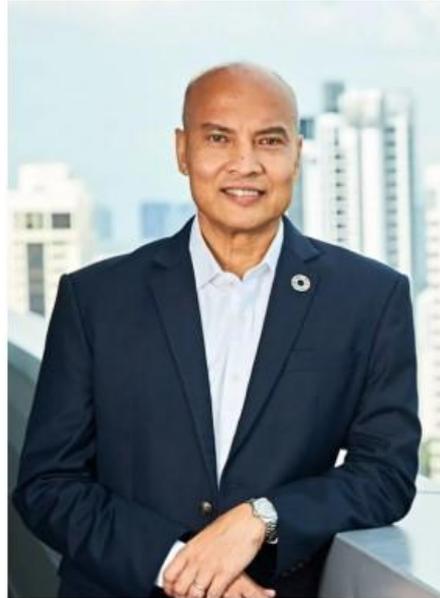


## **CIL-NUS Distinguished Speaker Series**

### **Public Lecture on Climate Change:**

#### ***COP30 Outcomes and the Road to COP31***

Tuesday, 24 February 2026  
MySpace at M-Social Hotel –  
90 Robertson Quay, Singapore



**Joseph Teo**

*Chief Negotiator for Climate Change  
Ministry of Sustainability and the  
Environment, Republic of Singapore*

### **Executive Summary**

The public lecture by Mr Joseph Teo, Singapore’s Chief Negotiator for Climate Change, provided an overview and critical discussion of the principal outcomes from COP30 and the prospects for COP31. The attendees include Singapore and foreign officials and legal advisors, practitioners, in house counsels and members of academia and civil society.

The lecture highlighted that multilateralism held despite setbacks and the United States’ withdrawal from the Paris Agreement and outlined key COP30 outcomes under the “Belém Package” across mitigation, carbon markets, adaptation, loss and damage and climate finance among others. The speaker also detailed Singapore’s COP30 contributions and previewed COP31 priorities amid complex geopolitics, with an emphasis on implementation, finance pathways, adaptation follow-up, transparency, and further work on Article 6 of the Paris Agreement.

### **Opening Remarks**

The public lecture commenced with opening remarks by Dr. Nilüfer Oral, Director of the Centre for International Law at the National University of Singapore and a member of the International Law Commission representing Türkiye. Dr. Oral introduced Mr. Joseph Teo as the distinguished speaker for the CIL-NUS Distinguished Speaker Series Public Lecture on Climate Change. The public lecture was moderated by Ms. Danielle Yeow, Lead of the Climate Change Law and Policy Team of CIL-NUS.

## Headline assessment of COP30

1. Multilateralism held: Despite recent setbacks (e.g., IPCC scheduling issues, IMO framework disagreement) and the US withdrawal from the Paris Agreement, parties reaffirmed commitment to Paris at its 10th anniversary and to implementation.
2. “*Global multirão*” ethos: Under Brazil’s presidency, COP30 promoted an inclusive, all-stakeholder push (governments, indigenous peoples, NGOs, academia, business) and a balanced political package spanning mitigation, adaptation, finance, gender, trade, and more.

## Key Outcomes of COP30 (Belém, Brazil, 2025)

### 1. Mitigation and Global Stocktake (GST)

Momentum on mitigation and implementation was sustained, reflected in a steady increase in the number of 2035 Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) submitted. At COP, 122 parties had lodged their updated NDCs, rising to 134 by the time of this presentation. Despite this progress, global trajectories remained off track for limiting warming to 1.5°C, underscoring the need for accelerated action.

To help close the implementation gap, two initiatives were launched: the Global Implementation Accelerator and the Belém Mission to 1.5. Both are intended to catalyse practical, near-term delivery of commitments and support countries in translating pledges into measurable outcomes.

However, negotiations did not produce consensus on two critical fronts: deforestation and the transition away from fossil fuels. In response, the COP30 President established two dedicated roadmaps under his presidency—a Roadmap to Transition Away from Fossil Fuels and a Roadmap to Halting and Reversing Deforestation—to guide collective action and build convergence ahead of COP30.

Parties also agreed on modalities to implement the outcomes of the first Global Stocktake. These include launching a UAE Dialogue to facilitate experience-sharing among parties and stakeholders, convening a final annual GST dialogue in 2026, and refining procedural and logistical elements in preparation for the 2028 GST cycle. Together, these steps are designed to enhance follow-through on Stocktake findings and improve the effectiveness of subsequent GST processes.

### 2. Carbon Markets (Article 6 Paris Agreement)

While the core rules for Article 6 were concluded at COP29, COP30 advanced the implementation by clarifying key provisions and enhancing their effectiveness. On Article 6.2,

parties called for strengthening the review processes and expanding capacity-building support to prevent and address reporting inconsistencies. On Article 6.4, the parties agreed to extend the deadline for transitioning Clean Development Mechanism activities into the Paris Agreement Crediting Mechanism, providing additional time to ensure a smoother and more credible shift.

### 3. Climate Adaptation

Parties adopted a set of 59 Belém Adaptation Indicators to track progress, despite some contention, and mandated further technical work to refine the indicators' metadata and methodologies for consideration at COP32. To support implementation, the parties established the “Belém–Addis Vision on Adaptation,” a two-year policy alignment process aimed at developing guidance to operationalise the indicators. Parties also agreed on the modalities for the first phase of the Baku Adaptation Roadmap for 2026–2028, to be carried out through two annual workshops. In parallel, parties issued a call to at least triple adaptation finance by 2035—without specifying baselines—and announced new pledges to the Adaptation Fund amounting to roughly US\$135 million from several countries.

### 4. Loss and Damage

Parties advanced the operationalization of the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD) by adopting the Barbados Implementation Modalities, allocating US\$250 million for disbursement, issuing a first call for funding requests with grants ranging from US\$5–20 million, and setting a first replenishment cycle for 2027. Parties also concluded the third review of the Warsaw International Mechanism, requesting a regular multi-year report on the global status of loss and damage.

### 5. Climate Finance

Parties reaffirmed past decisions on the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG), maintaining the target of US\$300 billion to be scaled up to US\$1.3 trillion. Parties took note of the “Baku to Belém Roadmap to 1.3T” report and tasked the COP29 and COP30 Presidencies with convening an independent expert group to refine underlying data and develop pathways to achieve the US\$1.3 trillion goal. To drive implementation, parties established a suite of climate finance dialogues: a High-Level Ministerial Roundtable focused on NCQG delivery, a Two-Year Work Programme on Climate Finance that includes work on the predictability of public resources under Paris Agreement Article 9.1, and two new platforms—the Veredas Dialogue and the Xingu Finance Talks—to sustain technical and political engagement on scaling finance.

### 6. Other COP30 Processes and the Climate-Trade Nexus

Parties initiated effort to design a Just Transition Mechanism and adopted two nine-year Belém programmes—one on technology implementation and another on gender action—to embed long-term, cross-cutting support for equitable and inclusive transitions. Parties also agreed to bring the climate–trade nexus into formal UNFCCC discussions, reaffirming commitments against trade discrimination and launching a three-year dialogue with the International Trade Centre, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and the World Trade Organization to align trade policy with climate objectives.

## 7. Action Agenda and Plurilateral Initiatives

Brazil launched the Tropical Forest Forever Facility with approximately US\$5.5 billion in commitments from Brazil, Norway, Indonesia, Germany, and France. Alongside this, parties highlighted a range of new pledges, declarations, and initiatives, including the Belém 4X Pledge on Sustainable Fuels, the Integrated Forum on Climate Change and Trade, the Open Coalition on Compliance Carbon Markets, and the Beat the Heat Implementation Drive.

### **Singapore's Contributions at COP30**

Singapore submitted its 2035 NDC by the 10 February 2025 deadline, taking into account the outcomes of the first Global Stocktake. It showcased implementation progress at home—including expanded solar deployment and studies into nuclear energy potential—and highlighted regional and international collaboration through the ASEAN Power Grid and the procurement of 2 million tonnes of nature-based carbon credits. Singapore also supported the COP30 Presidency, with Joseph Teo co-chairing the Just Transition Work Programme and Diane Tan from the Attorney-General's Chambers co-facilitating officials level negotiations on the Report of the Compliance Committee.

Singapore signed onto four COP30 Action Agenda initiatives and two additional partner initiatives, including the Open Coalition on Compliance Carbon Markets, the Blue NDCs Challenge, and the Scaling J-REDD+ Coalition. It announced concrete delivery on finance and transition efforts: the first close of US\$510 million in committed capital for the Green Investments Partnership under the Financing Asia's Transition Partnership (FAST-P), and the Monetary Authority of Singapore's release of the Transition Credits Coalition (TRACTION) final report on high-integrity energy transition credits.

At the Singapore Pavilion, more than 8,000 visitors engaged in over 40 programmes alongside 60+ partners, with an online reach exceeding 2 million. The Pavilion published a Statement of Support for Energy Transition Credits, soft-launched the Singapore Sustainable Finance Association's (SSFA) claims guidance code, and launched the Centre for Livable Cities' (CLC) Urban Solutions #27 on Resilient and Regenerative Cities. Singapore also advanced its carbon credit agenda: it signed MOUs with Brazil on a climate action partnership and with Malawi under Article 6 on Cooperation; concluded implementation agreements with Thailand and Bhutan; issued project calls and eligibility lists; and launched an Article 6.2 standardized crediting framework protocol with Gold Standard and Verra. It further reported progress on building a Coalition to Grow Carbon Markets, now bringing together 10 member countries.

Throughout COP30, Singapore deepened international cooperation through broad bilateral engagements and included a 10-person official youth delegation as part of its outreach and capacity-building efforts.

### **Preview of COP31 (Türkiye's and Australia's Presidency)**

COP31 is set to unfold against a complicated backdrop: challenging geopolitics, an unusual split leadership arrangement—with Türkiye serving as COP President and Australia presiding over negotiations—ongoing dampening effects from the US withdrawal, and a resulting leadership gap. Against this context, parties are expected to prioritise climate ambition with a strong emphasis on implementation. Parties will further consider the Belém Mission to 1.5 and the Global Implementation Accelerator, review proposed roadmaps on fossil fuels and deforestation, and decide whether to continue the Mitigation Work Programme. Preparations for the second Global Stocktake will also begin, including the UAE and annual GST dialogues and the launch of the technical phase, while transparency efforts will come into sharper focus as parties gear up to submit their second Biennial Transparency Reports in 2026.

Workstreams will continue across finance, adaptation, just transition, trade, and markets. On finance, an independent expert group will refine pathways to reach US\$1.3 trillion and initiate the new work programme dialogues. Adaptation efforts will centre on technical follow-up to the Belém indicators, development of guidance under the Belém–Addis process, workshops under the Baku Adaptation Roadmap, and ongoing support for National Adaptation Plans. Negotiators will also aim to define modalities for the Just Transition Mechanism, advance disbursement under the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage, and carry forward the climate–trade dialogue. Under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, parties will focus on implementation details, potentially approving methodologies under Article 6.4 and enabling the first issuance of 6.4 units.

### **Emerging Trends and Singapore’s Approach in the Upcoming COP31**

1. Looking ahead, the following emerging trends were identified:- fraying multilateralism and the emergence of a “two-tier” multilateral system with faster implementation track for “coalitions of the willing”; stronger emphasis on implementation/accountability (including scrutiny via BTRs and the 2025 ICJ advisory opinion); continued political contention over fossil fuels; focus on innovative finance sources; persistent climate-trade tensions and critical minerals supply chain issues.
2. As for Singapore’s approach for the upcoming COP31, the focus will be on:- support for multilateralism by implementing Paris commitments and emphasising accountability; support for global/regional climate action and maintaining momentum of global climate action (including highlighting FAST-P); engaging partners to advance bilateral cooperation (e.g., Green Economy Agreements, ASEAN Power Grid, carbon credit MOUs/implementation agreements and coalitions, and low-carbon solutions).

The lecture concluded with a question and answer session with the attendees.