United Nations University
Centre for Policy Research

Reimagining Climate Governance: Reforms, Models and Actions

24 July 2025, 10:30 - 16:00 ET

VENUE (in-person and online)

Bahá'í International Community's United Nations Offices
866 United Nations Plaza #120, New York, NY 10017

Convened by the **United Nations University Centre for Policy Research (UNU-CPR)** in collaboration with the **British Academy**, the **Bahá'í International Community's United Nations Office**, and the governments of **Brazil** and **Germany**.

On 1 May, UNU-CPR, in collaboration with the governments of Brazil and Germany, convened a high-level event to discuss governance models, institutional innovations and prototypes that could inform the future of climate governance. The workshop responded to President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva's call at the 2024 G20 Summit for a UN Climate Change Council and to COP30 President Ambassador Corrêa do Lago's first letter, which called for a global mutirão (collective mobilization) and a shift toward a post-negotiation phase under the UNFCCC.

Ambassador Corrêa do Lago's second letter, released on 8 May, adds urgency and direction to this agenda. It calls for international cooperation that is faster, more agile and better able to align fragmented efforts. Building on President Lula's proposal, the letter urges a shift from "old bureaucratic models that impair speed and scale" toward governance that enables rapid data sharing, stronger networks and better coordination across and beyond the UN. These innovations should enhance alignment while reinforcing the UNFCCC's core role.

In this spirit, the follow-up workshop convenes participants to transition from conceptual debate to actionable design. Drawing from Brazil's framing and leveraging complexity science, the workshop will surface common threads across proposals and assess the political and technical feasibility of proposed reforms. Outcomes will feed into a synthesis paper outlining governance models and their trade-offs, with a view toward high-level engagement at the UN General Assembly in September, COP30 in November and beyond.

This workshop is part of UNU-CPR's Global Governance Innovation initiative and its collaboration with the British Academy on transnational and planetary challenges.

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Agenda

Welcome and Scene-Setting Remarks
10:30 – 11:00 (30 minutes)
- **Dr. David Passarelli** | Director, UNU-CPR
- **Mr. Tulio Andrade** | Chief Strategist, COP30 Presidency

Session 1: Takeaways From the CGC Bellagio Conference
11:00 – 11:15 (15 minutes)
Moderators:
- **Ms. Maja Groff** | Convener, Climate Governance Commission

Session 2: Upgrading the Software: Applying Complexity Science to Climate Governance
11:15 – 12:30 (75 minutes)
Moderators:
- **Dr. Adam Day** | Head of Geneva Office, UNU-CPR
- **Mr. Simon Sharpe** | Managing Director, S-Curve Economics

This session addresses the "operating logic" of climate governance – how decisions are made, knowledge is integrated and institutions can better navigate complexity and uncertainty. Drawing on tools from complexity science and lessons from other global domains, it will identify principles and practices that enable faster, more networked and inclusive action.

12:30 – 13:00 | Lunch Break

Session 3: Building Adaptive Hardware: Institutions that Evolve with Climate Risk
13:00 – 14:15 (75 minutes)
Moderators:
- **Ms. Hajja Naseem** | Senior Advisor, Climate Emergency Collaboration Group
- **Dr. Michael Franczak** | Senior Researcher, UNU-CPR

This session explores structural reforms and institutional innovations needed to make the climate governance system more adaptive and fit-for-purpose. Participants will consider the feasibility and value-add of proposals like a UN Climate Change Council and assess which components could be prototyped or tested within existing platforms.

14:15 – 14:30 | Coffee Break

Session 4: Political Dynamics: Unlocking Cooperation for Change

14:30 – 15:45 (75 minutes)

Moderators:

- **Dr. Giovanna Kuele** | Program Advisor for International Cooperation, Igarapé Institute
- **Dr. Michael Weisberg** | Bess W. Heyman President's Distinguished Professor of Philosophy and Deputy Director of Perry World House, University of Pennsylvania

This session shifts from design to delivery. It explores the political traction behind climate governance reform efforts and asks how the unique convergence of COP30, Brazil's leadership and the *mutirão* spirit can unlock cooperation. Emphasis will be placed on political strategy, coalition-building and overcoming resistance or fragmentation.

Closing Remarks

15:45 – 16:00 (15 minutes)

- **Mr. Tulio Andrade**

Instructions for input papers

Participants are asked to prepare 3-5 page input papers that respond to the questions below. These reflections will inform workshop discussions and feed into a synthesis paper outlining possible models for the UN Climate Council, including trade-offs and political pathways. Submissions should be sent to Michael Franczak at franczak@unu.edu.

1. Which institutional functions in global climate governance are falling short, and how could they be improved or redesigned?

(Examples might include crisis response, financing, knowledge sharing or accountability. What concrete reforms could be implemented within 1–2 years, either by adapting existing bodies or by creating new structures?)

2. What governance tools or decision-making approaches from other fields could help climate institutions manage complexity and uncertainty more effectively?

(We welcome insights from areas like global health, tech regulation, peacebuilding or finance. What practices – such as adaptive planning, early warning systems or polycentric governance – could help climate institutions become more agile, inclusive and fit-for-purpose?)

3. What political strategies or alliances could generate momentum for governance reform in the lead-up to COP30 – and how can risks be mitigated?

(What coalitions or diplomatic pathways could support reform? What risks – such as geopolitical fragmentation or institutional fatigue – should be anticipated, and how might they be addressed through sequencing or framing?)