

Roadmap – Contribution of Brazilian Business Coalitions

The Brazilian Business Council for Sustainable Development contributes to the COP 30 Presidency Roadmap on the Transition Away from Fossil Fuels in a Just, Orderly and Equitable Manner by answering the question: “ (b) What potential levers, whether economic, financial, institutional, social or technological, exist for accelerating the implementation of the transitioning away commitment?”

Introduction - The proposals below were compiled from the results and recommendations produced by four business coalitions, coordinated by the Brazilian Business Council for Sustainable Development at the request of Ambassador André Corrêa do Lago, in order to identify barriers and levers for Brazil’s decarbonization by 2050. In a pre-competitive and collaborative effort, the coalitions brought together more than 200 Brazilian institutions, including companies, associations, non-governmental organisations, and subnational governments.

Context - Ambassador’s Request - In 2024, Ambassador André Corrêa do Lago requested that the Brazilian Business Council for Sustainable Development organise six Business Coalitions for Sectoral Decarbonization, representing contributions from the Transport, Energy, Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry, and Essential Minerals sectors. These contributions aimed to strengthen private sector participation in the implementation of the NDC, support the execution of the Climate Plan, and identify priorities for Brazilian companies ahead of the 30th Conference of the Parties.

Context - Coalitions as Brazilian Contributions - The CEBDS led four of the six commissioned coalitions, focusing on the Electricity Sector, Transport, Agriculture, and Essential Minerals. In a pre-competitive and collaborative effort, the coalitions involved more than 200 Brazilian institutions, including companies, associations, NGOs, and subnational governments. The coalitions developed long-term sectoral emissions projections and identified priority levers and solutions for decarbonization. This joint effort mapped specific opportunities for the national business sector and, by addressing Brazil’s integration into global value chains, offers solutions that may be applicable and replicable in other countries, thus contributing to the Roadmap.

Emissions from the Road Transport Sector - In the Brazilian context, in a country whose energy matrix already has a high share of renewable sources, the transport sector still accounts for nearly half of energy-related emissions. This scenario is strongly influenced by the predominance of road transport, responsible for approximately 93% of the sector’s emissions—significantly higher than the global average of 73%. Brazil shares this characteristic with other developing economies.

Biofuels as a Brazilian Solution and Lever - In light of this context, the Transport Coalition identified strategic pathways to drive decarbonization both in Brazil and internationally. Among the main levers are the expansion of biofuel use and the dissemination of these technologies as effective emission mitigation tools. Brazil holds a leading position in this field, with a well-established trajectory dating back to the Pro-Álcool program in the 1970s and extending to more recent commitments such as the Belém Commitment for Sustainable Fuels, signed during COP30.

Conditions for Investment in Biofuels - Expanding the use of biofuels must consider rigorous technical, operational, and economic feasibility criteria, respecting regional specificities and the diversity of energy matrices. In this regard, the Roadmap should encourage investments in research and development aimed at creating more efficient fuels capable of improving energy performance without compromising the integrity and efficiency of combustion engines, as well as mechanisms to prevent biofuel contamination along export logistics chains.

Biofuels - Solutions - In addition to traditional biofuels such as ethanol, emerging alternatives are gaining relevance, including Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) and synthetic fuels such as e-methane, e-methanol, and e-ammonia, produced from green hydrogen, renewable electricity, and captured CO₂. The creation of regional hubs for producing these inputs can contribute not only to domestic decarbonization but also to emissions reduction in hard-to-abate sectors globally, while strengthening international trade in clean fuels.

Electrification of Industrial Processes - The electrification of industrial processes also emerges as a key element in global decarbonization. Energy-intensive sectors such as steel, cement, aluminium, and glass are already beginning to adopt solutions such as electrification and the use of bio-reducers derived from biomass, aiming to replace fossil inputs with more sustainable alternatives.

Solutions for Electrification - Technologies such as low-emission renewable hydrogen and the use of raw materials with a lower carbon footprint expand the potential for emissions reduction. However, as these solutions are still at an early stage, it is essential to intensify investments in research and development to enable scaling and cost reduction, facilitating their adoption by the productive sector.

Essential Minerals - A Critical Path for Electrification - In the transport sector, electrification also stands out, particularly with the growing prioritisation of electric vehicles. One of the main challenges is battery production, which depends on increasing volumes of critical minerals. The transition to a low-carbon economy is expected to significantly increase global demand for these resources, potentially doubling mineral demand and requiring greater volume and mineralogical diversity.

Essential Minerals - Future Conferences - In this context, the exploration of strategic minerals becomes an essential component of the energy transition and should be recognised as such within diplomatic frameworks and UNFCCC discussions. Including this agenda in future COPs can help ensure that the growth of mining is accompanied by environmental and social safeguards, guaranteeing that the impacts associated with mining are properly mitigated and responsibly managed.