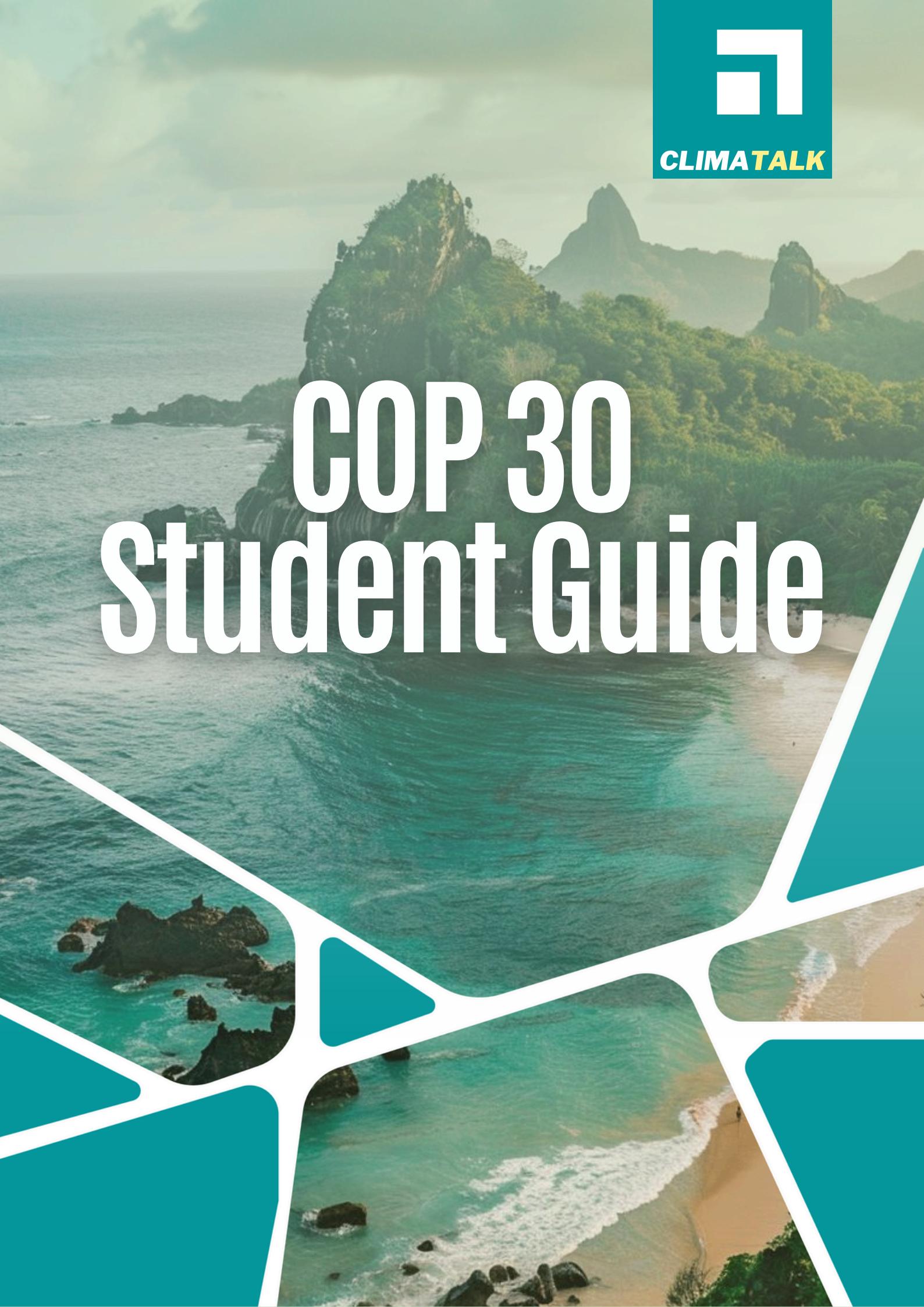




CLIMATALK

COP 30 Student Guide



Foreword



At ClimaTalk, we believe that climate action belongs to everyone, no matter what you study, where you come from, or how much you already know. This student guide explores how different academic disciplines can make an impact in the fight against climate change and how you can get involved with COP30; that is the 30th United Nations Climate Change Conference, which will take place in Belém, Brazil, from November 10th-21st, 2025.

Our mission is simple: to make climate discussions accessible, engaging, and empowering. Whether you're a climate activist, a curious student, or just wondering how your subject connects to the bigger picture: this guide is for you. From economics to literature, from law to medicine, every field has something to offer in tackling the climate crisis.

It's not always obvious how your studies link to climate action but that's exactly the gap we aim to bridge. COP30 matters to all of us, because the decisions made there will shape our shared future and that future needs diverse voices, ideas, and skills – including yours.

ClimaTalk is built by young people for young people. We believe that understanding leads to action, and that change starts when we see ourselves as part of the solution. This guide is here to help you make that connection: to see how your discipline, your creativity, and your voice can drive real change.



Climate action isn't limited to one type of student or one kind of career. It's for everyone. So dive in, get inspired, and discover how you can help shape the conversations that shape the planet.

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Literature

WHY DOES COP30 MATTER FOR SOMEONE LIKE ME?

Literature often reflects or critiques reality, and climate change is one of the most urgent realities we face. Many literary works imagine dystopian futures. Climate fiction (cli-fi) in particular warns us of what could happen if global action, like that at COP, fails. Therefore, engaging with COP helps you understand these warnings in context. Since many literature students move into journalism or media-related fields, having a grasp of COP means you can report on or analyze these events with depth and nuance. Even if it seems outside the literary realm, **COP isn't just policy: it's a story unfolding in real time, and one that literature has long been trying to tell.** Understanding it gives your interpretations and future writing real-world relevance.

HOW CAN I ENGAGE WITH COP NEGOTIATION TRACK TOPICS?

- Analyzing how these themes appear in fiction, poetry, or non-fiction.
- Exploring how authors represent environmental justice, displacement, or inequality, and connect those narratives to real-world COP discussions
- Drawing parallels between literary warnings and current policy debates
- Helping readers to connect with the stakes of climate negotiations on an emotional level by creating stories to humanize abstract COP issues.



Literary studies teach you the skills necessary to make climate topics accessible and compelling.

WHICH NEGOTIATION STREAM WOULD BE PARTICULARLY INTERESTING FOR ME?

Adaptation as it deals with events that reshape not only landscapes but also the stories we tell. Literature has long reflected environmental crises, such as Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*, which captured lives disrupted by the Great Dust Bowl. Modern climate change alters national narratives, influencing both fiction and non-fiction.

Loss and Damage is also vital as it forces global recognition of irreversible harms, thus raising ethical questions around responsibility and justice, often central to literature.

Climate finance reveals the unequal power dynamics in global storytelling: who gets the resources to survive, who is left behind, and who gets to tell the story.

NDCs (nationally determined contributions) allow countries to construct their identity and moral stance through carefully chosen language.

HOW WILL THE DECISIONS AT COP IMPACT MY LIFE AND MY STUDIES?

Decisions made at COP30 will shape the global narrative around climate change (its urgency, justice, and future vision) which literature students both study and help create. As climate policy impacts lives, it also transforms the themes explored in literature: displacement, resilience, ecological grief, and identity. These outcomes may influence whose stories are preserved and whose are lost, making literature a vital space for cultural memory. COP30 could become the inspiration for and/or material of future storytelling, similar to how the Kyoto Protocol was adapted in the play *The Contingency Plan*.

HOW CAN I MAKE A POSITIVE IMPACT ON CLIMATE ACTION?

You can have a lasting positive impact on climate action by using storytelling to make climate issues more relatable and urgent. Through essays, fiction, poetry, or journalism, you can explore the human side of climate change; that is amplify marginalized voices, imagine sustainable futures, or critique inaction. You could also analyze and teach climate-related literature, helping others understand its relevance. Engaging with real-world processes like COP in your work bridges the gap between art and action, turning literature into a tool for awareness, empathy, and change. Your words can influence how people think, feel, and respond to the climate crisis.

WHY DOES COP30 MATTER FOR SOMEONE LIKE ME?

- Introduction to climate (fiction) in global cultures and histories: <https://www.science.smith.edu/climatelit/>
- Climate Fiction Writers League - Climate Activism through fiction: <https://climate-fiction.org>
- Climate Fiction (Grist): How is fiction used to imagine climate futures: <https://grist.org/climate-fiction/>



Law

WHY DOES COP30 MATTER FOR SOMEONE LIKE ME?

If you work in law, the COP process matters more than most people realise. It's where countries debate, bargain, and ultimately decide how climate commitments take shape. Every decision there filters down into national policies, corporate duties, and the frameworks lawyers like us rely on. It is important to read the decisions, trace how they influence domestic laws, and watch how they shift global accountability. You'll start to see how international climate politics directly shapes contracts, finance, and litigation. **That's the real lesson. The real mistake would be thinking it affects climate alone.**

HOW CAN I ENGAGE WITH COP NEGOTIATION TRACK TOPICS?

- Pick one negotiation track that genuinely interests you - say, loss & damage or climate finance - and trace how it plays out across several COPs.
- Analyse the legal language of the operating treaties (Paris agreement, UNFCCC), and the negotiation texts, track the stakeholders driving it, and connect it to national and international implementation or case law.
- You could also write policy briefs or opinion pieces linking negotiation outcomes to real-world impacts.



It's the best way to bridge theory with practice and show that you understand how international climate decisions translate into local legal and policy action.

WHICH NEGOTIATION STREAM WOULD BE PARTICULARLY INTERESTING FOR ME?

Article 6 is where law, markets, and climate intersect. It governs how countries and companies trade carbon credits under international rules. The legal, contractual, and ethical dimensions are complex, and that's what makes it fascinating.

Finance is equally critical because it shapes how adaptation and mitigation projects are funded, structured, and verified.

Following these tracks helps you understand where the real power dynamics lie, i.e., who pays, who benefits, and under what conditions. For a law student interested in structuring, deals, or sustainable investments, these negotiations always reveal how global commitments become financial mechanisms and contractual obligations. It's the most practical way to see climate diplomacy translated into real economic value and enforceable legal frameworks.

HOW WILL THE DECISIONS AT COP IMPACT MY LIFE AND MY STUDIES?

COP30 is set to reshape climate and sustainability law, influencing what students study and the expertise employers seek. New targets, finance mechanisms, and compliance frameworks will drive demand for professionals who understand both policy and implementation. As COP30 marks a major checkpoint for updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), it will bring stronger commitments and clearer rules. This shift will expand opportunities in climate disclosure, carbon markets, ESG regulation, and cross-border advisory. Legal and technical climate literacy will become essential, as climate accountability moves from policy into business operations, investment, and litigation.

HOW CAN I MAKE A POSITIVE IMPACT ON CLIMATE ACTION?

Impact comes from making the abstract enforceable. You can drive real change by helping translate climate commitments into contracts, policies, and corporate strategies that hold up legally. Whether it's drafting sustainable finance frameworks, advising on carbon market deals, or ensuring compliance with ESG regulations, every piece of legal work can push the system toward accountability. The key is to rely on your strengths and use legal tools not just to manage risk but to unlock real impact.

WHY DOES COP30 MATTER FOR SOMEONE LIKE ME?

- Check out Legal Response International's repository of legal opinions on everything that has been going on at COP (<https://legalresponse.org/legal-assistance/>)
- There is also a Paris Agreement app on the Google and Apple stores, complete with updated explanations about each provision of the agreement
- Find climate laws around the world at <https://climate-laws.org/>



Marine Environmental Management

WHY DOES COP30 MATTER FOR SOMEONE LIKE ME?

Climate change has a profound impact upon the ocean: it causes sea levels to rise, lowers the pH of seawater, and raises temperatures until some regions are no longer suitable for certain species. As species shift their distribution in response to climate-driven warming, they will invade new areas, destabilising ecosystems. All of this has human consequences, too - some communities will lose fish stocks upon which they have relied for centuries. COPs have increasingly paid attention to the ocean, how it is affected by climate change, and the role it can play in addressing it. **Anyone in the fields of marine science and management should recognise the value of advancing ocean-based climate action through these fora - and in ensuring that the devastating impacts of climate change upon the ocean are not ignored by decision-makers.**

HOW CAN I ENGAGE WITH COP NEGOTIATION TRACK TOPICS?

- Blue carbon habitats - such as seagrass meadows and mangroves - can help to mitigate climate change by storing carbon, whilst also helping coastal communities to adapt to climate change by serving as breakwaters, countering the impacts of the storms and floods that climate change intensifies.
- The financial value of these habitats is often raised in climate finance negotiations, with talk of blue bonds and debt-for-nature swaps. However, these habitats must be conserved, restored, and carefully managed if they are to contribute to climate mitigation and adaptation.



Ocean-based climate action is now often discussed under the umbrellas of both climate mitigation and climate adaptation.

WHICH NEGOTIATION STREAM WOULD BE PARTICULARLY INTERESTING FOR ME?

The mitigation and adaptation work programmes will both make reference to ocean-based climate action, Nature-based Solutions in the marine environment, and the value of blue carbon habitats - as should discussions on **climate finance**.

Perhaps as important as following certain negotiating topics, though, is to follow certain negotiating groups: coastal states will discuss the ocean frequently - in particular the Small Island Developing States (SIDS), who are disproportionately affected by climate change and feel its marine-related impacts most keenly. SIDS are also often at the forefront of ocean-based climate action: their interventions are always worth listening to and learning from.

HOW WILL THE DECISIONS AT COP IMPACT MY LIFE AND MY STUDIES?

COP30 decisions will shape your future in climate and marine studies. If strong action is taken, it could protect ecosystems, sustain coastal communities, and create new opportunities in marine conservation, fisheries management, and climate policy. Your studies may increasingly focus on ocean-based climate solutions, species shifts, and the legal and technical aspects of climate accountability. If action is delayed, climate impacts could worsen, reducing job prospects in key marine sectors. Either way, COP30 will influence what you learn and the kind of expertise that will be in demand—especially in areas like climate finance, carbon markets, and ecological resilience.

HOW CAN I MAKE A POSITIVE IMPACT ON CLIMATE ACTION?

Every coastal nation can do more to bring about ocean-based climate action. Read about what your nation is doing - or not doing - and find out how you can help. If you have the capacity, look for employment or voluntary work helping to restore native blue carbon habitats - seagrass, kelp forest, mangrove, and other habitat restoration projects are ongoing in many places and are often in need of a spare pair of hands!

WHY DOES COP30 MATTER FOR SOMEONE LIKE ME?

- The Ocean Pavilion host a large number of talks and panels every year at COP - all of which are livestreamed on YouTube, where they can be watched for free (<https://www.youtube.com/@OceanPavilion>).
- <https://unfccc.int/topics/ocean>
- <https://www.imo.org/en/ourwork/environment/pages/imo%20and%20unfccc.aspx>



Public Administration

WHY DOES COP30 MATTER FOR SOMEONE LIKE ME?

Public administration studies governance institutions, policy implementation, public finance management, and strategic planning. For students, **COP is key to understanding leadership dynamics in global governance and how multilateral agreements translate into national reforms and programs.** In Peace and Security, COP strengthens the concept of human security through the climate-peace nexus, including climate-induced migration and land tensions. In today's context of border protection, COP offers a chance to explore Green Foreign Policy—an underexplored concept integrating national security with climate issues. It evaluates how international cooperation addresses tensions and integrates actions to manage climate risks to borders and human life.

HOW CAN I ENGAGE WITH COP NEGOTIATION TRACK TOPICS?

- In Public Administration, you can engage with negotiations and debates around **climate finance**, analysing how public finance is allocated towards climate financing and the existing financing mechanisms and how they are structured.
- In Peace and Security, principles of Do NO Harm, Humanitarian aid, refugee studies and human security can be a lens to evaluate negotiation tracks on **Loss and Damage**, analysing how floods, droughts and climatic events impact and destabilise daily lives and the necessary solutions needed to enhance human security.



COP decisions shape key areas in Public Administration and Peace & Security by influencing climate finance structures, and guiding national policy reforms.

WHICH NEGOTIATION STREAM WOULD BE PARTICULARLY INTERESTING FOR ME?

Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) & GST: Public administration students learn how governments design, implement, and monitor policies. Negotiations on NDCs and tracking show how states commit, report, and are held accountable, a direct application of policy design and bureaucratic management.

Loss and Damage: climate disasters often create humanitarian crises and exacerbate conflicts. Negotiations here reveal how the global community addresses climate related displacement, recovery, and conflict-sensitive rebuilding.

Climate finance: budgeting, auditing, and resource allocation which are core functions of public administration. Students can analyze how funds are mobilized, governed, and distributed.

Just transition: a “just transition” considers social stability when moving away from fossil fuels. Students of peace and security can analyze how unequal transitions risk unrest, while inclusive ones can prevent instability.

HOW WILL THE DECISIONS AT COP IMPACT MY LIFE AND MY STUDIES?

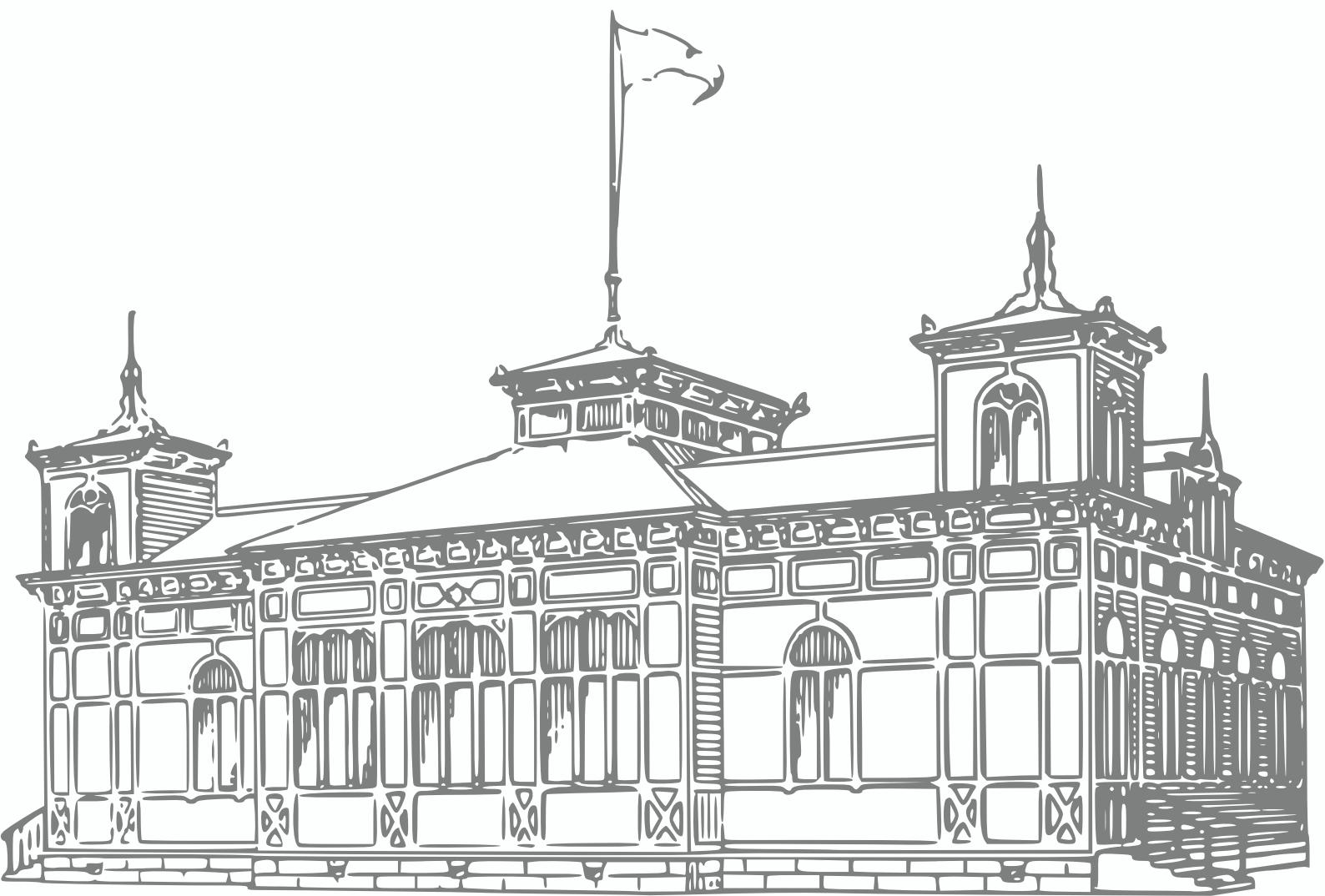
COP30 decisions in public administration drive new national policies and structures for mitigation and adaptation, creating roles for professionals. Inclusion-focused decisions lead to decentralization reforms and open opportunities in resilience, adaptation, policy, and monitoring. In peace and security, COP outputs shape structures and funding in UN agencies, AU, EU, and NGOs, influencing jobs in diplomacy, international relations, and humanitarian assistance. These decisions affect the job market, industry direction, and academic ideologies, shaping curricula and discussions on climate finance, NDCs, fossil fuels, and more—across governments, NGOs, private sector, and academia—offering areas for debate and analysis as stakeholders pursue sustainable, inclusive progress.

HOW CAN I MAKE A POSITIVE IMPACT ON CLIMATE ACTION?

Through research, advocacy and outreach, you can shade more light on the broader aspects of peace and stability beyond wars and conflicts and climate action beyond environmental protection policies and bring attention to the human security component. Add to the body of knowledge and actions on how climate change impacts the psychological safety of people as they live under the constant threat of the disruption of their daily lives - a major latent driver of insecurity and conflict.

WHY DOES COP30 MATTER FOR SOMEONE LIKE ME?

- Public Administration
 - <https://wupperinst.org/>, <https://gca.org/>, <https://cop30.br/pt-br>
- Peace and Security Studies
 - <https://globalwitness.org/en/>, <https://eccfp.eu/>
 - <https://dgap.org/en/research/programs/center-climate-and-foreign-policy>



Environmental Science & Biotechnology

WHY DOES COP30 MATTER FOR SOMEONE LIKE ME?

COP is the decision-making body of the UNFCCC, and each session builds on previous agreements, shaping the global climate agenda step by step. This process matters to you because it shows how science, policy, and negotiations interact to create binding commitments like the Paris Agreement. By following COP as a process, you learn how countries negotiate, compromise, and hold each other accountable in addressing climate change. COP also exposes you to global trends in renewable energy, adaptation, mitigation, and climate finance thereby helping you connect your studies to real-world action. Engaging with COP prepares you to contribute knowledge and solutions to global environmental challenges.

HOW CAN I ENGAGE WITH COP NEGOTIATION TRACK TOPICS?

As a student of Environmental Science and Technology, you can engage with COP negotiation tracks by aligning your coursework and research with themes such as mitigation, adaptation, agriculture, or loss and damage. Beyond academics, **seek opportunities to actively participate such as joining working groups, research networks, or advocacy campaigns** focused on specific themes. You can also find ways of joining organizations that are working around that negotiation track e.g., joining the loss and damage collaboration if you want to engage with the loss and damage negotiation track. Engaging this way helps you build practical experience, expand networks, and contribute meaningfully to the global climate dialogue.



COP outcomes influence the demand for experts like you, as nations commit to reducing emissions and developing green innovations.

WHICH NEGOTIATION STREAM WOULD BE PARTICULARLY INTERESTING FOR ME?

Mitigation is key, as it covers emissions reductions, renewable energy, and technological innovation.

Adaptation is equally important, offering insights into how science informs resilience strategies in agriculture, water management, and urban systems.

The **loss and damage** track highlights how vulnerable communities cope with climate impacts, showing the real-world application of risk assessment and environmental management.

Climate finance is crucial to understand how projects and research are funded, which affects future opportunities in sustainable development.

Finally, **Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE)** links directly to advocacy and education, showing how scientific knowledge is transformed into public action. Following these streams helps you connect theory with practice and see where your expertise can shape global climate solutions.

HOW WILL THE DECISIONS AT COP IMPACT MY LIFE AND MY STUDIES?

Decisions made at COP30 will affect students of Environmental Science and Technology by shaping the global priorities that guide their future careers and research. Commitments on mitigation and adaptation could steer demand toward renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, or ecosystem restoration. Outcomes on climate finance may expand opportunities for innovation and project funding, while discussions on loss and damage or ACE highlight the social dimensions of climate work. Broadly, **COP30 decisions will determine where expertise is most needed, helping students align their studies and skills with emerging opportunities in climate action and sustainable development.**

HOW CAN I MAKE A POSITIVE IMPACT ON CLIMATE ACTION?

As a someone in Environmental Science and Technology field, you can make a positive impact on climate action by applying scientific knowledge to real-world challenges. This could involve researching sustainable technologies, promoting renewable energy, or developing solutions for waste and water management. **You can also engage communities through awareness campaigns, advocate for evidence-based policies, and collaborate with organizations working on climate projects.** By integrating innovation, advocacy, and education into your work, you contribute to both local and global solutions, ensuring that science translates into meaningful action against climate change.

WHY DOES COP30 MATTER FOR SOMEONE LIKE ME?

- UNFCCC – Official site, COP Resource Hub (SDSN), UNFCCC Youth / Education & Outreach, Climate Change Education Resources (NAAEE), EESI COP Resources, CLEAN Network (Climate & Energy Education)



Veterinary Medicine

WHY DOES COP30 MATTER FOR SOMEONE LIKE ME?

Vets are experts in animal agriculture - we learn a LOT about efficiency, health and welfare on farms and it is super important for us to understand the impact that livestock has on our soil, water and atmospheric health. Not only is animal agriculture a massive contributor to climate change, but the industry is simultaneously extremely vulnerable to climate change. **There is a moral incentive here to help farmers better prepare and adapt, whilst also working on mitigation.** The COPs are where major negotiations on land use, food security and agriculture are held and advanced, so they are a great place to start to learn more.

HOW CAN I ENGAGE WITH COP NEGOTIATION TRACK TOPICS?

- Advance sustainable agriculture and public health by researching climate-smart farming, supporting farmers in adaptation and mitigation, and exploring how climate change affects diseases, food security, and rural health systems—all within the One Health framework.
- Engage with COP processes and policy spaces by attending side events, contributing to debates on land use and food systems, and collaborating across disciplines to shape resilient, inclusive strategies in agriculture, veterinary science, and environmental health.



Empower climate-smart transformation by bridging veterinary, agricultural, and public health expertise to strengthen food systems, protect ecosystems, and shape inclusive, resilient policies through global platforms like COP.

WHICH NEGOTIATION STREAM WOULD BE PARTICULARLY INTERESTING FOR ME?

Sharm el-Sheikh Joint Work on Agriculture and Food Security (SJWA). This serves as the central UNFCCC track for agriculture. It emphasizes implementing climate action in agriculture, including sustainable livestock management, soil health, and food security. For veterinary professionals, this is a key space to engage, especially in areas like disease resilience, animal welfare under climate stress, and emissions mitigation from livestock systems.

Loss and Damage: Livestock losses due to extreme weather, disease, or ecosystem collapse are central concerns. Veterinary professionals can help quantify and respond to these damages, especially in vulnerable regions where animals are critical to survival and economic stability. Their expertise is vital in designing support mechanisms for affected communities.

Adaptation and the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA): Animal agriculture is particularly vulnerable to climate change, with risks such as heat stress, water scarcity, and disease outbreaks. Veterinarians can contribute to adaptation strategies by advising on climate-resilient animal husbandry, early warning systems for zoonotic diseases, and safeguarding food security through healthy livestock populations.

HOW WILL THE DECISIONS AT COP IMPACT MY LIFE AND MY STUDIES?

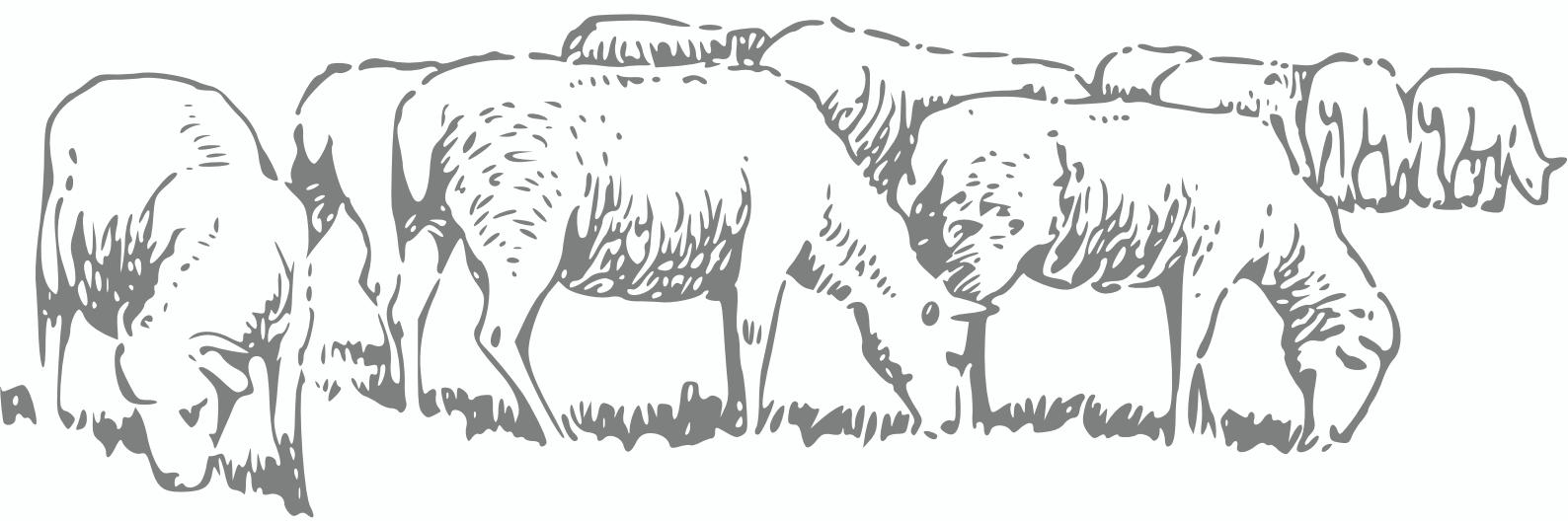
There will be a wider realisation about our skillset, and our deep knowledge of disease transmission, epidemiology, agriculture and health. Discussions around animal agriculture and food systems transformation are bound to come to the fore in the coming years. Vets will prove essential in achieving a just transition where sustainable farming is implemented without breaching food security / safety.

HOW CAN I MAKE A POSITIVE IMPACT ON CLIMATE ACTION?

Think local! As a student you have a stake in your faculty and university. Think critically about the culture and curriculum of your vet or medical school. Are you being educated appropriately about climate change, especially in farm and epidemiology modules? If not, think about pursuing a Planetary Health Report Card (an internationally recognised certificate for sustainability education within healthcare degrees). Does your department have an environmental policy, or net zero commitments? If not, find out why not, and which members of staff could help make this happen. No composting, the lights are always on, unhappy with catering, or biodiversity of your grounds, or the impact of your uni farm... think about what you could campaign for. Gather likeminded students and set up a green group if you want a more long-term model and support with pushing for these changes. If you're interested in small animal medicine, think about anaesthetic gas waste, material waste and so on.

WHY DOES COP30 MATTER FOR SOMEONE LIKE ME?

- <https://www.vfca.global/>
- <https://phreportcard.org/>
- <https://vetsustain.org/>



Education Biology

WHY DOES COP30 MATTER FOR SOMEONE LIKE ME?

Decisions made at COP30 could shape the kinds of skills and knowledge that future employers will look for in education. For example, if world leaders agree to strengthen climate commitments, schools and universities may be encouraged to include more climate literacy and sustainability in their teaching. This means more opportunities for teachers, researchers, and curriculum developers who can connect learning with real-world environmental challenges. **New roles may also open up in climate education programs, community awareness projects, and digital learning platforms focused on sustainability.** Even outside traditional classrooms, educators may find jobs in NGOs, policy think-tanks, and international organizations that need people who can explain complex climate topics in simple ways. COP30 decisions can expand career paths by making climate education a key part of preparing the next generation.

HOW CAN I ENGAGE WITH COP NEGOTIATION TRACK TOPICS?

A **student of education can engage by linking classroom work and research to negotiation themes like climate finance or action for climate empowerment (ACE).** For instance, they could study how schools can teach adaptation strategies in farming communities, or how gender-sensitive education helps children prepare for climate risks. They could also design campaigns or workshops that translate negotiation outcomes into simple lessons for young people. By doing so, they connect the global talks to local realities.



Don't see education as separate from climate issues. Follow the COP process to learn how world leaders plan for the future, and think about how you can translate those plans into practical lessons that empower young people to act.

WHICH NEGOTIATION STREAM WOULD BE PARTICULARLY INTERESTING FOR ME?

For a student in education, **the Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE)** stream is especially important. ACE is all about how people learn, participate, and get empowered to act on climate issues—exactly what education is meant to do. Following ACE helps students see how global leaders view the role of teaching and public awareness in climate solutions.

Adaptation and **loss and damage** are also worth watching because they show how vulnerable communities, especially in developing countries, are supported. As future educators, knowing these discussions helps in shaping lessons and projects that prepare learners to face real challenges.

Climate finance is another key stream, since funding often determines how much support schools and youth programs get for climate education. Together, these tracks help education students see where their voice and skills can make a difference.

HOW WILL THE DECISIONS AT COP IMPACT MY LIFE AND MY STUDIES?

Students in education can make a positive impact by translating climate topics into simple lessons that reach young people and communities. **They can organize awareness clubs in schools, create local workshops, or design digital learning materials that connect climate negotiations to everyday life.** Even small actions—like helping classmates understand what “adaptation” means—can spark bigger change.

HOW CAN I MAKE A POSITIVE IMPACT ON CLIMATE ACTION?

A positive impact in the climate and sustainability field can be made by combining rigorous research with effective communication to influence policy and public awareness. Engaging in interdisciplinary collaboration allows for innovative solutions that address complex climate challenges. Advocating for equitable climate finance and supporting community-led initiatives ensures inclusivity in climate action. **Staying informed about COP outcomes and translating these into practical recommendations or projects helps bridge global agreements with local implementation**, ultimately driving measurable environmental and social change.

WHY DOES COP30 MATTER FOR SOMEONE LIKE ME?

- The Climate Finance Lab (UK) offers insights into innovative climate finance solutions tailored to emerging markets, an aspect often overlooked in COP discussions: <https://www.climatefinancelab.org/>.
- Indigenous Climate Action (Canada), despite its location, provides invaluable Indigenous-led perspectives on climate justice and sovereignty critical for equity-focused engagement: <https://indigenousclimateaction.com/>.
- The African Climate Policy Centre (Ethiopia) delivers specialised policy briefs and capacity-building on African climate diplomacy: <https://www.uneca.org/acpc>.
- SEI Africa (Kenya) contributes regional climate resilience research missing from global narratives: <https://www.sei.org/projects-and-tools/projects/sei-africa/>.
- The Asia-Pacific Adaptation Network (South Korea) shares rare, region-specific expertise on adaptation challenges: <https://www.asiapacificadapt.net/>.



Gender & Development Studies

WHY DOES COP30 MATTER FOR SOMEONE LIKE ME?

As a Gender and Development student, the COP process is important because it shapes global climate policies that directly affect vulnerable groups, especially women. Climate change worsens issues like food insecurity, health risks, and displacement, which disproportionately impact women and girls. By engaging with COP outcomes, you can understand how international agreements influence national policies and development strategies, particularly those that aim to integrate gender equality. It also creates space for advocacy and ensures that gender perspectives are included in climate action. **For my field, following COP is not only about climate but also about seeing where gender and development intersect with global solutions.**

HOW CAN I ENGAGE WITH COP NEGOTIATION TRACK TOPICS?

- One can engage with topics like **mitigation** by examining how strategies to reduce emissions such as renewable energy or improved cookstoves affect women and men differently.
- Women in many communities are primary energy users and managers of household resources, so **involving them in designing and implementing mitigation projects** increases effectiveness and sustainability.
- One could also research how **women's participation in green jobs** and clean energy transitions promotes both climate action and gender equality.



This way, the work links mitigation directly to social inclusion and empowerment.

WHICH NEGOTIATION STREAM WOULD BE PARTICULARLY INTERESTING FOR ME?

At COP30, the **Gender negotiation stream** would be very interesting for a Gender and Development student. This part focuses on making sure women and girls are included in climate decisions and that their needs are considered. It shows how countries are trying to make climate policies fair for everyone. By following this stream, you can see how climate change affects women differently and what is being done to help them, especially in farming, health, and daily life. It also highlights opportunities for women to take part in climate solutions. For a student in this field, this stream is useful because it connects directly to your studies and future work.

NDCs: gendered impacts are now being acknowledged in mitigation planning, with the UNFCCC encouraging Parties to embed gender-responsive approaches in their NDCs. Mitigation strategies like renewable energy deployment or improved cookstoves directly affect women and men differently, especially in regions where women are primary household energy managers.

HOW WILL THE DECISIONS AT COP IMPACT MY LIFE AND MY STUDIES?

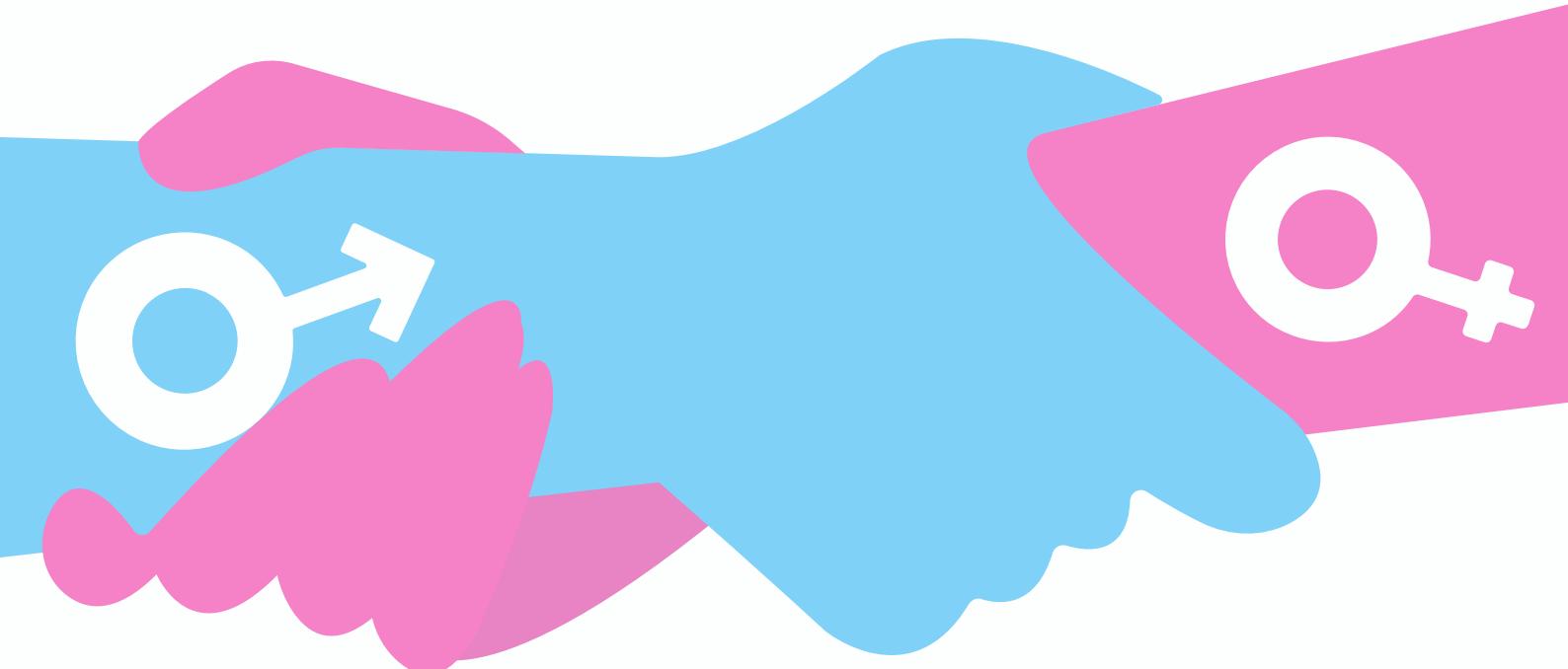
Decisions at COP30 will affect Gender and Development students by shaping the programs and projects they may work on. If gender equality is included in climate plans, there will be more chances to support women and vulnerable groups through research, advocacy, or development work. COP30 decisions could open many future job opportunities in gender and development. If countries commit to stronger climate action, more experts will be needed to ensure climate projects include women and vulnerable groups. This could mean jobs in NGOs and international organizations working in clean energy, farming, or community development. There may also be roles in research and advocacy to ensure funding and policies are fair and inclusive. If COP30 brings more money for climate projects, skilled people will be needed to guide these programs. For Gender and Development students, this means more chances to work where climate action and social justice meet.

HOW CAN I MAKE A POSITIVE IMPACT ON CLIMATE ACTION?

In the field of Gender and Development, I can make a positive impact on climate action by focusing on mitigation. This includes promoting low-carbon solutions, like clean energy, sustainable farming, or improved cookstoves, while making sure women and vulnerable groups are involved in planning and decision-making. By linking mitigation efforts with gender inclusion, I can help reduce emissions and empower communities at the same time.

WHY DOES COP30 MATTER FOR SOMEONE LIKE ME?

- <https://unfccc.int/gender/>
- <https://womengenderclimate.org/>
- <https://www.unep.org/topics/gender/gender-and-climate-action>



Political Science

WHY DOES COP30 MATTER FOR SOMEONE LIKE ME?

The COP process is a cornerstone for international climate governance, offering invaluable insights into environmental diplomacy, intergovernmental decision-making, and advancement of issues like mitigation, adaptation, loss and damage, and just transition. Advising fellow students, **it's essential to understand COPs as not only legal but also political laboratories that can shape the substance and direction of climate law.**

HOW CAN I ENGAGE WITH COP NEGOTIATION TRACK TOPICS?

- **Joining youth delegations:** a chance to observe and understand global climate negotiations, network with policymakers, diplomats, and activists and represent youth perspectives in formal and informal discussions.
- **Contributing to policy proposals:** Drafting policy briefs or recommendations, collaborating with interdisciplinary teams to integrate political, economic, and legal perspectives. Use your academic training to analyze institutional frameworks, stakeholder interests, and governance challenges.
- **Participating in side events and sharing research** or analysis with advocacy groups focused on mitigation, adaptation, climate finance and justice.



Empower climate action by joining youth delegations, shaping policy, sharing insights, and amplifying justice-focused solutions.

WHICH NEGOTIATION STREAM WOULD BE PARTICULARLY INTERESTING FOR ME?

Loss and damage: political science students can examine how vulnerable countries advocate for compensation, the legal recognition of climate harm, and the ethical dimensions of responsibility and reparation. It's a space where human rights, sovereignty, and global governance converge.

Adaptation: for students of political science, adaptation is a rich field for analyzing state capacity, decentralisation, and participatory policymaking. It also raises questions about legal obligations and the integration of climate risks into national development strategies.

Climate finance: Climate finance negotiations revolve around mobilizing and allocating funds to support mitigation and adaptation efforts, especially in developing countries. This stream is deeply tied to international law, global equity, and fiscal policy.

Just transition: legal frameworks and governance mechanisms are essential to institutionalise fairness and accountability in this transition.

HOW WILL THE DECISIONS AT COP IMPACT MY LIFE AND MY STUDIES?

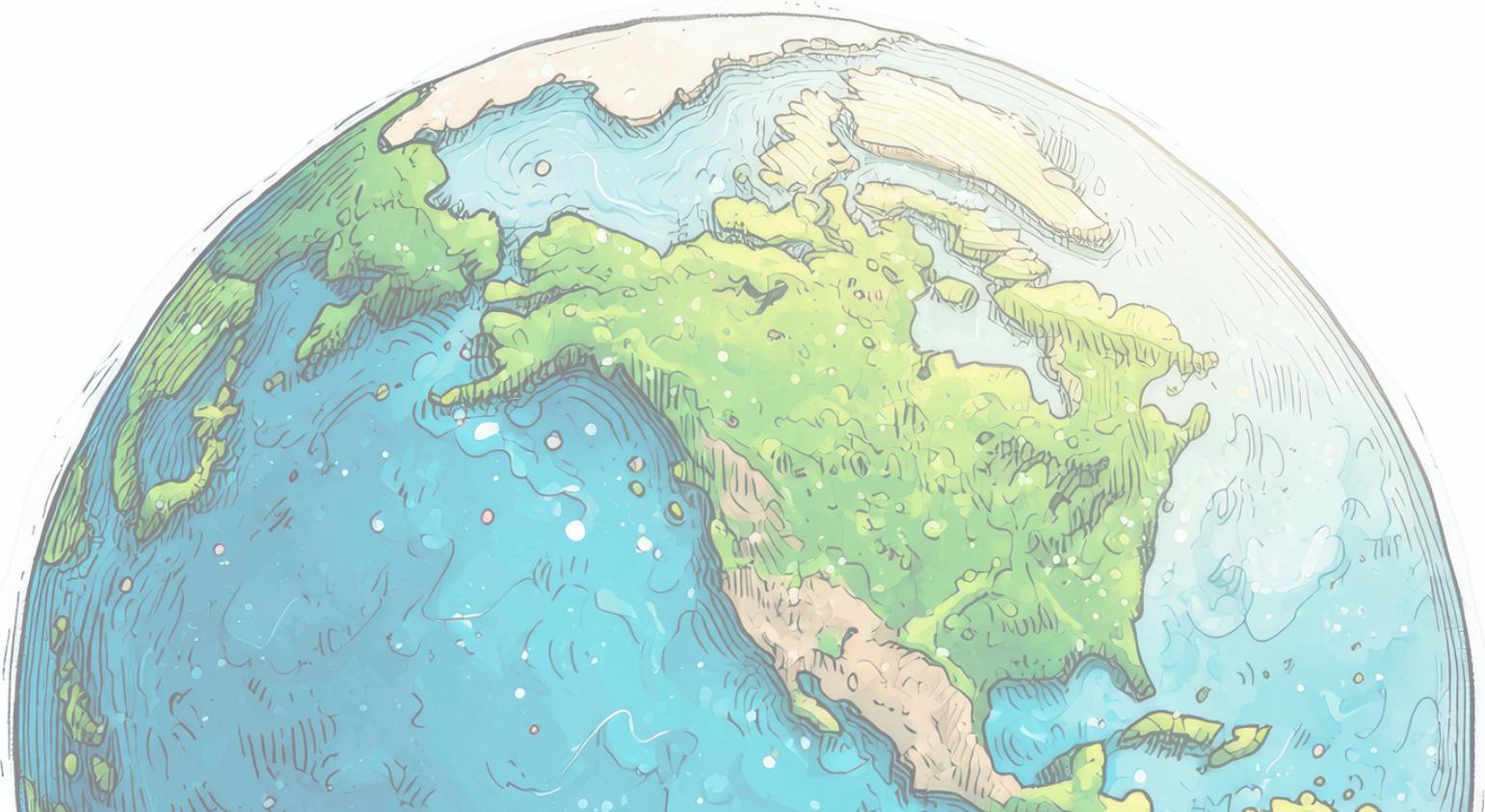
Decisions made at COP30 will shape the academic and professional landscape students will enter. They will influence future research priorities, determine funding availability, and redefine the legal and regulatory frameworks that govern climate action. As new regulations emerge, so will new job profiles and professional standards in climate governance. COP30 outcomes will set the tone for developments in climate litigation, sustainable finance, and institutional governance —opening career paths in public institutions, international organizations, consulting, and advocacy.

HOW CAN I MAKE A POSITIVE IMPACT ON CLIMATE ACTION?

Volunteering with NGOs, joining student-led negotiation simulations, and fostering knowledge-sharing within the academic community amplify individual contributions.

WHY DOES COP30 MATTER FOR SOMEONE LIKE ME?

- <https://community.youth4climate.info/homepage>
- <https://cop30.br/en>
- <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/united-nations-framework-convention-on-climate-change>



Agriculture

WHY DOES COP30 MATTER FOR SOMEONE LIKE ME?

Understanding COP is essential because climate change directly affects crop production, soil health, water availability, and food security. COP provides a global platform where agricultural challenges are recognized and solutions like climate-smart farming, agroecology, sustainable land management, and adaptation financing are discussed. Engaging with COP means gaining exposure to international policies, technological innovations, and funding mechanisms that can transform farming practices and support smallholder farmers. Agriculture is both vulnerable to and a driver of climate change, so being part of these conversations equips you to contribute solutions that reduce emissions, build resilience, and promote sustainable food systems. **By following COP, you ensure that the voice of farmers, researchers, and food systems advocates are included in shaping the climate agenda.**

HOW CAN I ENGAGE WITH COP NEGOTIATION TRACK TOPICS?

- Agriculture students can engage by **linking their studies to adaptation** strategies, such as developing drought-resilient crops or soil conservation methods.
- They can **explore mitigation** through sustainable farming practices that cut emissions, or
- They can **study climate finance** to understand how resources can support smallholder farmers.



Follow negotiations like Koronivia (Sharm el sheikh) Joint Work on Agriculture, gender in farming systems, and Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) to ensure local agricultural realities are reflected in global climate commitments.

WHICH NEGOTIATION STREAM WOULD BE PARTICULARLY INTERESTING FOR ME?

Adaptation is critical because farming depends on rainfall and soil fertility, both disrupted by climate change. Agriculture-focused negotiations directly affect policies on sustainable food systems, soil management, and farmer support.

Sharm el-Sheikh Joint Work on Agriculture and Food Security (SJWA). This serves as the central UNFCCC track for agriculture. It emphasizes implementing climate action in agriculture, including sustainable livestock management, soil health, and food security.

Loss and damage discussions matter for communities already experiencing crop failures, pests, and floods.

Climate finance is vital to channel resources into developing countries for research, training, and technology advancement.

HOW WILL THE DECISIONS AT COP IMPACT MY LIFE AND MY STUDIES?

COP30 decisions will shape the future of agriculture education and practice by influencing funding priorities, research areas, and job markets. Students will encounter new opportunities in climate-smart farming, sustainable supply chains, and agricultural policy, while needing to develop skills in adaptation planning, regenerative farming, and climate policy literacy. Strong commitments on climate finance and adaptation could open roles in climate-smart agriculture, sustainable land management, and agritech innovation—across research, extension services, international NGOs, and startups. Conversely, weak decisions may heighten climate risks and threaten traditional farming livelihoods. COP outcomes will also determine which skills are in demand, with sustainability, climate adaptation, and digital agriculture becoming increasingly valuable.

HOW CAN I MAKE A POSITIVE IMPACT ON CLIMATE ACTION?

Students can adopt and promote sustainable farming practices, engage in climate-focused research, and advocate for farmer-centered policies. They can participate in agricultural innovation hubs, contribute to community awareness campaigns, and collaborate with organizations advancing climate-smart agriculture. By linking classroom knowledge to field practice, students become change agents bridging science and farmer realities. Even small actions like promoting agroecology, efficient irrigation, or composting can ripple into significant contributions to climate action.

WHY DOES COP30 MATTER FOR SOMEONE LIKE ME?

- FAO Climate Change and Agriculture resources: <https://www.fao.org/climate-change>
- UNFCCC Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture: <https://unfccc.int/topics/land-use/workstreams/agriculture>
- CGIAR Climate Change, Agriculture, and Food Security (CCAFS): <https://ccafs.cgiar.org>



Mechanical Engineering

WHY DOES COP30 MATTER FOR SOMEONE LIKE ME?

The COP process is important because it sets global targets for climate action, and these agreements eventually become the policies and regulations that engineers have to work within. For example, if COP sets strong targets on emission, it would directly shape the type of technologies and systems that will be needed in the coming decades. Clear international commitments can also create momentum for research funding and industry investments in areas like low-carbon transportation and renewable energy. For an engineering student, this means that **the decisions made at COP will directly influence the types of projects you will work on in your career**, and is a critical enabler to pushing for bold and exciting engineering solutions for climate action.

HOW CAN I ENGAGE WITH COP NEGOTIATION TRACK TOPICS?

Engineering work cuts across all different streams of COP, but **mechanical engineers can have a particular impact on mitigation**. For example, students interested in renewable energy can focus on the ambitious goal of triple renewable energy by 2030 - a challenge with a need for creative, intelligent minds (engineering students!) to help make these goals a reality. Beyond energy, there are so many other opportunities for engineering students to push for decarbonization, from rethinking the transportation industry to developing low-carbon materials. Engineers are problem solvers, and climate change is the biggest problem of our time; you have a chance to design solutions that matter.

WHICH NEGOTIATION STREAM WOULD BE PARTICULARLY INTERESTING FOR ME?

The **mitigation track** is especially important, since it directly addresses reducing emissions and scaling up clean technologies.

Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), which outline how each country plans to meet its share of emissions reductions under the Paris Agreement, are also relevant. Targets such as tripling renewable energy capacity (a commitment made at COP28!) or increasing energy efficiency create both technical challenges and opportunities for engineers to make a huge impact.

Adaptation is also highly relevant, as engineers can play a central role in designing climate-resilient infrastructure that can survive challenges like heatwaves, flooding, and other climate disasters.

Climate finance is also worth following up on, as it influences which projects and technologies receive funding, directly impacting innovation and determining which solutions get scaled.

HOW WILL THE DECISIONS AT COP IMPACT MY LIFE AND MY STUDIES?

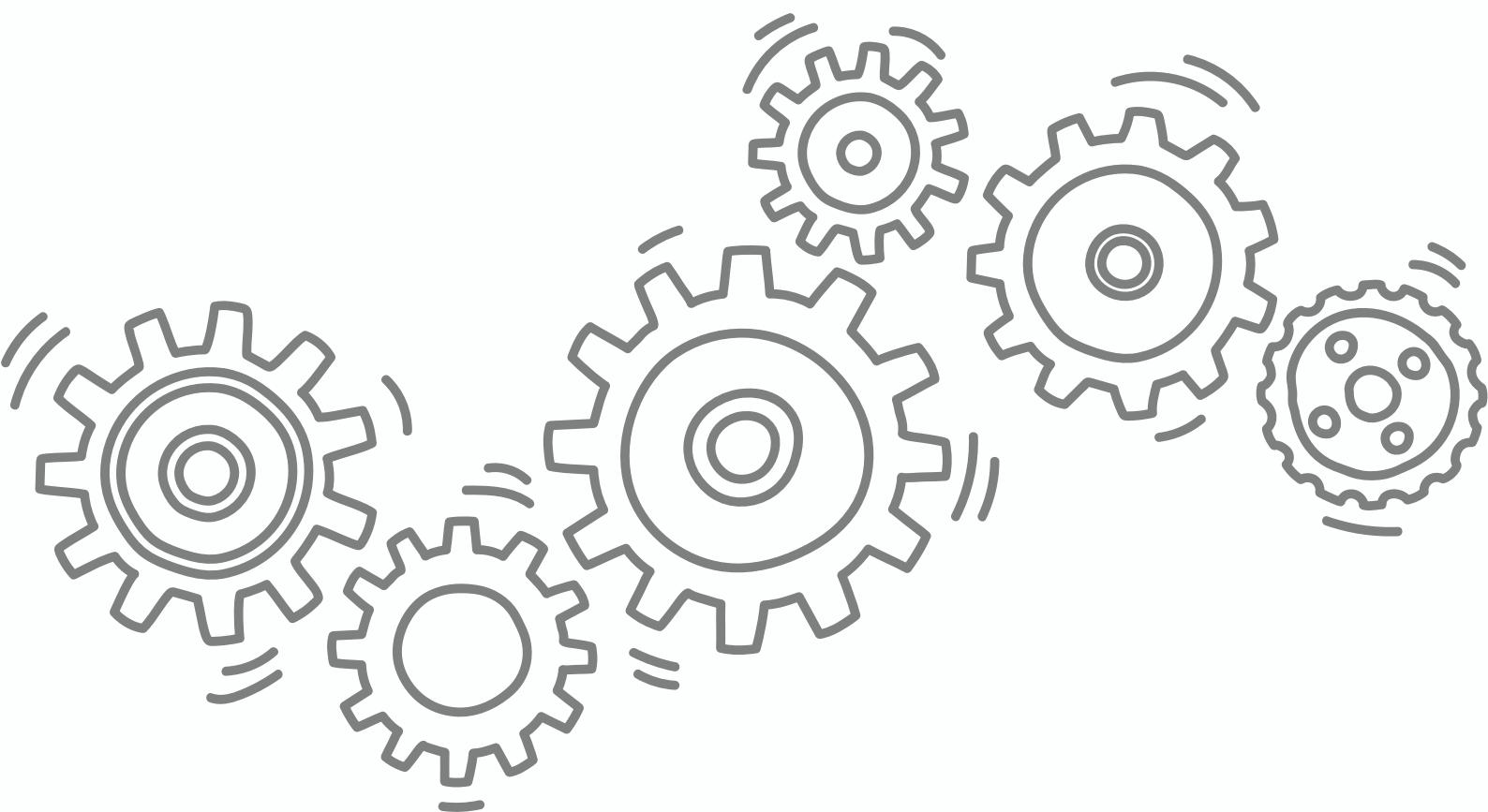
The decisions made at COP30 will affect us all, especially young people and students whose futures are at stake. With climate impacts becoming more severe every year, the commitments set at COP30 will set the tone as to how the world will move forward. Strong, ambitious action can determine whether we face a worsening crisis or a more sustainable world.

HOW CAN I MAKE A POSITIVE IMPACT ON CLIMATE ACTION?

Engineering and sustainability are not just complementary; they are fundamentally interconnected. Every single decision made in the engineering process - from supply chain to manufacturing, to the very purpose of the innovation - impacts the planet. To make an impact on climate action as an engineer, it is important to make sustainability a core decision making factor in every aspect of engineering, not just an addition. Even if you aren't working in an inherently sustainable field, push for low-carbon alternatives in the design process. Be bold and creative, and share your ideas with your team, company, and politicians. Engineers are problem solvers, and climate change is the biggest problem of our time; you have a chance to design solutions that matter.

WHY DOES COP30 MATTER FOR SOMEONE LIKE ME?

My advice is to join student groups like Engineers without Borders, Student Energy, or Engineers in Action! These offer amazing opportunities to start applying your engineering skills to make an impact on the environment and sustainable development.





COP30

Student Guide

www.climatalk.org | IG: @climatalk | LinkedIn: ClimaTalk | BlueSky: @climatalk.org