



The sixty-fourth sessions of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SB64), Belém indicators, plastic treaty and Santa Marta outcomes

Informal Note, 5 June 2026

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The Belém Adaptation Indicators¹ agreed at COP30 to make adaptation more measurable. While the measurement of the adaptation efforts is a step forward, it is not sufficient. The indicators can be used for comparison and surveillance. However, the adaptation objective of the Paris Agreement is to enhance adaptive capacity, strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability of persons and of vulnerable ecosystems that are critical for the maintenance of forest ecosystems and the provision of forest ecosystem services². To achieve these objectives, it is necessary to take effective action to provide finance, technology transfer, debt relief and capacity-building. In SB64, developing countries will have the opportunity to discuss what is the role of reporting while support for implementing adaptation measures are missing.

A. Belém indicators and what developing countries should consider for COP31

The Belém indicators are designed to track progress toward the 11 targets of the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience and to form part of the global stocktake³. For developing countries, indicators must remain country-driven be linked to the means of implementation, and enable them to carry out risk assessments, adopt national adaptation plans and monitor implementation. This, however, requires countries to have the appropriate data systems in place and the technical capacity and finance to put the indicators into practice. If not, indicators may just serve to highlight differences in the national capacities to deal with adaptation, particularly with developing countries already highly affected by climate change.

¹ 'Decision -/CMA.7 Global Goal on Adaptation' <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cma7_8a_gga_auv.pdf> accessed 3 June 2026.

² 'Global Goal on Adaptation' (*Unfccc.int*2026) <https://unfccc.int/topics/adaptation-and-resilience/workstreams/gga?utm_>. UNFCCC, 'Global Goal on Adaptation' <https://unfccc.int/topics/adaptation-and-resilience/workstreams/gga> accessed 22 May 2026.

³ 'Proposal by the Presidency on CMA 7 Agenda Item 8(A) Matters Relating to Adaptation Global Goal on Adaptation Decision -/CMA.7 Global Goal on Adaptation' (2025) <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/gga_cop30_5.pdf>.

During SB64 and towards COP31 developing countries should insist on the adoption of three minimum safeguards.

First, that all reporting on the Belém Indicators should consider the respective national circumstances and data availability. It would be especially important to get a true picture of the situation in informal settlements and to rely on Indigenous knowledge and local indicators of vulnerability, among others. The collection of country indicators can benefit from community-based and participatory vulnerability assessments as well as from locally developed indicators for adaptation measures. In line with the Global Goal on Adaptation framework, locally led adaptation, indigenous and traditional knowledge systems should be recognized for assessing the effectiveness of adaptation and the resulting resilience outcomes⁴.

Second, indicators for measuring climate finance should be linked to the countries' access to finance, whether in the form of grants or of other concessional instruments, and avoid debt-creating instruments. This is important for many developing countries that already face high debt burdens and limited fiscal space. Climate action should not increase indebtedness as this may divert resources from; adaptation, social protection and sustainable development priorities. In line with the aims of the Baku-to-Belém Roadmap and its indicators, climate finance for developing countries should be scaled up to at least USD 1.3 trillion per year by 2035 and should be based on grants and other concessional and non-debt-creating instruments⁵.

Third, developing countries must resist a framework in which their efforts are measured while at the same time the commitments regarding finance, transfer of technology and the building-up of capacity on the part of developed countries are not measured.

B. Santa Marta outcomes to replicate and reintroduce in Bonn

Some of the outcomes of the Santa Marta Conference on Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels⁶ should be revisited in Bonn. At the conference in Santa Marta 57 countries had shared experiences of practical cooperation on the implementation of fossil fuel transition roadmaps, fossil fuel subsidy reform, trade tools, finance, labor and on the necessary scientific support for developing transition pathways for individual countries⁷. The value to developing countries of this Conference is that ambition is turned into implementation. It enables countries to phase down their use of fossil fuels while protecting workers' and governments' interests and ensuring energy access to address development needs.

Three elements from Santa Marta could be followed up by Bonn:

⁴ UNEP, 'Adaptation Gap Report 2021' (2021).

⁵ 'REPORT on the BAKU to BELÉM ROADMAP to 1.3T' (2025)

<https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Relatorio_Roadmap_COP29_COP30_EN_final.pdf>.

⁶ Home, 'First Conference on Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels' (*First Conference on Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels*2019) <<https://transitionawayconference.com/home>> accessed 3 June 2026.

⁷ Daisy Dunne, 'Santa Marta: Key Outcomes from First Summit on "Transitioning Away" from Fossil Fuels - Carbon Brief' (*Carbon Brief*30 April 2026) <<https://www.carbonbrief.org/santa-marta-key-outcomes-from-first-summit-on-transitioning-away-from-fossil-fuels/>>.

1) the roadmap approach could be brought into the UNFCCC negotiations; “Transitioning away from fossil fuels” must become more than a promise; it must become operational. However, this process must remain consistent with the principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC) under the UNFCCC⁸ and the Paris Agreement⁹. Developing Countries should not be expected to follow identical transition timelines as industrialized countries whose historical emission and financial capacities are significantly greater.

2) The working groups on finance and labor transitions must be formalized or at least be connected to the workstreams already existing within the UNFCCC. The phase out of fossil fuels will have very different implications for countries that are fossil fuel exporting, import dependent or least developed countries.

3) The new science-policy support model could be used for developing countries to analyze the consequences of their possible transition commitments (revenue replacement, energy security, industrial diversification).

The Plastic Treaty negotiations also need to be followed up. While the UNEA Resolution 5/14 on plastics had mandated a legally binding ‘plastic treaty’ to deal with the full life cycle of plastics, at the meeting of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC)-5.2 in Geneva, the negotiations were brought to a close without agreement as developed countries would not agree to any production controls, while developing countries would not agree to a treaty that did not deal with chemicals, finance and the countries’ implementation responsibilities. For developing countries, agreements dealing with global environmental issues such as climate change, fossil fuels and plastics should address the root causes of impacts rather than the impacts as such. Therefore, at SB64, equity and the necessary finance should be conditions for implementation rather than supplementary elements that can be negotiated away¹⁰.

⁸ UNFCCC, ‘United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change’ (United Nations 1992) <<https://unfccc.int/resource/docs/convkp/conveng.pdf>> accessed 27 May 2026.

⁹ UNFCCC, ‘Paris Agreement’ (United Nations 2015) <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/english_paris_agreement.pdf> accessed 27 May 2026.

¹⁰ ‘UNITED NATIONS EP United Nations Environment Programme’ (2022) <<https://www.gdrc.org/uem/waste/plastics/UN-plastic-resolution.pdf>>.

The table below outlines the key issues which are likely to shape discussions at SB64 and their implications on developing countries. It is an overview of the current state of negotiations and the key expectations from developing countries perspective^{11 12 13 14}.

Key issues and expectations for developing countries at SB64 (Bonn, June 2026)

WHEN?	WHAT IS HAPPENING/CURRENT POSITION	EXPECTATION
SB64 Bonn (June 2026)	Technical work on adaptation indicators, climate finance, a just transition and a path for the implementation of commitments are expected to continue until COP31. Discussions are likely to reveal continuing differences between developed and developing countries in finance, reporting obligations and responsibilities associated with fossil-fuel transitions.	Developing countries should seek to ensure that CBDR-RC is recognized in the negotiations related to the adaptation indicators, climate finance, just transition and the implementation pathways. They should advocate for more funding for adaptation, more operational means to make use of the existing frameworks such as the Belém indicators and the transition commitments already negotiated.

¹¹ 'Report of the Conference of the Parties Serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement on Its Seventh Session, Held in Belém from 10 to 22 November 2025' (2026)

<https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cma2025_19_a02.pdf#page=2>.

¹² UNEP. Environment Assembly (5th sess. : 2021 : Nairobi, '5/14. End Plastic Pollution: Towards an International Legally Binding Instrument :: Resolution /: Adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly' (*United Nations Digital Library System* 7 March 2022) <<https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/3999257?ln=en&v=pdf>> accessed 3 June 2026.

¹³ 'MESSAGE from the PRESIDENCIES of the SIXTH and SEVENTH SESSIONS of the CONFERENCE of the PARTIES SERVING as the MEETING of the PARTIES to the PARIS AGREEMENT on the "BAKU to BELÉM ROADMAP to 1.3T"' (2025)

<https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/message_to_parties_and_observers_btb_roadmap.pdf> accessed 3 June 2026.

¹⁴ 'Report of the Conference of the Parties Serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement on Its Fifth Session, Held in the United Arab Emirates from 30 November to 13 December 2023. Part One: Proceedings' (*Unfccc.int* 15 March 2024) <<https://unfccc.int/documents/637072>> accessed 3 June 2026.

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