

Outcomes of This Year's COP and G20 Summits

The G20 Summit in Rio de Janeiro concluded with several notable achievements. Member nations reaffirmed their commitment to keeping the 1.5°C global warming target alive. Additionally, the UK spearheaded the launch of the Global Clean Power Alliance, which garnered the support of 12 countries. In a significant move, the G20 nations—responsible for around 80% of annual global emissions—reached a landmark agreement to implement a wealth tax on the ultra-rich. This measure aims to accelerate progress toward critical climate and social goals for 2030.

In contrast, progress at COP29, held in Baku, Azerbaijan, has been more complex. Nearly 200 countries are working to forge agreements on key climate issues, including climate finance and emission reduction plans. Negotiations have been slow, particularly around provisions to provide financial support to developing nations for transitioning away from fossil fuels and adapting to climate impacts.

Please find some of the key outcomes from this year's COP below.

1. Carbon Market Agreement (Article 6)

A major achievement was the consensus on implementing international standards for carbon markets under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement. This framework aims to facilitate efficient carbon trading, which could redirect significant resources to developing nations and help reduce global emissions more cost-effectively. The new mechanism promises to save up to \$250 billion annually while accelerating climate action.

2. Climate Finance

This year's COP summit witnessed intense debates over funding, with discussions close to teetering on collapse when the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS)—representing some of the most climate-vulnerable nations—staged a walkout during the proceedings. Initially scheduled to conclude at 6 PM on Friday, the Summit extended into the early hours of Sunday, November 24 when the remaining countries (nearly 200), finally reached an agreement, narrowly averting failure.

The finalised deal commits \$300 billion annually to developing nations until 2035—a \$50 billion increase over the \$250 billion proposed in a draft text on Friday, which was rejected. However, this figure remains far below the \$1.3 trillion sought by developing nations to support their transition from fossil fuels and adapt to climate impacts.

The \$300 billion figure includes both public and private funding sources, meaning not all contributions must come from governments. The text also sets a broader aspiration to reach \$1.3 trillion by 2035—a figure identified in a recent UN-backed report as necessary for developing nations to access from external sources.

Responses to the agreement have been mixed. India’s representative labelled the \$300 billion commitment as “abysmally poor” and a “paltry sum.”

However, a key controversy does lie in the roles of China and India. Both remain classified as net recipients under the original 1990s framework, despite their considerable economic growth since then. Many argue that these nations should now contribute financially. The final text states that developed nations should “take the lead,” leaving room for countries such as China to potentially contribute but not mandating them to do so.

On a positive note, the deal reaffirms last year’s landmark commitment to transition away from fossil fuels (coal, oil, and gas). During proceedings, concerns were raised during negotiations that this might be omitted, as many Gulf states opposed its inclusion.

Additionally, the text mentions that “transitional fuels can play a role in facilitating the energy transition while ensuring energy security,” a provision that often includes natural gas. This has sparked fears that some countries might exploit this language to justify continued gas extraction and consumption.

While the agreement reflects incremental progress, some argue that it leaves key financial and energy-transition issues unresolved, raising questions about its ability to adequately address the needs of the most climate-vulnerable nations.

3. Global Methane Pledge Implementation and Reducing Methane from Organic Waste

Building on the Global Methane Pledge from COP26, which aims for a 30% reduction in methane emissions from 2020 levels by 2030, COP29 focused on advancing sector-specific methane abatement strategies. This includes improving monitoring, reporting, and verification (MRV) systems in the fossil energy sector. The European Commission also launched the Methane Abatement Partnership Roadmap to foster international collaboration and industry action.

Over 30 nations signed the "Reducing Methane from Organic Waste Declaration," committing to create policies and roadmaps targeting methane emissions in waste management. These countries account for nearly half of global methane emissions from organic waste and include major emitters like the United States, Brazil, and Japan. This initiative is seen as a critical step to achieving the broader goals of the Global Methane Pledge. To read more on this from Jenny Grant, the REA’s Head of Organics, please click [here](#).

4. COP29 Global Energy Storage and Grids Pledge

This Pledge was developed in partnership with UNECE and UNIDO, this initiative aims to significantly boost global energy storage and grid capacity.

- Energy Storage Goals: Sets a target to increase installed energy storage capacity to **1,500 GW by 2030**, six times the capacity of 2022. This target allows parties to contribute through nationally determined actions.
- Grid Development Goals: Aims to add or refurbish over **80 million kilometres of grids by 2040** to facilitate green energy expansion.

The Pledge will be open to a range of endorsers from governments, the private sector, civil society, UN agencies, and international organisations, in recognition of the range of actors that will have a role to play in supporting the expansion of global storage capacity and grid development. Additionally, the Pledge seeks to enhance renewable energy integration and expand grid infrastructure to support hydrogen and other clean energy sources.

5. Hydrogen: COP29 Hydrogen Declaration

This is a declaration which sets ambitious goals for expanding the production and deployment of green and low-carbon hydrogen. Currently, approximately 96 million tonnes of hydrogen are produced from fossil fuels annually, while green hydrogen accounts for only 1 million tonnes. The Declaration aims to address this imbalance by scaling up clean hydrogen production and decarbonising existing hydrogen supply chains.

Key commitments under the Hydrogen Declaration include:

- Establishing international standards and certification schemes for hydrogen to facilitate trade and enhance market integration.
- Accelerating the adoption of hydrogen through public-private partnerships, incentives, and mandates.
- Promoting the development of hydrogen storage, transportation infrastructure, and sustainable industrial applications.

6. Global Water Resilience Agenda

Though no formal agreements on this as yet, COP29 emphasised cross-sectoral collaboration to strengthen water systems' resilience against climate risks. This initiative aims to integrate data, science, and innovative technologies, such as AI and citizen science, to improve water system management. It also highlights the importance of bottom-up approaches, engaging communities in sustainable water practices.

7. The COP29 Green Energy Zones and Corridors Pledge

This Pledge aims to accelerate the global energy transition by establishing renewable energy hubs and creating energy corridors to connect them. It promotes large-scale infrastructure projects, policy support, and financing to develop and integrate green energy systems into national and international grids. Legislators and stakeholders from

over 30 countries have committed to enabling these zones and corridors, fostering private sector collaboration and international partnerships to meet renewable energy goals and enhance grid interconnection.

8. The Baku Initiative for Climate Finance, Investment and Trade (BICFIT)

The initiative, co-led by the COP29 Presidency, UNCTAD, and UNDP, aims to integrate climate finance, investment, trade, and sustainable development agendas. This new partnership will serve as a global platform for policy development, knowledge sharing, and climate investment promotion. BICFIT will help build the capacity of parties to embed climate finance, investment, and trade into national policies and development plans, while also fostering the creation of national, regional, and sub-regional platforms. These platforms will support the design and preparation of bankable climate projects, ensuring alignment with development goals at local levels and enhancing the capacity to attract climate-positive investments.

Looking Ahead: The need for a Call for Action and Continued Commitment

While progress was made in key areas, the overarching theme at COP29 and the G20 summit was the recognition that ambitious climate goals require not just pledges but effective implementation and robust financial commitments. The transition to renewable energy is accelerating, with the **International Energy Agency** forecasting a **2.7-fold increase** in global renewable capacity by 2030. However, the success of these transitions will depend heavily on closing the financing gap, ensuring equitable resource distribution, and fostering stronger international cooperation.

COP29 and the G20 summit has highlighted both the urgency of climate action and the need for deeper collaboration. As renewable energy technologies continue to scale, ensuring that financial and structural support matches the scale of ambition will be essential for achieving the global climate goals set in Paris. The pledges made this year are a step in the right direction, but they need to be backed by immediate, on-the-ground actions to ensure the world remains on track to limit global warming to 1.5°C.

For more information, please contact policy@r-e-a.net.