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The [LAYCS Fellowship](#) is a capacity and leadership strengthening program designed to support young Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPoC) leaders from Latin America in deepening their engagement in international climate policy spaces, this year with a special focus on Just Transition and Adaptation. These briefings reflect our values: sharing knowledge, opening doors, and making negotiation spaces more accessible to the wider youth movement. By publishing them, we aim to bring others closer to the process and strengthen collective strategies for climate justice. If you have any questions or feedback, please reach out via info@laycs.org, [LinkedIn](#) or [Instagram](#).

Context

Climate adaptation is now more urgent than ever. Discussions and negotiations on the effects of climate change are no longer focused solely on the future but are now centered on the impacts that are already affecting communities and regions around the world. However, this reality did not translate into sufficiently ambitious progress during COP30, particularly regarding adaptation that prioritizes people and the well-being of communities.

COP30 marked an important step forward with the adoption of the Belém Indicators (BAI) under the Global Adaptation Goal (GGA) framework. However, various experts and negotiators have pointed out that the current proposal still has significant limitations for its application at the national and local levels, especially regarding the availability of data, metadata, and methodologies that are comparable across countries and contexts.

In response to these challenges, alongside the adoption of the Belém Indicators, the Parties agreed on a two-year work plan called the Belém–Addis Vision, aimed at strengthening the operationalization and applicability of the indicators.

Simultaneously, the GGA agenda item must advance the definition and implementation of the Baku Adaptation Roadmap (BAR), considered a key element for guiding collective progress on adaptation.

Why is this important?

Climate adaptation is essential to reducing vulnerabilities to the inevitable impacts of the climate crisis, protecting lives, livelihoods, and ecosystems. It cannot move forward without the full and effective inclusion of the voices of youth, children, women and people of diverse genders, Indigenous peoples, local communities, migrants, and people of African descent. Likewise, we recognize the importance of integrating a human rights-based approach, as well as the value of traditional, local, and ancestral knowledge, in conjunction with science, as fundamental pillars for strengthening climate resilience.

Adaptation must be approached by placing people and communities at the center of actions and decisions emphasizing the need to promote mechanisms, tools, and frameworks that enable effective and applicable implementation at the local level.

Recommendations

We present the following strategic priorities and demands, developed from a Latin American perspective, with the aim of strengthening the ambition and effective implementation of international commitments at SB64.

Baku Adaptation Roadmap (BAR)

- The BAR must be a tool that integrates all adaptation processes and the implementation of the Global Adaptation Goal (GGA) and the UAE Global Climate Resilience Framework.
- The Means of Implementation (MOI) must be central to the BAR's working process to ensure the effective implementation of adaptation measures across different territories.
- The BAR should function as a practical mechanism to guide and accelerate concrete actions within the UNFCCC architecture and generate greater accountability among parties in the preparation of new reports.
- It is essential that it maintains coherence within the adaptation architecture, linking the GGA processes, National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), climate funds, indicators, technical bodies, and financing.
- The BAR should lead to a negotiated outcome that incorporates the conclusions of the workshops into policy decisions.

Belém–Addis Vision

- The Belém–Addis Vision task force must include representation of a transdisciplinary and representative group of experts, including both from Parties and non-Parties stakeholders, especially rights-based civil society constituencies like environmental NGOs, Indigenous Peoples Organizations, feminist organizations and youth organizations.
- It is important that coordination between the Belém–Addis Vision and the BAR is ensured.
- It is essential that the vision creates spaces and methods to test the feasibility of the adopted indicators and allow for their modification if necessary, with the aim of improving their applicability.
- The integration of indigenous and local community ancestral knowledge needs to be central to the application and testing of the adopted Belém Adaptation indicators.
- It is essential to secure funding to test and validate the indicators adopted in Belém.
- It is crucial to issue a call for submissions to monitor the implementation of the indicators, as well as the respective lessons learned.

Adaptation Finance

- Financing must be accessible and local, with direct mechanisms for communities and decentralized management that does not perpetuate inequalities.
- Parties need to establish an action plan to triple adaptation financing by 2035 and take this decision under the agenda item "Matters related to the Global Goal on Adaptation".
- Public and highly concessional financing must remain the backbone of Adaptation Finance, while private investments can only complement when not undermining justice and human rights considerations.
- Transparency, inclusion, and intergenerational, racial, and gender equity must guide all financial flows.
- Parties need to prioritize direct financing for Indigenous and community organizations in discussions on adaptation.

Other key points

- Integrate adaptation with climate finance, NAPs, BTRs, and the upcoming Global Stocktake (GST2).
- Recognize the leadership and work of Indigenous peoples, local communities, and Afro-descendants as frontline defenders.
- Ensure greater access to resources for effective participation in international decision-making spaces: accreditations, financial resources, interpretation, and capacity building for Indigenous youth and youth of African descent.
- Support the creation of constituencies for local communities and for Afro-descendant peoples to ensure their recognition and effective participation.
- Recognize the vulnerabilities and historical leadership of LGBTQ+ people.
- Promote the recognition of all biomes as essential for climate balance.
- Emphasize the protection of human rights and territorial defenders, recognizing them as a vulnerable group.

Authors



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