Environmental Audit Committee

Rt Hon Ed Miliband MP
Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero
Department for Energy Security and Net Zero
55 Whitehall
London SW1A 2HP

3 November 2025

Sent by email only

International Climate Change Negotiations: COP30

Dear Secretary of State,

I am writing following the oral evidence session held by the Environmental Audit Committee (EAC) on 22nd October 2025 on [International Climate Negotiations: COP30](). The Committee heard from His Excellency Mr Antonio De Aguiar Patriota, Brazilian Ambassador to the UK; Nigel Topping CMG, Chair of the Climate Change Committee (CCC); and a panel of stakeholders representing business and civil society. I have set out below the Committee's observations and recommendations ahead of the 30th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCC) – COP30 – to be held in Belém, Brazil, from 10 to 21 November 2025.

As you will be aware, COP30 is taking place against a challenging backdrop, with a global mean temperature exceeding the Paris Agreement goal of 1.5C above the pre-industrial average having been recorded for the first time in 2024. Furthermore, the Brazilian Ambassador informed us that the synthesis report that will be presented to COP30 is expected to indicate that, on the current trajectory, the world is heading for in excess of 2.5C of warming.

Leadership

We heard that there are two key elements to climate leadership – action in the international arena, primarily at COP; and ambitious domestic measures to demonstrate leadership by example. It is clear from the evidence we heard that the UK has a history of effective climate leadership on both of these counts. However, we believe it is critical at this juncture, as multilateralism in respect of climate action is under considerable pressure, that this legacy is not only maintained but also built on.

House of Commons
Palace of Westminster
London
SW1A 0AA

eacom@parliament.uk
+44 (0)20 7219 8890
Social: @commonsEAC
parliament.uk/eacom

In this context, we join with the Brazilian Ambassador in very much welcoming the decision of the Prime Minister to attend the COP30 Leaders' Summit on 6th and 7th November. We also applaud the fact that the UK was one of very few countries – along with Brazil – to submit a 1.5C-aligned 2035 Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) by the February deadline.

However, we note that analysis by the Climate Change Committee suggests 39% of the required emissions reductions to meet the UK's near-term (2030) NDC target carry significant risks, or have insufficient or unquantified plans attached to them. Considerable work is therefore needed to turn these targets into reality. Mr Topping explained that the key risks related to land use (principally tree planting and peatland restoration) and domestic and industrial heat. He also once more reiterated that making electricity cheaper by removing policy costs was the CCC's highest priority recommendation as this would ensure the underlying lower running costs of heat pumps compared to fossil fuel boilers are reflected in bills.

We recommend that the Government should, in its forthcoming Warm Homes Plan, set out what practical steps it plans to take towards making electricity cheaper.

In broader terms, witnesses talked of how important policy consistency is, not only to climate leadership but also in giving confidence to businesses and investors regarding the future direction of travel. This includes supporting the orderly phase-out of fossil fuels.

We also heard of the importance of a strong Carbon Budget Delivery Plan for Carbon Budget 6 and note this was published on 29th October, the week after our evidence session. We look forward to reviewing this in due course; however, we would have expected that an announcement of this magnitude would be accompanied by an oral statement to the House and we are disappointed this did not happen.

Forests

Tackling deforestation is a particular priority of the Brazilian COP Presidency. Key to this is the Tropical Forests Forever Facility (TFFF), an innovative new mechanism which aims to combine $25 billion in sovereign and philanthropic contributions with $100 billion from private investors, to be launched at COP30. We were pleased to hear how the UK has played an important role in helping to design the facility, building on the strong legacy of COP26 which saw the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use and the Forest, Agriculture and Commodity Trade (FACT) Dialogue. The Ambassador told us that Brazil has provided a seed contribution of $1 billion and that he hoped the COP30 Leaders' Summit would result in an ambitious declaration as well as further contributions to the TFFF. The stakeholders we heard from also stressed the importance of the UK supporting the TFFF with a financial pledge.

We urge the UK Government to announce at COP30 a contribution to the TFFF and encourage other countries to do the same. This could form part of the UK's wider climate and nature finance commitments.

We also heard from witnesses about the impact of supply chains on deforestation – an issue this Committee has previously explored in its 2023 report on The UK's contribution to tackling global deforestation which called for the Government to bring forward amendments to paragraph 2 of Schedule 17 to the Environment Act, so as to prohibit UK businesses from trading or using commodities linked to deforestation activity. We again raised this in recent correspondence to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). Witnesses at our evidence session stressed the importance of bringing forward this legislation as soon as possible, as well as considering the adverse impacts on businesses operating in multiple jurisdictions of diverging approaches to such regulations, particularly in light of the EU Deforestation Regulation – an issue acknowledged in DEFRA's response.

We once more call on the Government to bring forward secondary legislation on forest risk commodities under Schedule 17 to the Environment Act without delay.

We also urge the Government to work with EU to ensure that this legislation is as compatible as possible with the EU Deforestation Regulation, acknowledging the relevance of the Windsor Framework, and can be delivered by both affected countries and by businesses working across multiple jurisdictions.

Action Agenda

We heard about the Action Agenda at COP30, which aims to mobilise voluntary climate action from civil society, businesses, investors, cities, states, and countries to intensify emission reductions, climate adaptation, and the transition to sustainable economies, as set out in the Paris Agreement. The Action Agenda engages actors who do not negotiate agreements yet are essential for putting them into practice. Mr Topping shared his positive experience of this in the context of his role as UN High Level Champion at COP26, outlining how it can be a vehicle for bold and innovative implementation-focused action – in part because it does not rely on consensus politics.

We recommend that the UK Government should play an active part in all relevant initiatives under the Action Agenda at COP30, including working collaboratively and constructively with other UK stakeholders, from businesses and financial institutions to NGOs and civil society organisations.

Finance

There was much discussion in our evidence session regarding the importance of mobilising adequate finance to enable climate action internationally which is commensurate with the Paris Agreement target, a key facet of which is the Baku to Belém Roadmap to 1.3T. Multiple stakeholders also stressed how vital it is to ensure integration of nature into climate action and finance.

The UK's current approach to International Climate Finance (ICF) consists of a commitment to spend £11.6 billion between 2021/2 and 2025/6 on mitigation and adaptation across four Government Departments: FCDO, DESNZ, DEFRA and DSIT. Given this ends next year, we believe it is essential that the Government sets out ambitious future plans for ICF.

We urge the Government to make a new, ambitious multi-year International Climate Finance commitment at the Autumn Budget in November 2025, ideally signalling its intention to do so at COP30 in order to encourage other countries to take similar action. This should emphasise the interconnectedness of climate and nature.

It is accepted that the private sector has a pivotal role to play in terms of climate finance. We heard from Mr Topping and from Rachel Solomon Williams, Executive Director of the Aldersgate Group, about the importance of the City of London as a global financial centre, including its role as an institutional home to innovation (such as in establishing rules for climate-related disclosures) and the potential role that could be played in offering expertise in how to structure financial instruments.

As part of the Government's work at COP, we recommend that it facilitates communication between UK financial institutions and Global South countries to help develop the conditions necessary to support private investment.

We also heard from Tom Evans, Senior Associate at the Global Solidarity Levies Task Force, a diplomatic initiative led by the Governments of France, Barbados and Kenya, regarding the potential for innovative levies on polluting sectors of the economy to raise additional resources for climate and sustainable development. Mr Evans spoke in particular about the Premium Flyers Solidarity Coalition and its proposal for a Private Air

Passenger Levy on premium air travel, covering such elements as private jets, business class and first class tickets. He explained that this could raise hundreds of millions of pounds if applied to the UK and would likely have a minimal negative effect on the economy due to the fact it is targeted towards those who can most afford it.

We recommend that the UK Government should give consideration to joining the Premium Flyers Solidarity Coalition inspired by the work of the Global Solidarity Levies Task force.

Finally, I would like to invite you to appear before the Committee following COP30 to discuss the outcomes from the conference and the role played by the UK delegation. The Secretariat will be in touch with your Department to arrange a suitable date.

A copy of this letter goes to the Chair of the Energy Security and Net Zero Committee.

We would be grateful for a response by 18 December 2025.

Yours sincerely,

Toby Pe

Mr Toby Perkins MP
Chair, Environmental Audit Committee