

What happened at Cop27 on day nine?

Lula says ‘Brazil is back’ and proposes Cop30 to be held in the Amazon as anxiety rises over some countries’ attempts to unpick climate commitments



Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, president-elect of Brazil, speaks at Cop27. Photograph: Nariman El-Mofty/AP

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SUMMARY:

- The Brazilian president-elect, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva (Lula for short), addressed **Cop27** and promised that “**Brazil is back**”.
- He confirmed that Germany and Norway will reopen the Amazon fund, called for Cop30 to be held in the Amazon rainforest, and announced that he would be setting up a ministry for Indigenous people.
- Lula also said it was time to reform the UN and the global settlement. “The world has changed.”
- Elsewhere, Costa Rica, which has a new leader, has backed away from the coalition it cofounded to end oil and gas.

- Interest in a proposal to “phase down all fossil fuels” is growing, with even the US now giving (extremely qualified) support.
- There is continuing anxiety over the progress of glacial loss and damage negotiations. The Alliance of Small Island States, a negotiating bloc, fear many developed countries are backtracking on their commitment to make progress.
- There is anxiety countries are trying to backslide on their climate commitments, with the first tentative drafts of decisions from the summit showing attempts to unpick agreements and water down promises.

COP27: Brazil is back on the world stage, Lula tells climate summit

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EPA

Image caption,
Emotional supporters cheered and sang when Lula appeared

By Georgina Rannard

Brazil is back, president-elect Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva has told rapturous crowds at the UN climate summit COP27 in Egypt.

Walking into a room of supporters singing his name, Lula promised to restore the Amazon rainforest and chase down climate criminals.

Huge numbers gathered to see him speak, making him one of the superstars of this summit.

Nations are meeting in Sharm el-Sheikh to discuss tackling climate change.

Just two weeks after his narrow election win, Lula is making his first appearance on the international stage, meeting leaders including from the US, China and the EU at the climate conference.

"We must stop this rush to the abyss. There is no climate security for the world without a protected Amazon," he said, saying climate change would have the highest priority for his government.

"We will do whatever it takes to have zero deforestation and the degradation of our biomes."

While there is no doubt Brazil's president is full of ambition when it comes to tackling climate change, analysts say the challenge will be to make these promises come true.

Brazil is deeply divided over Lula's return to power and his job to unite the country won't be easy.

The president told the summit that Brazil would prove that it was possible to generate wealth without destroying the environment, saying it was impossible to separate tackling global warming from poverty.



Huge crowds gathered to see Lula speak

Striking a harder tone, he said Brazil would ensure that developing nations got the money they are owed to deal with the effects of climate change.

He also pledged to protect indigenous people, whose land has been targeted under current President Jair Bolsonaro.

Indigenous people in traditional dress stood up cheering and shaking maracas.

But Lula faces an uphill battle at home in Brazil where he faces significant opposition in Congress and a divided society.

Under Mr Bolsonaro, who will hand over power to Lula in January, deforestation of the Amazon reached record highs.

Puyr Temb , an indigenous leader from heavily deforested Par  state, told BBC News that Mr Bolsonaro completely dismantled laws protecting the Amazon.

- **No Greta, but young activists make waves at COP27**
- **War linked to big release of warming gas - Ukraine**
- **Key 1.5C climate goal under threat at COP27 summit**

On Tuesday US climate envoy John Kerry said he was confident Lula would bring a complete turnaround on Brazil's approach to the environment.

Former environment minister in Brazil Isabella Teixeira told BBC News that "the world" is now "embracing Brazil at COP27".

Reflecting the challenges at home, Lula told the summit there was just one Brazil and he would govern for all.

In order to make progress on his agenda, Ms Teixeira said Lula would need to convince people and Congress members to agree, not disagree with each other.



ANDY ALCROFT/BBC

Indigenous leader Puyr Temb  says outgoing President Bolsonaro totally neglected the Amazon and her community

Lula must reverse Mr Bolsonaro's legacy by rebuilding the environmental protection agencies, unfreezing the Amazon Fund which promotes conservation, and tackling criminals in the Amazon, according to Marcio Astrini, executive secretary of Brazil's Climate Observatory network.

He says that civil society will not hesitate to challenge the new government if it fails to keep its promises.

"When the government is succeeding, we will support them, but if it fails, we will criticise them."

But Brazil and the world must be prepared for "mistakes and failures", suggests Roberto Waack, a business leader and chair of Arapyaú Institute.

"Climate a complicated problem, Lula has ambitious pledges and we will face disappointments because of the political situation in Brazil," he said.

"You can't just say stop deforestation and the next day the problem is solved," he said.



Image caption,

Deforestation reached record highs in the Amazon under President Bolsonaro

On Tuesday, young Brazilian activists at COP27 met Lula. "It was hugely emotional, I cried a lot. It is unbelievable to feel part of Brazil again," Gabrielle Alves, an environmental racism researcher who is part of the Clima de Mudança coalition, told BBC News.

Behind the scenes, negotiations between nations are ongoing at COP27 with a final agreement expected on Friday or Saturday.

However there are still wide divisions between countries on key issues.

The question of who will pay the bill for irreversible climate damage remains hotly debated, as developing countries want finance urgently earmarked to cover their losses.

But developed nations are resisting any question of compensation from countries who historically caused the majority of emissions.

There is concern too that the crucial aim to limiting temperature rise to 1.5C - which scientists say is crucial to avoiding the worst effects of climate change - is in jeopardy.

Lula vows to undo environmental degradation and halt deforestation

President-elect says he will work to save Amazon rainforest and key ecosystems in rousing Cop27 speech



Patrick Greenfield and Fiona Harvey in Sharm el-Sheikh

Wed 16 Nov 2022 19.10 GMT

President-elect **Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva** has told the world that “Brazil is back” at Cop27, vowing to begin undoing the environmental destruction seen under

his far-right predecessor, Jair Bolsonaro, and work towards zero deforestation of the Amazon rainforest.

Followed by a carnival atmosphere wherever he went on Wednesday, Lula told the climate summit that his administration would go further than ever before on the environment by cracking down on illegal gold mining, logging and agricultural expansion, and restoring climate-critical ecosystems.

In his first big overseas speech since winning election, Lula said **Brazil** did not need to clear another hectare of rainforest to be a major agricultural producer, and he would use his presidency to demand that rich countries deliver on their promise of \$100bn of climate finance for developing countries and to create a fund for loss and damage compensation.

Punctuated by chants of “olé, olé, olé, ola, Lula, Lula”, the president-elect’s speech brought a much-needed feeling of hope to **Cop27**.

“Ole, ole, ola... Lula... Lula”

Big crowds waiting for [@LulaOfficial](#) to speak at a side event at [#Cop27 pic.twitter.com/cZuTWWL1rY](#)

— Patrick Greenfield (@pgreenfielduk) **November 16, 2022**

Leading Brazilian environmental figures were always nearby, including climate the scientist Carlos Nobre whose studies warn the **Amazon is close to crossing an irreversible** tipping point, and the **former environment minister Marina Silva** who oversaw an enormous drop in deforestation during Lula’s first presidency.

“Today, I am here to say that Brazil is ready to join once again [the] effort to build a healthier planet. Brazil has just ended elections, one of the most decisive in its history. It was followed in an unprecedented way by other countries. It could help control the rise of the authoritarian right and climate deniers around the world,” Lula said.

Of the impact of the climate crisis, he said “nobody is safe”, detailing the consequences of global heating. “In the US, they live with tropical storms and more and more powerful hurricanes ... In Brazil, which is a forest and

hydrological power, we experienced drought and devastating floods. Europe faces extreme heat with fires and unprecedented deaths. And although it is the continent with the lowest greenhouse gas emissions, **Africa** has drought in Chad, Kenya and Somalia. I repeat: nobody is safe.”

In a speech that ranged from inequality to reform of the UN security council, Lula placed a lot of emphasis on building partnerships. He vowed to work with other Amazonian countries – including Peru, Colombia, Guyana and Venezuela – to work towards sustainable development in the region while also protecting key ecosystems, early in his presidency.

“There is no planetary security without a protected Amazon. We will do whatever it takes to have zero deforestation and degradations of our biomes. For this reason, I would like to announce that efforts to fight climate change will have the highest priority in my next government. We will prioritise the fight against deforestation of all of our biomes and reverse damage done in recent years by the previous government,” Lula said.

Around the world, he underscored Brazil’s new partnership with Indonesia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo – the big three rainforest nations – to work together on their conservation.

“The planet warns us at every moment that we need each other to survive. Alone we are vulnerable to the climate tragedy. Nevertheless we ignored these warnings ... We have spent trillions of dollars that only result in destruction and death. We experience a moment where we have multiple problems: nuclear war, crisis of food supply, energy, erosion of biodiversity, inequality ... These are hard times. But it was always in difficult times that humanity overcame challenges. We need more confidence,” he said.

“We need more resources for a problem that was created by rich countries but is disproportionately felt by the most vulnerable ... I would like to remind you that rich countries said they would raise \$100bn at Cop15 in Copenhagen to help the less developed countries to face climate change.

There were queues at the venue for Lula’s speech an hour before it began, and an overspill room was also packed. At a side event earlier that day, he said that Brazil should host Cop30 in 2030 in the Amazon in part to display its importance to the world.

The G20 communique lifted spirits at the Cop as it contained language on keeping to the 1.5C temperature limit and the need to address loss and damage, meaning the financial assistance needed for poor countries to respond to climate disaster – a key bone of contention.

The first official draft text of the “cover decision” of the Cop would come late on Wednesday night, the Egyptian climate envoy, Wael Aboulmagd, told journalists earlier in the day. Some delegations are worried that the time for consultation and reaction to the draft seems to have been compressed to about one day, compared with about two and a half days last year at Cop26 in Glasgow.

Most are expecting the cover decision – a discursive document running to several pages and describing a long series of resolutions and commitments on everything, from cutting emissions to funding adaptation measures – to be the key outcome of these talks. In it, they are hoping for affirmation that countries are still committed to vital goals, such as the 1.5C temperature limit, and phasing down coal.

But the Guardian understands that a few countries are still questioning whether a lengthy cover decision is even needed, which could delay its drafts even further.

In a sign that deep divisions remain on key issues, the Alliance of Small Island States, representing some of the most vulnerable countries, took aim at unnamed rich countries over loss and damage. Sir Molwyn Joseph, minister of health, wellness and the environment for Antigua and Barbuda, said: “Some developed countries are furiously trying to stall progress and, even worse, attempting to undermine small island developing states. Not only are they causing the worst impacts of the climate crisis, they are playing games with us in this multilateral process.”

Frans Timmermans, vice-president of the European Commission, said the EU was supportive of loss and damage but said some countries currently classed as developing were now prosperous enough to contribute to loss and damage funding.

He added that the proposal by some developing countries for a new loss and damage funding facility would hold up the delivery of finance, because it could

take years to get started, whereas using existing institutions to deliver funding could be done faster. “Let’s start funding loss and damage now, because if it’s a [new] facility we all know it will take years,” he said.

Egypt has appointed pairs of ministers, one from a developed and one from a developing country, for each of the outstanding big issues, including loss and damage, climate finance, and adaptation, in an effort to move negotiations faster.





Global heating to drive stronger La Niña and El Niño events by 2030, researchers say

New modelling suggests climate change-driven variability will be detectable decades earlier than previously expected

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A Pacific Ocean storm seen from Venice Beach, Los Angeles. Researchers say stronger La Niña and El Niño events driven by global heating will be detectable decades earlier than expected. Photograph: LHB Photo/Alamy

Donna Lu

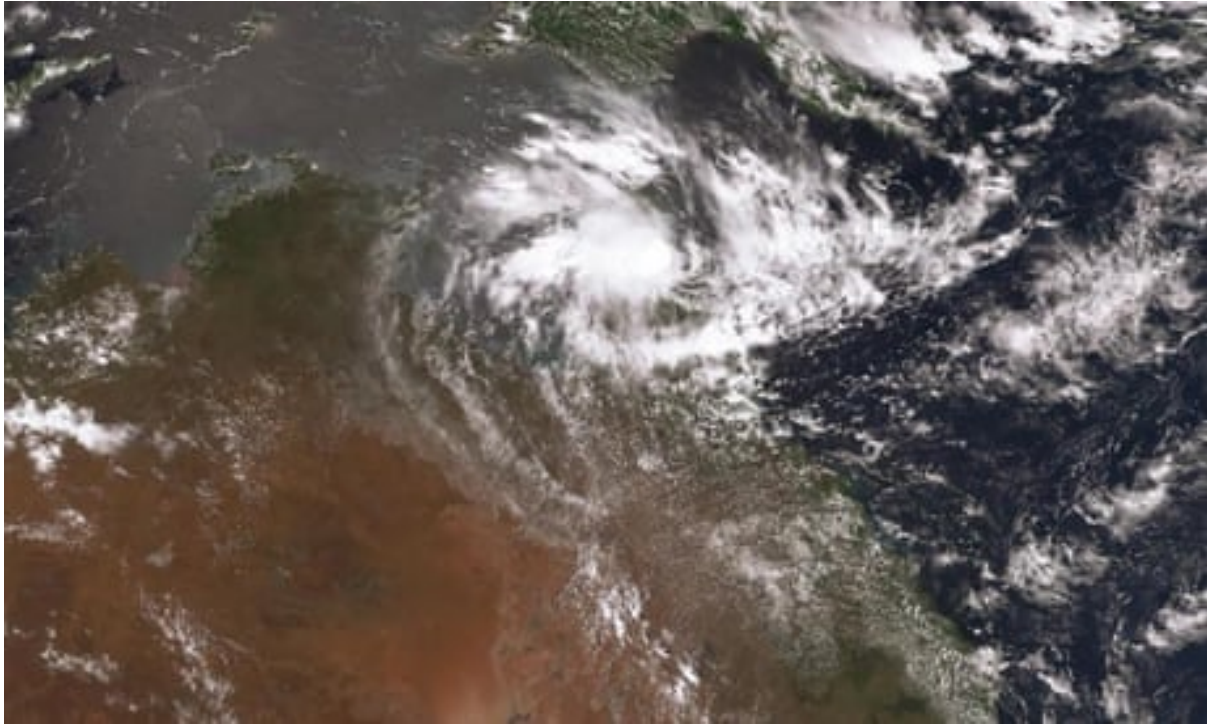
@donnadlu

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Stronger **La Niña** and **El Niño** events due to global heating will be detectable in the eastern Pacific Ocean by 2030, decades earlier than previously expected, new modelling suggests.

Researchers have analysed 70 years of reliable sea surface temperature records in the Pacific Ocean to model changes in the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (Enso) under current projections of **global heating**.

Enso is the planet's most significant year-to-year climate fluctuation, and a major driver of extreme droughts and floods. It is driven by differences in sea surface temperatures in the Pacific Ocean, which oscillates between warm El Niño, cold **La Niña**, and neutral phases.



Climate crisis will bring more and worse tropical cyclones to Australia's east coast, study predicts

During a La Niña event, warm surface water is pushed towards Asia and north of Australia by strong trade winds that blow west across the Pacific Ocean.

In an El Niño, sea surface temperatures in the central or eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean are warmer than average, and the trade winds weaken or reverse. The result is reduced rainfall over India, Indonesia and northern Australia.

Previous research had suggested that climate change-driven variability of Enso events would not be detectable until 2070.

“In fact, we can start seeing these changes in the next decade,” said study co-author Dr Agus Santoso, of the University of New South Wales climate change research centre.

The team's analysis separated Enso variations into eastern and central Pacific Ocean events, and found they would be detectable about 40 years earlier than suggested by previous modelling that did not separate the two regions.



Why is so much of Australia flooding right now?

Climate change-linked eastern Pacific El Niño events – which tended to be stronger than central Pacific events – would be detectable earlier, Santoso said.

Strong eastern Pacific El Niño events in 1982 and 1997 “caused a substantial disruption of marine ecosystems”, the researchers noted. Intense eastern Pacific El Niños are also typically associated with catastrophic flooding in parts of Ecuador and Peru, but do not occur during central Pacific events.

“We should be more prepared for prolonged droughts and extreme flooding in the future,” Santoso said. “Flooding is probably more destructive than drought in terms of infrastructure, but drought is very impactful in terms of agriculture – both sides of the coin have substantial economic losses.”

The first author of the study, published in the journal **Nature Communications**, is Tao Geng of the Pilot National Laboratory for Marine Science and Technology in Qingdao, China.