CCSA Briefing Note

COP30: Key Outcomes & Implications

Wednesday, 03 December 2025

Summary

The Carbon Capture and Storage Association (CCSA) attended COP30 **in Belém, Brazil (10–22 November 2025)**, represented by CCSA's CEO, Olivia Powis, and the EU Deputy Director, Stefano Miriello, and joined by representatives of Energex Partners, Tree Associates, and Mission Zero Technologies.

COP30 concluded with the adoption of the **Belém Political Package**, following two intensive weeks of negotiations. While the final outcomes reinforce the importance of climate multilateralism, they fall short of the clarity and ambition needed to accelerate global mitigation efforts.

This briefing summarises the most relevant outcomes for the CCUS and CDR sector, with particular focus on **Article 6** of the Paris Agreement, and COP30's bottlenecks (**Fossil Fuel Roadmap & Mitigation)**, and provides an overview of CCSA's participation at COP30.

Further Details

1. Key Messages & Strategic Implications for CCUS

- **The Global Mutirão:** The overarching decision formally recognises that the carbon budget for 1.5°C is depleted and urges a global mobilisation ('Mutirão') to keep the target within reach. It establishes a voluntary **Global Implementation Accelerator** to support Nationally Determined Contributions ('NDCs') and National Adaptation Plans.
- **Article 6 Operationalised:** Negotiations successfully advanced essential rules for transparency, reporting, and governance. This technical clarity is critical for enabling bilateral and multilateral carbon trading between countries (under Art. 6.2) and future CCUS-related crediting (under Art. 6.4).
- **Mitigation Ambition Shifted:** Mitigation ambition and fossil fuel language were politically blocked, shifting meaningful progress to a new Presidency-led Fossil Fuel Roadmap outside the formal negotiation texts.
- **Global CCUS Momentum:** Despite political bottlenecks, CCUS momentum remains strong. The **Carbon Management Challenge** reaffirmed global commitment, and CCSA strengthened international visibility through three hosted events and a dedicated UNFCCC exhibit.

1.1. Risks & Watchouts

- **Overshoot Risk:** The acknowledgment that 1.5°C may be overshot requires urgent scaling of mitigation. If global policy signals remain weak, reliance on market mechanisms (credits, CCUS) will grow, but this depends on credible demand signals.

- **Policy Fragmentation:** The lack of a binding fossil fuel roadmap in the COP text means key decisions may shift outside formal UN processes, potentially fragmenting the regulatory landscape.

2. Overall Outcomes: The 'Belém Political Package'

2.1. The "Global Mutirão" & Implementation

COP30 closed on 22 November after intense negotiations. The resulting **Belém Political Package** shifts the global focus from negotiation to implementation. It reaffirms Paris goals but places heavy emphasis on transparency and financing pathways.

- **The Global Mutirão decision** – the political umbrella for COP30**:** The decision recognises the need to accelerate NDC implementation, enhances transparency provisions, and links mitigation gaps to finance gaps.
- **The Gap:** The Mutirão did not resolve the most politically sensitive mitigation issues, deferring them to 2026.
- **Finance & Trade:** The package launches a two-year work programme on climate finance and "takes note" of the Baku to Belém Roadmap for mobilising US$ 1.3 trillion annually by 2035. Crucially, new annual dialogues (2026–2028) were established to discuss unilateral trade measures (UTMs) (such as CBAMs) involving the WTO and UNCTAD.

2.2. Article 6 Progress: The "Rulebook" for a global carbon market

In brief, **Article 6 of the Paris Agreement** sets out how countries can cooperate voluntarily to achieve their climate targets through trading carbon credits. It enables international collaboration and can help unlock finance for mitigation, particularly in developing countries.

Under the Kyoto Protocol, developing countries had **no binding decarbonisation obligations** and could sell carbon credits internationally without making deductions from their own accounts. Under the Paris Agreement, however, **all countries have Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)**. This means that any country authorising the transfer of mitigation outcomes (ITMOs) must ensure that such transfers do not jeopardise the achievement of its own NDC. As a result, **corresponding adjustments** and robust accounting rules are now central to Article 6 implementation.

At COP29 in Baku, countries agreed on the **core Article 6 rulebook**, with the expectation that no further formal negotiations would take place until the scheduled 2028 review. In practice, however, the administrative and technical issues that remained on the COP30 agenda in Belém proved more complex than anticipated. The final decisions adopted in Belém therefore introduce **incremental, but important, improvements** to the functioning and oversight of both Article 6.2 and 6.4.

A full explanation of Article 6 and its relevance for CCUS and CDR, as well as outcomes of COP29 is available here.

Article 6.2 (Internationally Transferred Mitigation Outcomes – ITMOs)

- **Context:** Article 6.2 governs country-to-country transfers (ITMOs), which provides the legal basis for countries to trade emission reductions and removals with one another through bilateral or multilateral agreements.
- **The Issue:** The first six "Initial Reports" (from early movers covering Ghana, Guyana, Suriname, Switzerland, Thailand and Vanuatu) revealed inconsistencies in how trades were authorised and reported.
- **COP30 Outcome:** The COP30 decision requires TER teams to clearly explain findings and to feed lessons into capacity building and guidance — including an informal, facilitative dialogue in 2026 to identify recurring themes.
- **CCUS Implication:** This enhances transparency and predictability. For cross-border CCS projects (e.g., UK-EU-Norway), stricter reporting rules reduce the risk of double-counting and increase confidence in the regulatory framework governing CO_2 transfers.

Article 6.4 (Carbon Credit Mechanism under the Paris Agreement)

- **Context:** Article 6.4 establishes the new **UN-supervised crediting mechanism**, replacing the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) from the Kyoto Protocol.
- **COP30 Outcome:** The COP30 decision adopted technical guidance and standards (methodologies, standards on baseline setting, additionality, leakage, non-permanence, etc.) and **stressed governance and conflict-of-interest rules** for the Supervisory Body. The decision extends the window for transitioning CDM activities into the 6.4 mechanism (formal transition provisions are included) and set budget/capacity priorities for the Supervisory Body to enable participation by developing country host parties.
- **Adopted Standards:** The Supervisory Body adopted the following standards, which will enable the development and approval of methodologies for and the registration of activities under the mechanism:
    - "Standard: Setting the baseline in mechanism methodologies",
    - "Standard: Demonstration of additionality in mechanism methodologies"
    - "Standard: Addressing leakage in mechanism methodologies"
    - "Standard: Addressing suppressed demand in mechanism methodologies"
    - "Standard: Addressing non-permanence and reversals in mechanism methodologies"
- **Implications for CDR:** While the mechanism includes both emission reductions (CCS) and removals, the adoption of non-permanence standards is a vital step for engineered carbon removals (CDR) a seeking to generate high-integrity credits, durable carbon removal credits. For broader CCS applications, the rules provide a necessary technical framework for emission reductions, yet the mechanism's overall relevance remains constrained by its slow pace of development. The extension of the CDM transition offers a longer runway for existing projects to migrate to the new Paris-aligned system, but does not solve the delay for new market entrants.

3. Bottlenecks: Fossil-fuel roadmap & Mitigation

3.1 Fossil Fuel Roadmap – Outside the Agreed Texts

The final text notably omits explicit "fossil fuel phase-out" language. Instead, the COP30 Presidency announced **two Presidency-led Roadmaps** (on Fossil Fuels and Deforestation) to be developed outside the negotiated decisions.

- **How:** These roadmaps will rely on high-level dialogues and report back at COP31. They will draw on outcomes from the **first international conference on fossil fuel phase-out**, co-hosted by Colombia and the Netherlands in April 2026.
- **CCUS Opportunity:** Although informal, this platform represents a significant avenue for advocacy. It opens a structured forum where CCSA members can articulate the role of CCUS in a "managed decline" of fossil fuels and the necessity of carbon management for hard-to-abate sectors.

3.2 Mitigation Work Programme (MWP)

Outcomes here were viewed as insufficiently ambitious by key parties (EU, AILAC). The final text fails to close the emissions gap, placing greater emphasis on national and regional policies rather than global mandates.

- **Implication:** CCUS developers face a twofold environment: stronger technical certainty under Article 6, but weaker global political demand signals. This increases the importance of durable national regulatory demand (e.g., UK/EU cluster policies) and public procurement of low-carbon products.

4. Future COPs & Process Reform

Future hosts have been confirmed with a unique arrangement for 2026:

- **COP31 (2026):** Will take place in **Antalya, Türkiye** (9–20 November). Uniquely, **Australia** will serve as the "President of Negotiations," splitting the logistical and political roles.
- **COP32 (2027):** Will be held in **Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**, marking the first COP hosted by a Least Developed Country (LDC).

5. CCSA Events and Engagement at COP30

CCSA delivered a strong programme reinforcing UK and EU leadership in carbon management. As an organisation with UNFCCC official observer status, the CCSA is able to both attend and take a delegation of members with us to COP meetings. We also jointly host the only official UNFCCC Side Event on CCUS along with our partners; IEAGHG, University of Texas, International CCS Knowledge Center and Bellona.

5.1. Events Hosted / Co-Hosted

- **Role of Non-State Actors in Delivering CCS, including for LATAM Countires (Official UNFCCC Side Event):** Co-hosted with IEAGHG and University of Texas, International CCS Knowledge Center and Bellona focusing on delivery in LATAM countries. They were joined by speakers from CCS Brasil, Mexico CCS Platform and Trinidad & Tobago.
    - **Patrick McDonald Asst Dep Minister**, Alberta opened the session outlining progress in Alberta, before we heard from each of the regions and their projects and steps taken towards a CCUS industry and market and **Rachel Kyte UK Special Representative for Climate, UK** provided closing remarks, underlining that CCS is essential for meeting the UK's climate commitments and for supporting its industrial strategy. Market conditions must allow the sector to grow and the government has an active role in shaping the framework.

- **Unlocking the Green Economy through Carbon Capture Utilization and Storage – Emerging Global Markets** with Energex Partners, Tree Associates and CCS International knowledge Centre. The panel outlined their experience in delivering projects in the Middle East, Canada and emerging markets including post-conflict re-builds. Key points to note are that technology is not the issue, in emerging markets we need to develop the economic policies, drive the demand for low carbon products and fund early state projects. China is able to deliver projects in 18 months at $40/tonne - how can we speed up delivery and learn lessons from successful projects in areas such as planning and permitting.

5.2. Speaking Engagements

CCSA representatives spoke at high-profile sessions including:

- **Unlocking Large-Scale CCS (with Equinor):** Lessons from Europe's First-Mover Projects Highlighted lessons from Europe's first-mover projects, emphasizing cross-chain risk management. DNV presented their CCUS Outlook – noting "in terms of scope, the role of CCUS is delivering net zero is roughly the same as nuclear". The conversation focused on the policy frameworks necessary to scale-up CCUS, the need to address cross-chain risk, the importance of cross-border CO2 transport and storage to open up markets, drive competition and have consistent standards - and the EU's NZIA storage obligation needing to also have certainty (and funding) for emitters and the need to drive low carbon product markets.

- **GCCSI & International CCS Knowledge Centre**: "Driving Climate Ambitions through Carbon Management Project Learnings" - with the conversation focusing on how to adapt learnings to different regions - what drives CCUS and GGRs is different depending on emissions, storage capability and wider economic drivers.

- **Patch Roundtable:** On internal carbon pricing and engineered removals with Nokia Brazil, ServiceNow and Dr Injy Johnstone (University of Oxford) to explore how companies are tying

climate action directly to business value; from internal carbon pricing and budgeting, to embedding sustainability experts across the enterprise, to leveraging carbon markets as pragmatic tools for decarbonization. Representing engineered removals, I emphasised the need for certainty and volume from the private sector to drive the market for long-term capital investments.

- **CCS Brazil Carbon Management Evening**: focusing on the CCUS market in Brazil, incl. recent new legislation ("Fuels of the Future" Bill) passed in Brazil, marking its first legal framework for CCS, focusing on regulating and inspecting activities involving the capture, transportation, and geological storage of CO2.

- **Carbon Management Challenge Ministerial:** Highlighting the goal to manage 1 Gt of CO_2 annually by 2030. The Carbon Management Challenge now consists of 23 states who have committed to advancing a pipeline of projects by 2030, that when fully operational, will collectively manage 1 gigatonne (Gt) of CO2 or more annually.
  Attendees updated on their national progress and committed to progressing the 3 workstream areas;
  1. Developing country project finance (Kenya, Indonesia, United States)
  2. Project deployment & project tracking (Brazil)
  3. Strategic communication & engagement (Saudi Arabia, UK)

Across these sessions, key messages included:

- Cross-chain risk management and cross-border CO_2 transport
- Need for early-stage finance and demand creation in emerging markets
- Lessons from international CCS deployment (Middle East, Canada, China)
- The importance of standards, permitting reform and policy coherence

5.3. Additional Participation

CCSA also participated in numerous bilateral meetings, informal dialogues, and constituency sessions. In particular, the CCSA delegation engaged in several activities attended by the EU Delegation to COP30.

CCSA co-hosted an **official CCS Pavilion/Exhibit (18–21 November)** together with IEAGHG, the University of Texas at Austin, and the International CCS Knowledge Centre, which showcased international CCUS progress to governments, NGOs and negotiators.

5.4. Key Partnership Outcomes

- **UK–New Zealand Memorandum of Cooperation:** Signed during COP30, this agreement enhances collaboration on clean energy, explicitly including **CCUS**, signaling continued UK leadership in exporting carbon management expertise.