policy papers on issues central to advance collective efforts and deliver on achieved outcomes. These will form the basis of a concerted advocacy effort ahead of and at COP30, including:
  - Flagship papers showing how current macroprudential rules restrict private capital flows into climate projects in EMDEs, with targeted "quick fixes" and longer-term reforms to recalibrate Basel III.
  - A new commissioned study on private sector engagement in adaptation—identifying barriers, scalable financial and insurance models and enabling policies to unlock capital at scale.
  - Work with the UK–Kenya–Singapore Coalition to expand VCMs, including the launch of principles for responsible corporate use of high-quality credits in Belem, and report with key insights on status of carbon markets.
  - Contribution to COP30 climate & trade dialogues, building on ICC Global Principles for effective carbon border adjustments and forging a pathway toward agreement on shared principles.
  - ICC Call to Action "Antitrust Enforcers for Climate Action" & ICC Practical Guide on Sustainability Agreements
  - Joint ICC/Sage report on taking stock of SME climate action, through time-series data, most effective policy levers and enablers.

Key engagements on the road to Belem

- ICC Chair Philippe Varin, ICC Secretary General John W.H. Denton AO and ICC policy team have been and will be participating in high-level events and bilateral engagements with Ministers and Heads of States as well as technical negotiators to discuss critical path issues and convey important key messages from the global business community for a successful outcome in Belem.
- Milestone events include:
  - Petersberg Ministerial Dialogue, 25-26 March, Berlin
  - Copenhagen Climate Ministerial, 7-8 May, Copenhagen
  - UNFCCC Intersessional Meeting in preparation for COP30, 16-26 June, Bonn
  - UN General Assembly Week (UNGA 80) and UN Secretary General Climate Summit, 24 September, New York

- Pre-COP28, 13-14 October, Brasilia,
- COP30 World Leaders' Summit, 6-7 November, Belem

Our presence in Belem

- Building on the success of past COPs—where ICC brought the largest business delegation and delivered impactful programming with 500 physical and hybrid engagements since COP27—we will again ensure a strong presence at COP30.
- A 150 sqm pavilion in the COP30 Blue will provide a unique space for public-private dialogue on the solutions and policy reforms needed to deliver on the Paris Agreement and, for the first time, an ICC boat for special events, luncheons, and dinner receptions.
- The ICC COP30 team will be on the ground in Belem throughout the Summit—and will host daily business briefings for members of our delegation, providing first-hand insights on the progress of the intergovernmental negotiations. The team will also actively engage in the COP30 negotiations to provide the real economy perspective on high stake issues on the table throughout the conference.

About the International Chamber of Commerce

The International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) is the institutional representative of more than 45 million companies in over 170 countries. ICC's core mission is to make business work for everyone, every day, everywhere. Through a unique mix of advocacy, solutions and standard setting, we promote international trade, responsible business conduct and a global approach to regulation, in addition to providing market-leading dispute resolution services. Our members include many of the world's leading companies, SMEs, business associations and local chambers of commerce.

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