

SB62 OUTCOMES

1. Food and Agriculture

Food and agriculture are central to climate action because they are both deeply impacted by and significant contributors to climate change. Climate change affects food systems through rising temperatures, erratic rainfall, floods, droughts, and shifting seasons, which reduce crop yields, threaten livestock health, and disrupt food availability, particularly for marginalised communities who depend directly on natural resources for their livelihoods and food security. At the same time, agriculture contributes substantially to climate change, accounting for about a third of global greenhouse gas emissions through land use change, deforestation, livestock emissions, and unsustainable practices.

Negotiations on food and agriculture under the UNFCCC are therefore critical, as they address this two-way relationship to ensure that climate policies enhance food security while reducing agricultural emissions. For marginalised communities, these negotiations are especially important because they face the harshest impacts of climate change while having the least capacity to adapt, and often rely on smallholder farming and pastoralism for survival. The Sharm el Sheikh Joint Work on Implementation of Climate Action on Agriculture and Food Security (SJWA), established at COP27, has provided a structured way to address these linkages by focusing on implementation rather than just technical discussions. During SB60 in Bonn, parties agreed on the roadmap to advance the SJWA, and at COP29 later this year, they are expected to further operationalise its workplan and modalities. Ensuring strong outcomes on food and agriculture under the SJWA will be vital for safeguarding the food systems, livelihoods, and cultures of marginalised communities in Africa and globally.

At SB62 in Bonn, parties continued discussions on operationalising SJWA, agreeing on the modalities for its implementation, including progressing the establishment of the knowledge-sharing portal to support evidence-based action, and took part in the first global workshop under SJWA to build capacity and share best practices on holistic approaches.

However, negotiations were contentious, especially around means of implementation, with developing countries calling for dedicated finance, technology transfer, and capacity building to implement climate-resilient agriculture, while some developed countries resisted specific commitments. There was also debate on whether to broaden the focus beyond production to encompass wider food systems, diets, and food loss and waste, which some parties argued risked diluting attention on farmers.

The outcomes of SB62 are a mixed bag: while the decisions to advance the portal and workshop are positive steps towards knowledge sharing and capacity building, the lack of clear commitment on means of implementation risks leaving marginalised communities behind, as without adequate finance and support, smallholders and vulnerable groups may be unable to adopt the solutions discussed. As parties head to COP30, the focus will be on the workshop on means of implementation; and reviewing progress, ensuring the SJWA leads to real implementation on the ground, securing equitable finance for climate-resilient agriculture, and addressing the food system's emissions footprint in a just and inclusive manner. The stakes are high: effective action under SJWA can safeguard food security for the most vulnerable and reduce agriculture's impact on the planet, while failure will deepen hunger, inequality, and environmental degradation.

2. Adaptation - Global Goal on Adaptation

Adaptation is a crucial pillar of climate action because, while mitigation seeks to limit future climate change, adaptation addresses the urgent and unavoidable impacts already being experienced by vulnerable communities. For Africa, where climate shocks are intensifying poverty, food insecurity, and conflict risks, adaptation is not optional – it is about safeguarding lives, livelihoods, and development gains. The Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) is therefore especially important as it provides a collective framework to drive ambition, track progress, and ensure that adaptation efforts are not left behind in global climate negotiations. By setting global targets and mobilising resources towards building resilience, the GGA ensures that adaptation is treated with equal urgency as mitigation, enabling countries like those in Africa to strengthen food systems, protect ecosystems, and build adaptive capacities for a just and sustainable future.

Clear indicators to track adaptation actions and report progress are critical. During SB62, discussions under the GGA focused heavily on finalising adaptation indicators. The expert group has worked diligently, narrowing down the initial list from over 9,000 indicators to 490, with plans to further reduce this to around 100 indicators by COP30 while ensuring they are measurable and practical.

Another major area of focus in the negotiations was transformative adaptation. Unlike incremental adaptation, which involves small adjustments within existing systems (such as raising flood walls), transformative adaptation entails fundamental, systemic changes in social, economic, and ecological systems to reduce vulnerability to climate impacts. It is encouraging that the world is considering integrating transformative adaptation approaches within the GGA, reflecting a shift towards more sustainable, long-term solutions.

Negotiators also underscored the need to include means of implementation (MoI), encompassing finance, capacity-building, and technology transfer, to ensure that adaptation goals are achievable. However, there were concerning calls to soften the language of “means of implementation” to “enablers of implementation.” While language matters in negotiations, the impacts of climate change are not in anyway soft but extremely harsh, particularly for marginalised communities, and should be matched with equally strong commitments especially to finance and support.

There was agreement to develop a globally applicable set of headline indicators, complemented by context-specific sub-indicators that countries can adapt to based on their circumstances.

For context, approximately 28% of the current 490 indicators (about 137 indicators) relate to enabling factors for implementation, covering finance, technology transfer, capacity-building, data systems, institutional arrangements, and policies (SLYCAN Trust, 2025). Importantly, the indicators also address gender equality and social inclusion, as well as food systems, including the diversity of food crops and food security. These are critical areas for Africa’s adaptation and resilience.

3. Gender and Climate

Climate change is not gender neutral, it amplifies existing inequalities, disproportionately impacting women, girls, and other gender-diverse groups, especially in marginalised communities. Women often bear the brunt of climate impacts due to existing structural inequalities, such as limited access to land, finance, education, and decision-making spaces, despite being at the frontline of food production, natural resource management, and community resilience-building. Integrating gender equality into climate action is therefore not only a moral imperative but also an economic and practical one: failure to do so risks slowing down climate action by ignoring half of the potential

solutions and leadership, while exacerbating poverty, food insecurity, and economic losses at household, community, and national levels.

The UNFCCC Gender Action Plan (GAP), adopted in 2017 and renewed under the Enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender at COP25, aimed to advance gender-responsive climate policy and action globally. Its implementation saw increased awareness on gender and climate change linkages, capacity building of negotiators and policymakers, and the integration of gender into national climate policies and NDCs by several countries, including many in Africa. However, progress remained uneven, underfunded, and often limited to policy statements rather than transformative action on the ground, thus the urgent need for a new GAP.

During SB62 in Bonn this year, negotiations on gender and climate change focused on developing this new GAP to replace the existing one, which expires at COP30. Contentious issues included the scope of the new plan; whether it should focus only on capacity building and data collection as some Parties proposed; or be an ambitious, transformative plan addressing systemic barriers to gender equality. There were also disagreements around the means of implementation, particularly finance for gender-responsive action. The outcome of SB62 was the draft text outlining key elements of the new GAP, with discussions to be finalised at COP30.

For marginalised communities, these negotiations are crucial because a robust gender action plan can ensure that climate finance, adaptation programmes, and mitigation policies are designed to respond to their unique realities and drive inclusive economic development.

Looking ahead, COP30 is expected to adopt the new GAP, with advocates pushing for it to include stronger commitments on implementation, resourcing, accountability, and integrating gender-transformative approaches across all climate workstreams to ensure no one is left behind.

4. Climate Finance

Climate finance is a critical enabler of effective climate action, especially for marginalised communities who often bear the brunt of climate impacts while contributing the least to the crisis. For these communities, access to adequate, predictable, and timely climate finance determines their ability to adapt to changing realities and build resilience. However, current climate finance flows remain insufficient in quantity, often inaccessible due to complex requirements, and lacking in quality as they do not always align with the lived realities, priorities, and capacities of the marginalised. Ensuring that climate finance is accessible: reaching grassroots actors and frontline communities directly; adequate; matching the scale of need, and of high quality; being flexible, locally led, and responsive to context; is essential for achieving equitable and just climate action that leaves no one behind.

The talks about climate finance filled the conference from one corner to the other, from one room to the next, from one corridor to the other. It has remained a contentious issue, and the agreement on New Collective and Qualifiable Goal of at least \$300B every year, did not make it any less contentious. Every negotiation room experiences some difficulties when it came to means of implementation and most specifically climate finance. We keep talking about getting out of talks to action which is basically implementation. However, how do we implement without the means? This is the question that kept flying around especially from the developing countries to the developed countries armed by the Paris Agreement provision on provision of CBDR-RC (Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities).

The climate finance contention started at the agenda adoption where developing countries proposed inclusion of implementation of “Article 9.1 of the Paris Agreement” which states that developed countries “shall provide” finance to developing countries hence an obligation. The pushback by developed countries during the agenda adoption and various negotiation is informed by their call for wealthy developing countries to also contribute to the coffers as well as innovative sources including investments from private sectors which are at times in form of loans.

Talks on the [Baku to Belém roadmap to \\$1.3tn](#) also went on throughout the SBs although not as a formal negotiation item. The Baku Belém Roadmap to \$1.3tn calls for the scaling up of climate finance to at least \$1.3tn per year by 2035. It however does not give a framework on how this could be achieved. The final roadmap will be produced by the Azerbaijani and Brazilian COP presidencies ahead of COP30. We are looking forward to how this will be integrated into the COP30 processes, and whether there will be a working group focussing on this under future agenda items.

The discussions on climate finance were particularly significant, especially in light of the current state of global aid and the shifting geopolitical landscape, where some countries are even withdrawing from the UNFCCC process. The outcome of the SB62 negotiations on the UNFCCC budget was encouraging, as countries made a historic decision to increase their contributions by approving a 10% budget rise. These contributions, calculated based on each country’s GDP and population, support the Convention’s vital work in advancing climate action. This decision signals a growing recognition that adequate and predictable funding is essential for effective climate governance. It offers renewed hope to those most affected by climate change, affirming that the global community still believes in climate action and in the possibility of achieving climate resilience. We hope this spirit of commitment will be reflected across negotiations at COP30, especially with regards to means of implementation.

5. Just Transition

A just transition is essential in climate action because it ensures that the shift towards low-carbon, climate-resilient economies does not leave anyone behind. For marginalised communities – including women, youth, Indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, and informal sector workers – climate policies and transitions can deepen existing inequalities if not designed inclusively. A just transition places people, dignity, and equity at the centre of climate action, safeguarding livelihoods, protecting human rights, and creating opportunities for decent work and economic empowerment. For Africa, where millions depend on climate-vulnerable sectors like agriculture and informal trade, just transition is not only a matter of fairness but also of survival and resilience. It ensures that climate solutions do not perpetuate poverty or exclusion but instead foster social justice and transformative development pathways for those historically left on the margins.

The official adoption of just transition in official negotiation documents was in the Paris Agreement in 2015 during COP 21. At COP28 in 2023, “Just Transition Work Programme” was officially incorporated into the UNFCCC climate negotiation agenda with a landmark agreement to launch the work programme. The work programme has faced some disagreement over the period with COP29 in Baku, ending with no agreement.

At SB62, there were divides on what the just transition should cover with the global north majorly calling for focus on work force while the global south calls for a holistic approach. The inclusion of unilateral trade measures especially on carbon tariffs with specific focus on the EU’s Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) vis-à-vis the multilateral trade measures filled the work

program negotiation room. The queries raised are majorly how this affects fairness and equity in global transitions, especially if imposed without consideration of historical responsibilities and capacities. This should be considered in all the proposals, as just transition generally means that trade, economic justice, and transition policies are inseparable. The delayed adoption of SB62 agenda was also because of calls to include unilateral trade measure in the official agenda.

Like other negotiation workstreams, the issues of means of implementation was one of the contentious ones, as well as human rights, consideration inclusion of gender based approaches, and clean energy. The discussions on what is next for the work program was also a concern as it is scheduled to come to an end in 2026, with some parties calling this premature. The discussion on the next steps should be given more focus as the work program is yet to achieve much even as its term is set to come to an end next year.