

Toward a Coherent Climate Architecture: Linking Multilateral Reform to Local Resilience

19 November 2025 | 15:15 - 16:15 (BRT / UTC-3)

LOCATION

SDG Pavilion | COP30 – Belém, Brazil

Convened by the **United Nations University Centre for Policy Research (UNU-CPR)** in collaboration with the **United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS)**.

Background :

Thirty years after the 1992 Earth Summit and a decade after the adoption of both the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), global climate governance remains fragmented and under-resourced to confront escalating planetary crises.

Building on President Lula's 2024 G20 call for the establishment of a UN Climate Change Council and COP30 President Ambassador André Corrêa do Lago's appeal for a global mutirão—a collective effort to move beyond outdated bureaucratic models—this session will explore how global governance can be more coherent, inclusive, and implementation-driven.

Recognizing that climate governance is global, but climate implementation is local, the event will bridge discussions on international reform with practical experiences from cities on the frontlines of climate change.

Session Overview:

The session will open with a broader agenda-setting dialogue, informed by UNU-CPR's collaboration with the COP30 Presidency on global climate governance reform. The Global Governance Innovation (GGI) Platform is a multi-year initiative at UNU-CPR that identifies innovative governance models and mechanisms that can inform the design of new multilateral institutions or inspire reforms to existing ones.

It will then feature findings from the Knowledge Series on African Urban Resilience—a collaboration between the Aquinile Partnership (AUC, UNDP, UN-Habitat, UNEP), GIZ, and UNU-EHS—which assessed resilience strategies across 50 African urban areas.



By showcasing how African cities are operationalizing comprehensive and participatory approaches that link socio-economic development with climate adaptation, the session will identify critical enablers for strengthening local resilience and provide lessons for multilateral governance reform.

Key Questions:

- How can multilateral climate governance reforms better support locally led adaptation and resilience?
- Which practices from African cities' resilience strategies can be scaled or adapted to improve global governance frameworks?
- What institutional and policy innovations are needed to align global, national, and local climate action?
- How can emerging governance models integrate diverse sources of knowledge—technical, social, and Indigenous—to build more legitimate and effective systems?

Agenda:

15:15 – 15:20 | Opening remarks and scene-setting — *UNU-CPR*

15:20 – 15:35 | Perspectives on reforming global climate governance — *Igarapé Institute and Perry World House*

15:35 – 15:50 | Assessing local climate implementation: Findings from the Knowledge Series on African Urban Resilience — *UNU-EHS and AUC*

15:50 – 16:15 | Moderated discussion and audience Q&A

Speakers :

- **Dr. Michael Franczak** — Senior Researcher, UNU-CPR
- **Dr. Giovanna Kuele** — Program Advisor for International Cooperation, Igarapé Institute
- **Ms. Khadeeja Naseem** — Senior Fellow, Perry World House; former Minister of State for Environment and Climate Change, Maldives
- **Dr. Himanshu Shekhar** — Associate Academic Officer, UNU-EHS
- **Dr. Michael Weisberg** — Professor and Deputy Director, Perry World House, University of Pennsylvania
- **Dr. Valery Yao** — Urban Resilience Coordinator, African Union Commission Disaster Risk Reduction Unit

Organizing Partners :

African Union Commission (AUC)

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) – Resilience Initiative Africa (RIA)

Igarapé Institute

Perry World House, University of Pennsylvania

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

UN-Habitat