



United Nations Climate Change
Global Innovation Hub

United Nations Climate Change Global
Innovation Hub (UGIH)

COP30 Dialogues Report

A global platform for radical collaboration, innovation, and action.





United Nations Climate Change
Global Innovation Hub



About UGIH

Hosted by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Global Innovation Hub (UGIH) was launched in November 2021 at COP26 to promote transformative innovations for a low-emission and climate-resilient future.

By leveraging the power and climate leadership of the United Nations with the dynamism of the private sector, the Hub expands the global innovation space by enabling entities to work on the development of innovations that aim at satisfying the core human needs while keeping human activities within the planetary boundaries. By doing so, the Innovation Hub also complements the current sector-based approach to innovation —an approach that tends to be incremental, with a transformative, need-based approach.

Innovation Hub provides a global cross-disciplinary community of practice with a space— physical and virtual—to share ideas and design climate solutions in a spirit of radical collaboration. UGIH has built four spaces to operationalize its objectives:



Systemic Innovation Workshop



Adhoc Working Group



Digital Platform



Pavilion at COP



Table Of Contents

01 UGIH @ COP30	Page 8
02 UGIH @COP30 in Numbers	Page 11
03 COP30 Sessions	Page 12
04 UGIH 18th Systemic Innovation Workshop	Page 23
05 UGIH's First Global Innovation Forum	Page 25
06 UGIH Participation in Other Events	Page 26



United Nations Climate Change
Global Innovation Hub

“True innovation is not only about intervention, it is about collaboration, courage, and the collective imagination to deliver lasting impact for the people and the planet.”



Mr. James Grabert

Director, Mitigation

United Nations Climate Change



United Nations Climate Change
Global Innovation Hub

“Ambitious climate action is more than an ecological necessity—it's a smart economic opportunity. By investing in climate protection, we can create jobs, drive green technology, foster innovation, and develop future markets globally.”



H.E. Minister Reem Alabali-Radovan

German Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)



United Nations Climate Change
Global Innovation Hub

“For us, innovation is probably the only way that we can get back to 1.5 track. But in order to have innovation, we need to have cooperation, so that together we can build the solutions.”



Mr. Adalberto Maluf

National Secretary,
Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, Brazil



United Nations Climate Change
Global Innovation Hub

“The UN Climate Change and Wellcome Trust’s partnership will ensure that health evidence, robust science and innovation underpin and strengthen global climate policy-making, prioritising and enabling resilient solutions to real challenges people face such as extreme heat, air pollution, infectious disease, mental health, and food insecurity.”



Mr. Alan Dangour

Director, Wellcome Trust



UGIH @COP30

UGIH, for the fifth consecutive year, successfully concluded its COP dialogues on transformative climate and sustainability innovation at COP30, held from the 10 to 21 November 2025, during the 30th United Nations Climate Change Conference in Bélem, Brazil. Over the two weeks, UGIH conducted a total of twenty-six sessions in the Special Events Rooms (Paraná and Tapajós), two sessions at the UNFCCC Official Pavilion, and one session at the World Green Economy Organisation Pavilion. Additionally, UGIH organised a virtual two-day event on 13 and 14 November, in collaboration with MI RISE, titled "Delivery on Human Needs in the 21st Century: Innovation ecosystems delivering climate solutions for a future where everyone lives flourishing lives on a flourishing planet with an expanded climate and innovation agenda."

The objectives of this fifth edition of UGIH COP Dialogues were fourfold:

01

To promote the concept of **system change** in climate and sustainability innovations

02

To raise awareness on the need to consider **inner development, outer action and system change holistically**

03

To identify and access potential partners and networks of stakeholders to build **a movement** that enables effective implementation of the UGIH's objectives

04

To boost UGIH's **visibility**

As with other years, the UGIH sessions served as a convening and networking area to promote, discuss, share, and enable transformative and collaborative strategies to develop climate and sustainability innovations. The dialogues presented a space to introduce innovative products and services and discussed how these innovations can help advance markets and create transformative supply chains that are in line with climate and sustainability goals. Innovation can be used to manage change and discover new opportunities.

UGIH @COP30



United Nations Climate Change
Global Innovation Hub

Distinguished speakers included Mayors and other high-level government representatives; senior UN agency officials; CEOs, thought leaders, startups, NGOs, youth representatives, faith leaders, influencers, and culture and creative industry representatives.

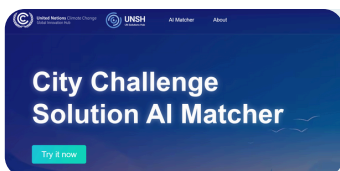
The sessions were organized in varied thematic areas such as the need for systemic innovation, innovative financial instruments to enable climate actions, climate-health nexus, showcasing transformative solutions in the climate and sustainability space, role of digital tools including AI in advancing the climate and sustainability agenda, and the role of the youth in driving innovation.



UGIH continued to expand its stakeholder network to strengthen its work, including exploring collaboration opportunities for 2026 such as:

- Foundations such as Wellcome Trust
- Private sector including Deloitte, Climate KIC, NVIDIA, GESDA, GeSI, Tencents and Mahindra
- Networks including Council of Engineers for the Energy Transition
- Governments including the government of Uganda and German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
- Academia including Cornell University
- Other UN agencies including the UN Global Compact and ITU

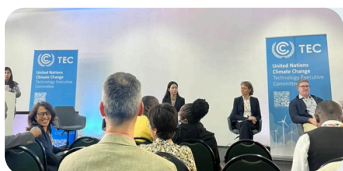
Key highlights include:



The global launch of the **United Nations Solutions Hub** developed under the United Nations Global Innovation Hub in partnership with the Global Enabling Sustainability Initiative (GeSI) and other partners.



Launch of the **Standard or Sustainable Manufacturing White Paper**, demonstrating measurable actions toward industrial decarbonization and digital innovation.



Increased internal collaboration with the **Technology Executive Mechanism** to co-host a session on AI for Climate Award and **ACE** to organize a session at the Global Innovation Forum



Official global launch of **LONGi's 2050 Climate Action White Paper (2024–2025)**, a comprehensive vision integrating solar, storage, and hydrogen technologies to build a resilient, equitable energy ecosystem.



Launch of the **World Investment Plan Final Report** developed by the Force for Good Foundation in collaboration with other partners



Official launch of the **Green Hydrogen Task Force Fact Sheet** under the 24/7 Carbon-Free Energy (CFE), co-led by Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL) and the Council of Engineers for the Energy Transition (CEET).

UGIH @COP30 Key highlights



In the lead up to COP30, UGIH also held its First Global Innovation Forum in Rio de Janeiro on the 5th and 6th of November. The forum marked a milestone in advancing climate innovation through cross-sector collaboration, subnational leadership, and co-created project design. Hosted by UGIH in partnership with the State Government of Rio de Janeiro and the Brazilian College of Advanced Studies, with over 700 participants, the Forum was designed to connect the global innovation ecosystem with the UN Climate Change process, leveraging Rio's dynamic business environment and its history as a centre for sustainability and technology.

[Read the Report Here](#)



The UN Climate Change Global Innovation Hub (UGIH) also successfully conducted its Eighteenth Systemic Innovation Workshop on 15 November 2025 at the sidelines of COP30. The workshop titled “Catalyzing Innovation for Resilient Nature-Based Futures” was held at FIEPA Federação das Indústrias do Estado do Pará, Belem Brazil. The workshop saw a diverse mix of 120 participants from a diverse group of stakeholders including, UN organizations, incubators and accelerators tech companies, foundations, VC firms, research centers, and start-ups. The workshop provided a comprehensive platform for a diverse range of stakeholders to connect over shared challenges and opportunities and collaboratively identify and address priority gaps in the deployment of scalable innovations.

UGIH @COP30 in Numbers

1000+

Stakeholders Engaged in Different Events



167+

Speakers

29

Thematic Sessions

over 11 days

Carbon

Transition

Action

Innovation

Climate

Global

South

Zero

Resilient

Empowering

Communities

Circular

Sustainable

Impact

Digital

Future

Measuring

Urban

Science

Competitiveness

Clean

Markets

Socio

Collaboration

Neutrality

Hub

Economy

AI

Frontier

Net

SMEs

Paths

Systemic

Data

Tech

Finance

Energy

Hydrogen

Technology

Economic

Transformation

Anticipatory

Development

2 Days

Global Innovation Forum in Rio

1 *UN Solution Hub* Digital Platform Launched



17th & 18th Systemic Innovation Workshop



10 Bilateral meetings

5

Sessions outside the UGIH COP30 Programming

10+

Global Innovation Projects Ideated



Session 1



Strategic Global Mobilisation of Investment for Development & Climate - Launching a World Investment Plan

This session featured the launch of a World Investment Plan developed by Force for Good, that outlines an investment agenda that profitably addresses both development and climate change by turning needs into markets. It identifies US\$123 trillion in assets across ten priority investment areas. The plan identifies how to catalyze a “Big Bang” of sustainable growth through 2050 and beyond, turning needs into markets.

Panelists:

- **Ketan Patel**, Chairman, Force for Good, F4G Foundation; CEO, Greater Pacific Capital
- **Jon Symonds**, Chairman, GSK; Former Chairman, HSBC Bank PLC
- **Phoebe Koundouri**, Chair, A4ERIA; Chair, SDSN Global Climate Hub
- **Osvald Bjelland**, Founder and Chairman, Origination AS, Origination Foundation, formerly also of Xyntéo; Founder, The Performance Theatre
- **Jon Miller**, Chief Executive Officer, Integrated Media Co.; Former Chairman & CEO AOL

Session 2



From Climate Data to Systemic Change: AI-Powered City Transitions in Brazil

This session explored how cities — individually and collectively — can leverage AI, open digital infrastructure, and shared data to accelerate climate transitions. It showed how open platforms like CityCatalyst, URBind, and the Transition Studio can help cities collaborate, align industrial demand, and finance systemic climate action. Participants also examined how digital public infrastructure enables multi-city coordination - helping cities to share data, co-design solutions, and generate bankable, funder-aligned project portfolios.

Panelists:

- **Martin Wainstein**, Executive Director, Open Earth Foundation
- **Kirsten Dunlop**, CEO, Climate KIC
- **Kent Larson**, Director, Massachusetts Institute of Technology City Science Research Group

Session 3



Innovating for Impact: Leveraging Innovation to Drive Climate and Sustainability Action

This high-level dialogue explored how innovation can drive climate action and unlock pathways for sustainable economic development. Drawing on examples of transformative technologies, policy frameworks, and collaborative initiatives, speakers discussed how innovation ecosystems can accelerate low-carbon growth, strengthen global partnerships, and foster inclusive, climate-resilient prosperity. Mr. James Grabert highlighted UGIH's role in fostering systemic innovation, emphasizing the need for collaboration and inclusive solutions.

Panelists:

- **James Grabert**, Director, Mitigation, UNFCCC
- **H.E. Minister Reem Alabali-Radovan**, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Germany
- **Kirsten Dunlop**, CEO, Climate KIC
- **Adalberto Maluf**, National Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, Brazil
- **Helmut Tundermann**, Manager, Mele Brazil
- **Bernhard Lorentz**, Managing Partner, Deloitte
- **Luc Gnacadja**, Co-Chair, Adaptation Benefits Mechanism (ABM) Executive Committee, African Development Bank; Former Minister for Environment, Housing and Urban Planning of Benin
- **Nitin Arora**, Lead, UN Climate Change Global Innovation Hub (UGIH)

Session 4



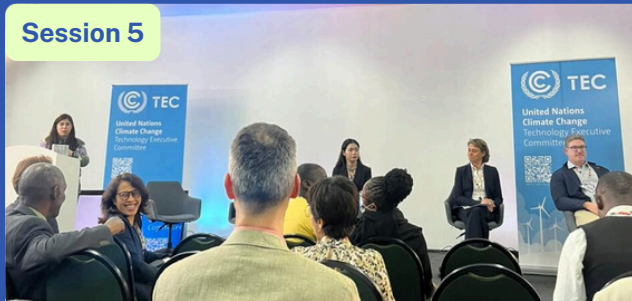
Using Science to Inform Policy Decision Making: The Development of the Senegal River Basin

This session explored how science-based evidence and innovation can inform policy, planning, and investment decisions in the Senegal River Basin. The session also highlighted examples where data, models, and participatory science have improved outcomes, and discussed pathways to institutionalize science-policy interfaces for transboundary water governance and regional development.

Panelists:

- **Mohamed Abdel Vetal**, High Commissioner, OMVS
- **Niokhor Ndour**, Secretary General, OMVS
- **Phoebe Koundouri**, Chair UN SDSN Global Climate Hub
- **Ketan Patel**, Chair Force for good
- **Marieke Hood**, Executive Director Impact, GESDA
- **Wari N. Flores**, Founder & PI, KINRAY HUB
- **Massamba Thioye**, Consultant, UNFCCC

Session 5



AI For Climate Award

The UNFCCC Technology Mechanism AI for Climate Action Award recognizes and promotes impactful AI innovations that advance climate adaptation and mitigation in LDCs and SIDS. The session showcased solutions of the finalists and culminated in the announcement of the winner - Alisa Luangrath from the Lao People's Democratic Republic

Panelists:

- **Maria João Sousa**, Executive Director, Climate Change AI
- **Dietram Oppelt**, Chair of the UNFCCC Technology Executive Committee
- **Sophie De Coninck**, Director, Means of Implementation Division, UNFCCC
- **Christian Lohberger**, Vice-Chair of Climate Technology Centre and Network
- **Alisa Luangrath** (AI-based smart farming and irrigation system to enhance climate resilience Lao People's Democratic Republic)
- **Careen Mwakitalu**, (AI-Powered Climate Mobility Data Collection Tool: Mapping Migration Flows for Adaptation, Tanzania)
- **Hannah Rhodah** (ClimateCrop AI Smart Climate Resilient Farming Assistant, Uganda)
- **Tehila Mwenda** (AgriDream: AI-Powered Agricultural Climate Resilience, Zambia)

Session 6



How AI is Empowering Community Resilience

This session explored how AI is a powerful tool in the effort to drive vast improvements in weather and disaster prediction models. By analyzing vast datasets, AI can provide earlier, more precise warnings, giving individuals more time to prepare and humanitarian organizations more time to coordinate effective responses. This ultimately leads to more lives saved. The panelists also underscored the importance of collaboration and data sovereignty in effective AI implementation.

Panelists:

- **Kevin Brege**, Program Manager, Social Impact (via) Google.org
- **Luis Enrique Corzo Garcia**, Social Impact Director, World Vision Brazil
- **Manoela Machado**, Ph.D., Research Scientist, Woodwell Climate Research Center
- **Rogier van den Berg**, Global Director, WRI Ross Center for Sustainable Cities
- **Natalie Cilem**, Community Lead, Global Network for Wildfire Leadership, World Economic Forum

Session 1



Harnessing Frontier Science and Technology Through Anticipatory Governance for the Prosperity of People and the Planet

This session explored how rapidly advancing technologies can be leveraged to support eco-augmentation. The discussion also highlighted the role of anticipatory science diplomacy in ensuring that these powerful tools are developed and deployed ethically, inclusively, and in service of the Sustainable Development Goals. A special focus was given to quantum computing, showcasing how initiatives such as the Open Quantum Institute are accelerating the use of quantum computing to model, predict, and mitigate climate impacts — bridging the frontier of scientific innovation with the urgent needs of global climate governance.

Panelists:

- **Alexandre Antonelli**, Scientific Director, Kew Gardens
- **Massamba Thioye**, Consultant, UNFCCC
- **Karl Thibault**, Operations and Talent Development Officer, Institut Quantique
- **Daniel de Haro Moraes**, Head of Emerging Technologies Venturus
- **Marieke Hood**, Executive Director Impact, GESDA

Session 2



Measuring what matters - Balancing AI Innovation, Impact and Sustainability

Artificial Intelligence drives efficiency but comes with environmental costs — from energy-intensive data centres to hardware production. This session presented solutions from the AI Environmental Footprint Hackathon and explored tools, standards, and collaborations guiding greener, more accountable AI innovation.

Panelists:

- **Thomas Basikolo**, Programme Coordinator in the Study Groups and Policy Department, ITU
- **Vishal Jain**, GreenMind
- **Paolo Gemma**, Standards Lead, Huawei
- **Guilherme Canela de Souza**, Director, Division for Digital Inclusion & Policies and Digital Transformation, UNESCO
- **Adam Elman**, Director of Sustainability, EMEA, Google
- **Rob McGreevy**, Chief Product Officer, AVEVA
- **Alayna Van Dervort**, Chief of Climate Innovation & Partnerships at OptiCloud
- **Jean Manuel Canet**, Senior Manager, Orange

Session 3



From Green Manufacturing to Global Action: Digital Pathways for Sustainable Industry

This session examined how digitalization + intelligent manufacturing can accelerate energy-efficiency doubling, industrial decarbonization, and just energy transitions. A major highlight was the launch of Gree's Green Energy Efficiency Standard or Sustainable Manufacturing White Paper, showcasing practical digital pathways for industrial transformation. The session concluded with a high-level roundtable "Efficiency for All – How Smart Cooling Drives a Just Energy Transition," which focused on how AI, data platforms, and digital innovation enable a fair and measurable energy transition.

Panelists:

- **Nan Tim Feng**, Head of APAC, GeSI
- **Nitin Arora**, Team Lead, UN Global Innovation Hub, UNFCCC
- **Lei Zhu**, CMO, Gree Electric Appliances, Inc.
- **Luis Neves**, CEO, GeSI
- **Cheng Mingwei**, Marketing Director, Gree Brazil
- **Chen Yusen**, Chief Staff of Alibaba Cloud CEO, SVP of Alibaba Cloud
- **Zhou Yingya**, Senior Product Director, Tencent

Session 4



From Innovation to Impact: Collaborating on AI Public Policies For Sustainability at Scale

This session explored how we move the AI conversation from ground-breaking innovation to widespread impact. The discussion centered on the ethical and practical implications of investing in AI in Brazil. Speakers also emphasized the need to ensure AI does not exacerbate inequality. Key applications of AI highlighted included improving agriculture, healthcare and education, and enhancing energy distribution. Brazil's high AI adoption rate was noted, with a call for a supportive regulatory framework to attract investment and leverage AI for national development.

Panelists:

- **Juliana Moura Bueno**, Lead Public Affairs, Brazil, Google
- **Fabio Coelho**, Vice President, Google and Country Director
- **Adauto Modesto**, Alternate-Vice-Minister of Management and Innovation
- **Marina Bragante**, City Councillor, Sao Paulo
- **Maria Emilia Peres**, Strategy and Business Design Partner, Deloitte

Session 5



Powering the Digital Age

This panel convened senior leaders from the private sector and the technology industry to examine how innovation — anchored by sustainable sovereign AI — can enable data infrastructure that is both resilient and aligned with national and global sustainability goals. In support of a dual focus on mitigation and adaptation, the discussion highlighted how sovereign AI can help drive emissions reductions through energy optimization, while also strengthening infrastructure to withstand risks.

Panelists:

- **Bernhard Lorentz**, Global Climate & Infrastructure leader, Deloitte Global
- **Rana Ghoneim**, Industrial Development Officer, UNIDO
- **Vijay Karia**, CEO, OptiCloud
- **Adam Elman**, Director of Sustainability, Google
- **David Gonahasa**, Government of Uganda

Session 6



Securing Urban and Bioregional Futures - building deep resilience and life-affirming economies

This session explored how cities and bioregions can act as stabilizers and amplifiers of nature-positive, life-affirming transformation in a world undergoing rapid change. It discussed frameworks to integrate compounding systemic risks into strategies and investments, building resilience, sustainability, and security through holistic innovation. The panel underscored the urgency of redefining value and fostering new economic models.

Panelists:

- **Kirsten Dunlop**, CEO, Climate KIC
- **Indy Johar**, Mission Steward, Dark Matter Labs; Professor, RMIT University
- **Tom Mitchell**, Executive Director, International Institute for Environment and Development;
- **Eleni Myrivili**, Global Chief Heat Officer, United Nations Human Settlements Programmelève, Co-President of The Club of Rome (2018-2024)/ Project Lead for the Earth for All initiative.
- **Atossa Soltani**, Founder & Board President of Amazon Watch/ Director of Global Strategy for the Amazon Sacred Headwaters alliance.
- **Joshua Amponsem**, Climate Adaptation Fellow at Global Center on Adaptation

Session 1



From Zero-Carbon Campus to Global Action - Digital Pathways for Education in Climate Solutions

This session showcased how higher education and digital innovation, including the UN Solution Hub platform, can jointly advance climate literacy and empower youth action. A core focus was Huanghe Science and Technology University's "zero-carbon campus" practice, demonstrating how universities can integrate digital management, green curricula, and practical climate projects into campus transformation. The session also featured a fireside chat that explored how to scale digital education, share tools, and strengthen cross-regional collaboration. It concluded with a call to action toward establishing a "Green Digital Education Partnership Network", connecting universities, international organizations, and the private sector.

Panelists:

- **Luis Neves**, CEO, Global Enabling Sustainability Initiative
- **Pro Baocheng Yang**, President, Huanghe Science and Technology University
- **Nan Tim Feng**, SVP & Head of APAC, GeSI
- **Henrique Madeira**, Full Professor of Computer Science and Director of CISUC, University of Coimbra
- **Joseph Nganga**, Interim CEO, Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet, Kenya
- **Wang Yanfei**, Head of Global Branding, LONGiSolar Technology Co., Ltd.

Session 2



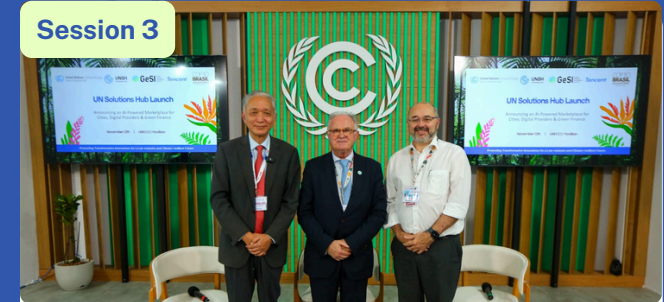
Fostering South-South Collaboration-Scaling Climate Tech Solutions through Shared Innovation

This session showcased how South-South collaboration can accelerate the development and scaling of climate technologies in the Global South. It presented examples of where collaboration between South-based Enterprise Support Organizations, coming from similar socioeconomic contexts, can strengthen locally adapted innovation pathways. The panel highlighted the need for better data sharing, procurement rules, and catalytic capital to support green jobs and innovation. It also discussed the importance of private sector engagement and overcoming risk aversion to enhance South-South collaboration.

Panelists:

- **Pradeepa Bholenath** - Senior Director of Climate and REDD+ Ministry of Natural Resources, Govt of Guyana
- **Sombul Munshi**, Lead EMDE Engagement, Climate Champions team
- **Milena Martis**, Diretora Relações Institucionais & Parcerias, Climate Ventures
- **Pratap Raju**, Founding Partner, Climate Collective Foundation

Session 3



UN Solutions Hub (UNSH) Launch Event

This event marked the global launch of the UNSH digital platform, a global digital platform designed to connect climate solutions, partners, and real-world implementation opportunities. With opening speeches, a project presentation, and a panel on "Sustainable Solutions & Digital Empowerment," it positioned UNSH as a key vehicle for digital-driven climate action. Through the UNSH, stakeholders can share, validate, and replicate scalable solutions that advance the goals of the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Panelists:

- **Nan Feng (Tim)**, Senior Vice-President & Head of APAC, GeSI
- **Luis Neves**, CEO, GeSI
- **James Grabert**, Director, Mitigation Division, UNFCCC
- **Zhai Yongping**, Senior Advisor, Tencent
- **Yingya Zhou**, Senior Product Director, Climate Innovation Hub, Tencent
- **Ajay Bhushan Pandey**, Vice President, Investment Solutions, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
- **Wang Siqiang**, Chairman of China National Electric Construction Association

Session 4



From breakthrough to impact: award-winning science-driven solutions restoring the Amazonian ecosystems and uplifting local livelihoods

This session explored how the Frontiers Planet Prize is identifying and accelerating breakthrough research with tangible solutions for humanity to live safely within planetary boundaries. This case study demonstrated how science can power just transitions: merging ecological restoration with socioeconomic inclusion and offering a blueprint that can be replicated for regions facing similar climate and development challenges. The discussion also reflected on how such integrated science-policy-society models can be scaled through better alignment across research, funding, and governance frameworks, ensuring science leads on impact.

Panelists:

- **Prof Carlos Peres**, Professor, University of East Anglia, Yale University, International Champion Frontiers Planet Prize 2023
- **Dr Joao Vitor Campos-Silva**, President, Instituto Jurua, Researcher, National Institute for Amazonian Research
- **Prof Mercedes Bustamante**, University Vice-President of the Academy for the Minas Gerais and the Central-West Region, Brazilian Academy of Sciences, University of Brasilia.
- **Dr Mariana Napolitano Ferreira**, Science Director, WWF Brazil
- **Prof Andy Purvis**, Research Leader, Natural History Museum, United Kingdom
- **Dr Gilbert De Gregorio**, Associate Director, Frontiers Planet Prize

Session 5



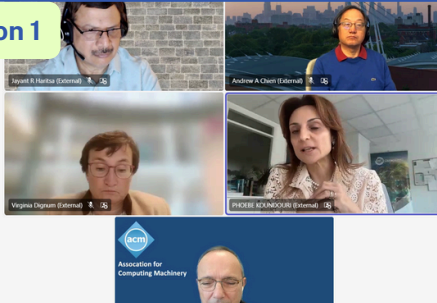
Driving An SME-Focused Green, Just and Digital Transition - Empowering SMEs with Digital Data Tools to Unlock Green Finance, Access Carbon Markets and Strengthen Global Competitiveness

This session brought discussed the critical role of SMEs, highlighting how automated reporting systems, open data frameworks, and collaborative digital infrastructures can close the data and financing gap that currently excludes SMEs from green finance, carbon markets, and global supply chains and showcase new global efforts. The discussion also highlighted tools such as open-source reporting platforms, affordable MRV solutions for carbon credits, and SME-focused fintech applications.

Panelists:

- **Catherine Atkin**, Chair, Climate Data Policy Initiative, Stanford CodeX
- **Gordana Siljanovska-Davkova**, President of the Republic of North Macedonia
- **Liv Watson**, Global Digital Single Market Data Alliance
- **Nitin Arora**, Lead, UN Climate Change Global Innovation Hub (UGIH)
- **Kadir Gungor**, Chair, Sustainable Impact Capital and Holding
- **Gry Langbak**, Special Director, COP Norwegian business delegation and pavilion & Special Advisor Green Growth & Transformation, Innovation Norway
- **Wendy Miles**, Barrister, Twenty Essex & Vice Chair for the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Environment and Energy Commission
- **Andromeda Wood**, VP for Regulatory Strategy, Workiva

Session 1



Digital Technology as Driver of the Climate and Sustainability Transition

This session examined how AI, data platforms, and digital public goods can unlock faster, fairer, and more accountable pathways to the Sustainable Development Goals. Through a structured debate, the session addressed openness, model governance, and data rights—including Indigenous data sovereignty and safeguards against surveillance harms—while exploring practical strategies for efficient, lower-carbon compute (green data centers, model distillation, hardware-aware design).

Panelists:

- **Yannis Ioannidis**, President of the Association for Computing Machinery; Professor, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens
- **Phoebe Koundouri**, Professor, Athens University of Economics and Business & University of Cambridge; Co-Chair, United Nations Global Sustainable Development Report 2027; Chair, SDSN Global Climate Hub; Director, AE4RIA
- **Andrew Chien**, Professor of Computer Science, U. Chicago
- **Virginia Dignum**, Professor, University of UMEA, Sweden
- **Jayant R. Haritsa**, Professor, Faculty of CDS and CSA departments, Indian Institute of Science

Session 2



AI-Driven Innovation for the Power Sector: Accelerating the Net-Zero Energy Transition

This session spotlighted how artificial intelligence can reshape the power sector, from grid optimization and renewable integration to predictive maintenance and demand forecasting. By showcasing frontier innovations and real-world pilots, it highlighted how AI can drive both decarbonization and resilience, particularly in emerging markets.

Panelists:

- **Nalin Agarwal**, Founding Partner, Climate Collective
- **Adam Elman**, Director of Sustainability, EMEA, Google
- **Manish Pant**, EVP International Operations, Schneider
- **Natália Oliveira**, Regional Lead for Latin America, Global Renewables Alliance
- **Josh Parker**, Head of Sustainability, NVIDIA

Session 3



Socio-environmental Dialogue for Peace: Adaptation and Just Transition

This session offered a meeting space to connect peace, climate adaptation and a just transition, strengthening trust among communities, companies, and institutions. It sought to lay the foundations for cooperation and trust that will enable the building of bridges of fraternity, capable of reconciling people with each other and with nature.

Panelists:

- **Jose Luis Manzano**, CEO, Integra Capital
- **Ana Cabral-Gardner**, Co-Chairperson at Sigma Lithium
- **Eduardo Agosta**, Director of the Department of Integral Ecology at the Spanish Episcopal Conference
- **Cardinal Leonardo Ulrich Steiner**, Archbishop of Manaus
- **Juliano Assunção**, Professor of Economics at PUC-Rio
- **Emilce Cuda**, Secretary of the Pontifical Commission for Latin America, The Holy See
- **Patricio Lombardi**, Executive Director, Environmental Markets Fairness Foundation

Session 4



Catalyzing the Sustainable Transition: Pathways, Scenarios, and Innovations in Climate Finance Mobilization

This event brought together a diverse coalition of stakeholders to examine scenario-based projections for finance mobilization, innovative funding structures, and the important role of high-integrity carbon markets. The session spotlighted actionable strategies to maximize the catalytic effect of public funds, leverage private sector investment, and help ensure that financial flows are aligned with both environmental and nature-positive outcomes.

Panelists:

- **Nicole Roettmer**, Managing Director, Sustainability & Climate GmbH, Germany, Partner, Deloitte Consulting GmbH
- **Ignace Beguin Billecocq**, Executive Director, The Mangrove Breakthrough
- **Alan Kroeger**, Director, Nature & Climate, Satelligence
- **Federica Bietta**, Managing Director, Coalition for Rainforest Nations
- **Viktoriya Brand**, Head of Group Sustainability, Deutsche Bank
- **Jorge Salaverri**, Vice Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, Honduras, government

Session 1



Advancing Carbon Dioxide Removal (CDR) and Article 6 Partnerships: Inclusive, Equitable, and Scalable Climate Solutions

This session explored how integrating Carbon Dioxide Removal approaches with Article 6 of the Paris Agreement can advance ambitious and equitable climate action. It highlighted inclusive CDR pathways, nature-based, hybrid, and engineered, while addressing governance, Indigenous rights, and ecosystem preservation. The discussion also showcased how Article 6 cooperation and UN-facilitated partnerships scale sustainable CDR deployment, align with Nationally Determined Contributions, and strengthen both voluntary and compliance markets.

Panelists:

- **Rana Ghoneim**, Director, Energy and Climate Action Division, UNIDO
- **Mercedes Maroto-Valer**, Champion and Director UK Industrial Decarbonization Research and Innovation Centre and Deputy Principal (Global Sustainability), Heriot-Watt University.
- **Dexter Lee**, Head of Carbon Markets Negotiations, Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, United Kingdom
- **Rosana Santos**, Executive Director, E+ Energy Transition Institute
- **Emi Minghui Gui**, Associate Professor, Monash University Malaysia
- **Semida Silveira**, Professor, Cornell University
- **Thiago Barral**, Executive President at the Brazilian Energy Research Office (EPE)
- **Nitin Arora**, Lead, UN Climate Change Global Innovation Hub (UGIH)

Session 2



Official Launch: Green Hydrogen Task Force Fact Sheet – Unlocking Green Hydrogen for 24/7 Carbon-Free Energy in the Global South

This session marked the official launch of the Green Hydrogen Task Force Fact Sheet under the 24/7 Carbon-Free Energy (CFE) Compact, co-led by Sustainable Energy for All and the Council of Engineers for the Energy Transition. It presented concise, actionable guidance for policymakers, financiers, and industry to accelerate green hydrogen deployment in the Global South. The launch was followed by a high-level dialogue on enabling policies, investment tools, digital tracking and certification, and supply-chain cooperation, with a focus on near-term, scalable interventions and regional pilot opportunities.

Panelists:

- **Ali Zerouali**, Co-lead of the Green Hydrogen Task Force; Member of the UN Council of Engineers for the Energy Transition (CEET) and Executive Vice President Middle-East, Africa at HIF Global
- **Riad Meddeb**, Director of the Sustainable Energy Hub, UNDP
- **Ricardo Gorini**, Head of Remap, IRENA
- **Simran Sinha**, Programme Officer, GH2
- **Vimal Mahendru**, Vice President and Special Envoy for the UN SDGs, IEC

Session 3



Solar + Digital - China's Smart Green Leap for Biodiversity and Climate Resilience

This session explored how solar and digital technologies can work together to support biodiversity protection, energy equity, and industrial transformation. The event marked the official global launch of LONGi's 2050 Climate Action White Paper (2024–2025), a comprehensive vision integrating solar, storage, and hydrogen technologies to build a resilient, equitable, and zero-carbon energy ecosystem. The session also included a panel discussion that highlighted how cross-sector innovation drives measurable progress toward global net-zero goals.

Panelists:

- **Luis Neves**, Chief Executive Officer, GeSI
- **Li Zhengguo**, Founder, Chief Technology Officer, LONGi
- **Zhai Yubo**, Host; Vice President, NaaS Technology
- **Zhou Murong**, Representative of Chengdu "Tianfu Carbon Credits" Platform
- **Gloria Kusi Boamah**, Senior Sustainability Officer, Jospeng Group of Companies
- **Paul Simons**, Founding Director, Yale Emerging Climate Leaders Fellowship
- **Yubo Zhai**, Vice President, NaaS Technology
- **Floria Wang**, Head of Global Branding, LONGi
- **Paul Simons**, Founding Director, Yale Emerging Climate Leaders Fellowship
- **Jun Ma**, Director, IPE
- **Thatiana de Abreu Farias**, Communications and ESG Manager, Comerc Energia
- **Facundo Armas**, Sustainable Business Director, Globant

Session 1



What Innovations for Carbon Neutrality and Energy System Transformation?"

This session aimed to provoke high-level, strategic thinking into the nature and nurture of innovations for the net-zero transition. It embarked on a daring and refreshing journey to rethink the types and ecosystems of innovations needed for the net-zero transition, the geo-origins, characteristics, and transfer of innovations, and the role of individuals and leadership in innovations. It established unique linkages between innovation, locale, and people that are so often neglected in the net-zero transition discourse.

Panelists:

- **Xi Lu**, Assistant Dean, Institute for Carbon Neutrality, Tsinghua University/Executive Editor-in-Chief, TRCN
- **James Grabert**, Director, Mitigation Division, United Nations Climate Change
- **Massamba Thiolye**, Consultant, UNFCCC
- **Kebin He**, Member, Chinese Academy of Engineering, Dean of the Institute for Carbon Neutrality, Tsinghua University
- **Piers Forster**, Chair of UK Climate Change Committee
- **Lawrence Tubiana**, CEO, European Climate Foundation
- **Zoe Yijing Zhong**, Director, Tech Communications, ICON Tsinghua/Managing Director, TRCN
- **Zheng Li**, Dean, Institute of Climate Change and Sustainable Development, Tsinghua University
- **Kira Vinke**, Head, Center for Climate and Foreign Policy, German Council on Foreign Relations
- **André Guimaraes**, Executive Director, Amazon Environmental Research Institute
- **Maximilian Jungmann**, Executive Manager, Heidelberg Center for Environment, University of Heidelberg

Session 1



From Energy Transition to Knowledge Economy Transition: From Net Zero 2050 to KE2045

This panel introduced the Knowledge Economy Transition 2045 (KE2045) that seeks to integrate climate action with the wider structural transformation of the global economy, highlighting the role of international finance, innovation, and the emerging AI/technology stack in enabling a just and effective transition. The discussion outlined how a shift from energy transition alone to a holistic knowledge economy transition can strengthen multilateralism, empower the Global South, and reinforce Brazil's leadership at COP30.

Panelists:

- **Phoebe Koundouri**, Professor, Athens University of Economics and Business & University of Cambridge; Co-Chair, United Nations Global Sustainable Development Report 2027; Chair, SDSN Global Climate Hub; Director, AE4RIA
- **Malik Dahlan**, Honorary Professor, University of St Andrews; Emeritus Professor of International Law and Public Policy at Queen Mary University of London; Senior Research Associate at Peterhouse, University of Cambridge; Founder of the Scotia Group. Leads the KE2045 Initiative
- **Massamba Thiolye**, Consultant, UNFCCC
- **Simona Marinescu**, Senior Advisor to the United Nations; Economy Counsel, International Development & Climate Alliance
- **Mehdi Paryavi**, Chairman and CEO, International Data Center Authority
- **Jim Falk**, Professor Fellow, University of Melbourne; Emeritus Professor, University of Wollongong

Session 1



Innovative Pathways for Climate-Aligned Sustainable Finance

This dialogue explored how innovative financial mechanisms can unlock equitable and climate-aligned sustainable transitions. The session spotlighted new approaches to mobilize capital for the Global South, de-risk investments in clean energy and resilience, and ensure that financing flows contribute to both climate ambition and social inclusion. Speakers shared examples of catalytic instruments, blended finance structures, and partnership models that align financial systems with net-zero and just transition goals.

Panelists:

- **Wes Geisenberger**, VP Sustainability, HBAR Foundation
- **Catherine Atkin**, Co-chair - Stanford Law School CodeX Climate Data Policy Initiative
- **Marcelo Freire**, CEO, Sigma
- **Neha Sharma**, Results, Impact and Knowledge Unit Lead, Adaptation Fund, World Bank
- **Nitin Arora**, Lead, UN Climate Change Global Innovation Hub (UGIH)
- **Alain Beauvillard**, Director, Department of Strategy, Policy, and Innovation, Green Climate Fund

Session 1



Showcasing Global Youth Innovation in the Energy Transition

Young people are leading climate and energy progress through innovation, advocacy, and community action, but still face barriers to resources and inclusion in decision-making. This session featured three global case studies highlighting youth-led solutions advancing SDG 7 and demonstrating how community-rooted, regionally relevant energy initiatives can drive meaningful change.

Panelists:

- **Mohamed Sefiani**, Mayor, Municipality of Chefchaouen, Morocco
- **Shakti Ramkumar**, Senior Director of Policy and Communications, Student Energy
- **Rose Kobusinge**, Founder and Director, Vital Crest Foundation
- **Aish Mann**, Threading Change, and Founder, Tanah Air
- **Jonathan Ramos**, Co-Chair, Student Energy Summit 2026
- **Kauano Moreira**, Programming Lead, Student Energy Summit 2026
- **Kayode Ogunleye Emmanuel**, Team Lead, Eco-Learn Nigeria

Session 2



Climate Change is a Health Crisis: Financing and Scaling Health Systems for a Warming World

This COP30 side event convened a diverse coalition of stakeholders, including governments, multilateral agencies, financiers, innovators, and civil society, to foster high-level political will, forge cross-sectoral partnerships, and secure tangible commitments.

Panelists:

- **Nitin Arora**, Lead, UN Climate Change Global Innovation Hub (UGIH)
- **Antonios Kolimenakis**, Climate Change and Health, World Health Organisation
- **Pradeep Philip**, Lead Partner, Deloitte Access Economics
- **Chethan Sarabu**, MD, Director of Clinical Innovation and Clinical Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, Cornell University
- **Jemilah Mahmood**, Executive Director of the Sunway Centre for Planetary Health, Sunway University, Malaysia.



18 th Systemic Innovation Workshop



The UN Climate Change Global Innovation Hub (UGIH) successfully conducted its Eighteenth Systemic Innovation Workshop on 15 November 2025 at the sidelines of COP30. The workshop titled “Catalyzing Innovation for Resilient Nature-Based Futures” was held at FIEPA Federação das Indústrias do Estado do Pará / SENAI Getúlio Vargas Auditorium, Belém, Brazil.



UGIH’s Systemic Innovation Workshops (SIW) are part of a wider Systemic Innovation Framework that aims to accelerate the identification, development, and effective deployment of innovative technologies, policies, financial instruments, business models, cooperative approaches, and products from culture and creative industries. This framework supports transformative climate and sustainability innovations to address the needs of many people and the planet. To date, the UN Climate Change Global Innovation Hub has held 17 successful systemic innovation workshops across different regions, which have resulted in the ideation of 40+ potential global innovation projects.



The 18th Systemic Innovation Workshop (SIW), hosted by the UGIH, gathered over 100 innovators, technologists, financiers, researchers, and local institutions to accelerate innovation for resilient nature-based futures in the Amazon. Building on UGIH’s global mission and earlier workshops that generated 40+ project ideas, this SIW focused on how Earth Observation (EO), AI, sensors, and Digital Twins can enable scalable Nature-based Solutions (NbS) and stronger forest governance.

The objectives of the workshop were fourfold:

01

Understanding technological, financial, and policy levers for digital tools in NbS.

02

Securing cross-sector commitments for innovation projects in tropical forest regions.

03

Integrating Digital Twin outputs into forest finance and climate policy.

04

Strengthening long-term innovation capacity in Amazon-based institutions.

Systemic Innovation Workshop



United Nations Climate Change
Global Innovation Hub

Key Discussions:



Opening remarks from UNFCCC and FIEPA leadership highlighted the Amazon's global role and the region's growing innovation ecosystem. The first panel showcased municipal and community perspectives, Indigenous monitoring, bioeconomy initiatives, tech-park contributions, and city-level climate action, emphasizing locally grounded innovation models. Panel 2 explored frontier digital technologies, with experts from Amazon, Star Visio, GainForest, and Ororatech demonstrating how EO, AI, and Digital Twins advance MRV, biodiversity inventories, and transparency systems. Panel 3 addressed financing deep tech for nature resilience. Speakers from KfW, Climate-KIC, Nat Sec Bioeconomy, and KPTL discussed blended finance, computing infrastructure, AI model development, and capacity-building as critical investment priorities.

Breakout Groups:



Five thematic groups (NbS, deep tech, innovative finance, energy transition, mobility) identified regional challenges and co-designed new global innovation project concepts to be further developed through UGIH processes.

UGIH will work with partners to refine project proposals, embed digital transparency tools into policy and finance frameworks, and support Amazon-based institutions to sustain long-term innovation. The workshop reaffirmed the need for systemic, cross-sector collaboration to build resilient, nature-positive pathways in the Amazon.



UGIH's First Global Innovation Forum



The First UN Climate Change Global Innovation Hub (UGIH) Innovation Forum, held in Rio de Janeiro, marked a milestone in advancing climate innovation through cross-sector collaboration, subnational leadership, and co-created project design. Hosted by UGIH in partnership with the State Government of Rio de Janeiro and the Brazilian College of Advanced Studies, the Forum was designed to connect the global innovation ecosystem with the UN Climate Change process, leveraging Rio's dynamic business environment and its history as a center for sustainability and technology.

The Forum convened over 700 leaders from governments, the private sector, academia, and civil society to co-create more than ten high-impact innovation projects spanning health, finance, biodiversity, and resilience. The Forum featured a physical solutions space enabling 20+ solution providers, including tech companies, startups, and accelerators, to showcase their latest climate solutions. Additionally, interactive dialogue spaces featured thematic side events on innovations in nutrition and health, accessibility, including mobility, shelter, education, energy and biodiversity, and UGIH's 17th Systemic Innovation Workshop (SIW).

Key Highlights Included:

SOLUTIONS EXHIBITION:

Featuring 20+ solution providers, the exhibition showcased cutting-edge innovations across renewable energy, biodiversity, digital infrastructure, sustainable finance, and creative industries.

HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUES:

Sessions on the climate-health nexus (featuring key partners such as Wellcome Trust), innovation finance, and subnational leadership underscored the importance of aligning technological, financial, and policy innovation to accelerate just, inclusive transitions.

17TH SYSTEMIC INNOVATION WORKSHOP (SIW):

Bringing together subnational leaders, innovators, and financiers, the SIW co-created actionable projects across four breakout groups: Health & Climate Resilience; Energy, Biodiversity & Access; Innovation Financing & Climate Entrepreneurship; Sustainable Living.

SOUTH-NORTH & SOUTH-SOUTH COLLABORATION:

Representatives from Brazil, South Africa, Uganda, Canada, and others shared experiences on local innovation, strengthening the foundation for future Global Innovation Projects.

LOCAL & SUBNATIONAL LEADERSHIP:

An informal dialogue hosted by the UNFCCC Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) team highlighted how public engagement and strengthened participation enhance policy coherence, innovation, and trust.

The First UGIH Innovation Forum in Rio de Janeiro showcased the power of multi-level collaboration — linking international institutions, state governments, private innovators, and civil society in shaping climate solutions that are inclusive, investable, and actionable. By integrating innovation across policy, finance, and technology, the Forum laid the foundation for a global portfolio of cocreated projects that will inform future Systemic Innovation Workshops and guide the path toward COP30 and beyond.

[Read the Report Here](#)



UGIH Participation in Other Events



United Nations Climate Change
Global Innovation Hub

ANTICIPATING FUTURE SCIENCE FOR ECOSYSTEMS TO ACCELERATE SOLUTIONS FOR PEOPLE, SOCIETY AND THE PLANET

An informal dialogue hosted by GESDA highlighted how public engagement and strengthened participation enhance policy coherence, innovation, and trust.

Organized by MI RISE in collaboration with UGIH on 14 November 2025, this session explored how city-based innovation ecosystems (tech parks, incubators, accelerators, city officials, start-ups, companies, etc.) can turn cities into innovation leaders that deliver flourishing lives for their populations and become exporters of globally sustainable solutions.

SUPPORTING A BETTER FUTURE

BELEM BIOECONOMY PARK VISIT

Hosted by local partners, the UGIH team received a detailed tour of the newly inaugurated Belém Bioeconomy Park, a flagship facility designed to accelerate sustainable innovation in the Amazon. During the visit, the UGIH team highlighted the importance of such innovation environments as the genesis of new climate and nature-positive solutions. The team also emphasized how the UNFCCC Global Innovation Hub can serve as a connector and multiplier, linking the Belém Bioeconomy Park with other innovation parks, tech clusters, and accelerators globally enabling start-ups to exchange best practices, access new markets, and integrate into international innovation networks.

This session organised by Tencent, explores how cutting-edge digital technologies can accelerate climate action by improving transparency, decision-making, and investment flows. Featuring the UN Climate Change Global Innovation Hub, the UN Solution Hub, and partners such as the African Climate Investment Tracker, the session highlights emerging digital platforms, including climate tech search engines, AI-enabled investment tools, and BYTE models, that help innovators, policymakers, and financiers identify scalable climate solutions.

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY & CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

FIRE-CHAT: DELOITTE PAVILION

UGIH also participated in a fire chat at the Deloitte Pavilion that centred on how cross-sector innovation ecosystems can be leveraged to accelerate the development and deployment of scalable sustainability solutions for climate mitigation and adaptation. It also discussed the role that digital technologies and data-sharing platforms play in enhancing global collaboration and transparency for sustainable development outcomes.



United Nations Climate Change
Global Innovation Hub

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