2050 IS NOW

Joint Communiqué on Long-term Low Greenhouse Gas Emission Development Strategies (LT-LEDS) to Inform 1.5°C-Aligned Action

October 2025

2050 is Now is an international consortium of partners combining local expertise and global reach to promote decision-making, policymaking, and planning for countries to develop and update long-term low greenhouse gas (GHG) emission development strategies, also known as LT-LEDS.

Introduction

2025 is a pivotal year for climate action. With climate impacts intensifying globally and temperature rise surpassing 1.5°C in 2024, we are at the mid-point of the "decisive decade" to curb warming. 2025 also marks the 10th anniversary of the Paris Agreement — a critical moment to assess progress, close gaps, and accelerate implementation. This year, countries are expected to submit new and updated nationally determined contributions (NDCs) that reflect their highest possible ambition in line with common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.[1]

NDCs should be aligned with LT-LEDS[2] and limit global warming to 1.5°C,[3] as well as respond to the outcomes of the first Global Stocktake.[4] These NDCs will set emissions-reduction targets through 2035 — the mid-point between when most countries started implementing their NDCs in 2020 and when many have pledged to reach net zero, in 2050. This makes NDCs critical for aligning short-term commitments with long-term goals.

At the same time, 2025 brings heightened geopolitical tensions that threaten to stall collective climate action. It is in this challenging context that Brazil is stepping up as the host of COP30, with the responsibility — and opportunity — to rebuild trust, drive consensus, and accelerate the implementation of global commitments. As experts in long-term planning, the members of the 2050 is Now consortium believe that at this pivotal moment, LT-LEDS are more important than ever to ensure national climate action is aligned with the goals of the Paris Agreement.

Where We Stand Today: Progress and Peril

2024 was officially the warmest year on record, with a global average temperature of 1.55°C (2.79°F) above pre-industrial levels — surpassing, in a single year, the Paris Agreement's critical objective to hold temperature increase to 1.5°C. The WMO's Decadal Climate Update indicates that the warming average for the next few years — 2025 to 2029 — is likely to be above 1.5°C. With climate impacts escalating, this has and will continue to have devastating consequences for lives and livelihoods globally. The longer we spend above 1.5°C, the more dangerous it is for the ecosystems that sustain human civilization and biodiversity.

Yet crossing the 1.5°C boundary in a single year should not be seen as a failure to combat the climate crisis more broadly.[5] The global community has already achieved meaningful progress on climate action. Crucially, as a result of new policy

1. Paris Agreement, Article 4, paragraph 3.
2. Decision 1/CMA.3, paragraph 35; Decision 1/CMA.5 para 40.
3. Decision 1/CMA.3, paragraph 29.
4. Decision 1/CMA.5, paragraphs 28 and 37.
5. As warming is measured over a period of 20 years, surpassing 1.5°C in a single year does not mean the Paris Agreement goal has been exceeded permanently.

adoption and a steady increase in ambition, current policy temperature projections have declined from a catastrophic 4°C (7.2°F) warming scenario 15 years ago to approximately 2.7°C (4.9°F) today. Since the last NDC cycle in 2020, 60 national net-zero targets were established, LT-LEDS now cover over 74% of global emissions, and climate-related investment has exceeded fossil fuel investment. Furthermore, there is a growing understanding that countries can benefit significantly from ambitious climate policies, both in terms of avoided losses and in economic growth opportunities. New NDCs submitted in 2025 will no doubt represent progress; however, in all likelihood, they will still fall short of what's needed to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement.

Nevertheless, the Paris Agreement embodies an enduring legal framework for collective ambition, even in the case of overshoot — and 1.5°C remains the best global benchmark for temperature rise. While the window to limit warming to below 1.5°C is still open, it is rapidly closing in the absence of drastic near-term emissions reductions. This underscores the importance of long-term systems thinking and of accelerating implementation of the net-zero transition, as well as proven climate solutions. Critically, all sources of finance need to be deployed urgently — at scale and working as a system — to enable rapid, coordinated economy-wide transformation across all sectors. In this context, LT-LEDS can play a key role as an important tool for catalyzing the finance and implementation needed to minimize global temperature rise.

Bridging Ambition and Action: The Critical Role of LT-LEDS at COP30 and Beyond

Framed by the Brazilian COP Presidency and the broader climate community as the "Implementation COP," COP30 must translate commitments into action and set the stage for accelerated, enhanced implementation, even though collective NDC targets may still fall short. This requires a clear commitment to creating the conditions necessary to align NDC implementation with 1.5°C to deliver a just global transition, including enhancing international cooperation. Since Paris,[6] countries have been urged to submit long-term climate strategies, a call echoed in Glasgow[7] and Dubai.[8] COP30 must reignite that effort — treating long-term strategies not as paperwork, but as a catalyst to integrate and deliver real policy action.

In this context, LT-LEDS provide a vital framework for countries to integrate the global 1.5°C target into a national long-term vision, align climate and development ambition, structure cooperation more effectively, and identify needs for financial resources and technology. The value of LT-LEDS at the national level lies not only in setting emissions reduction targets, but in building a comprehensive vision for a net-zero future through a coherent planning framework and sectoral transition pathways. These should advance climate, social, and economic priorities, and include benchmarks for short-term action.

LT-LEDS help unite policymakers and domestic stakeholders across different sectors, ministries, and areas around a common vision for low-emission, climate-resilient development. They can also strengthen institutional structures for implementation through legal frameworks, or the establishment of climate councils and inter-governmental coordination bodies that are essential to advance implementation. Lastly, LT-LEDS help identify where international cooperation and support are needed to facilitate ambitious national economic transitions.

As forward-looking roadmaps, LT-LEDS are powerful tools to align near-term actions with long-term goals — making them instrumental to turning pledges into real progress. As such, the process of developing an LT-LEDS is as important as the output. Many countries use the effort to raise critical questions on economic transformation, just transition, and resilience to climate change – involving diverse stakeholders and actors across society, including vulnerable groups. In this way, LT-LEDS help connect decision-making today with the goals of tomorrow, sending clear signals to investors and other economic and financial stakeholders.

By clarifying priorities for action that integrate climate and socio-economic objectives, LT-LEDS help countries define coherent policy and investment packages. This provides a strong basis for cooperation with international partners and for aligning global resources with country-driven priorities. In this context, LT-LEDS provide the foundation to link long-term objectives with coordinated financing and implementation that advance the 1.5°C goal and strengthen resilience, including through mechanisms such as Country Platforms, as highlighted in the Baku to Belém Roadmap. Accordingly, the Roadmap should aim to establish instruments that can sustain long-term transitions and reinforce the implementation of NDCs, National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), and LT-LEDS. Advancing this agenda at COP30 will be key to ensuring that international cooperation and finance effectively support countries' pathways toward resilient net-zero development.

6. Paris Agreement, Article 4, paragraph 19.
7. Decision 1/CMA.3, paragraphs 25 and 33.
8. Decision 1/CMA.5, paragraph 42.

Recommendations

In view of this, the 2050 is Now consortium recommends that COP30 promote LT-LEDS (for example, in a cover decision) by:

- Acknowledging the progress many countries have made on their LT-LEDS and welcoming new LT-LEDS submissions and revisions, while encouraging Parties to continuously advance long-term planning processes.
- Encouraging Parties to submit or update LT-LEDS[9] toward just transitions to net-zero emissions by COP31 to be considered in the second Global Stocktake, considering the Global Goal on Adaptation and the Outcome of the first Global Stocktake.
- Requesting that the UNFCCC Secretariat prepare a third LT-LEDS Synthesis Report by COP31. This should assess the effectiveness of LT-LEDS in shaping near-term action domestically, within international organizations, and in the finance community. It should also capture lessons and experiences on how LT-LEDS have helped to strengthen implementation in countries, including just transitions.
- Emphasizing the role of LT-LEDS in supporting national just transition planning to achieve net zero and, by extension, the implementation of the United Arab Emirates Just Transition Work Programme.
- Encouraging Parties to integrate the long-term vision, targets, and GHG emissions-reduction pathways emerging from LT-LEDS into national development planning and implementation processes.
- Encouraging Parties to demonstrate how their NDCs align with LT-LEDS and long-term goals, particularly just transitions to net zero in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication.
- Encouraging Parties to explore avenues for further ambition, including through energy system transformation and the gradual reduction of emissions from fossil fuel use, consistent with just transitions and long-term net-zero goals. This can be shared through NDCs,[10] national communications, and existing review mechanisms (such as the facilitative multilateral consideration of progress), as well as in future dialogues on ambition.
- Requesting Parties to use LT-LEDS development processes to identify the challenges and barriers, global enabling conditions, and specific international cooperation needed to support implementation in line with long-term goals.

9. As encouraged in 1/CMA5.
10. For example, communicated as part of the information of clarity, transparency and understanding, specifically, how the nationally determined contribution contributes towards Article 2, paragraph 1(a), and Article 4, paragraph 1 of the Paris Agreement.

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