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ESRAG ROTARY@COP30

A VOLUNTEER-LED INITIATIVE OF ROTARIANS
AND ROTARACTORS IN CLIMATE ACTION



DEBRIEFING ON COP30 PARTICIPATION

Belém, Brazil – Nov 10-21, 2025

Mario de Carmargo
Salvador Rico
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December 17, 2025



Rotary@COP30 Committee



❖ On March 4, 2025, former President-elect of Rotary International, Mário César Martins de Camargo, conducted a Preparatory Meeting for COP30, held virtually by Zoom, with the attendance of key Rotary and TRF leadership announcing the installation of the Committee. ESRAG Chair Yavuz Atila present.

ROTARY'S ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNEY: ESRAG AS THE CATALYST

- ▶ **1992 (Rio):** President Paulo Viriato Corrêa da Costa's "Preserve Planet Earth" – Rotary's environmental genesis.
- ▶ **2015 (Paris):** ESRAG established – The official launch, aligning Rotary with global climate action (Paris Agreement).
- ▶ **2017 – 2018:** Ian Riseley's 4M+ Trees Planted – ESRAG helped galvanize this global effort, showcasing Rotary's power.
- ▶ **2021 – 2024:** Rotary delegations in COP process led by RI Presidents – Showcase of actions and Community action in climate change concepts developed
- ▶ **2025 (Belém):** Former RIPE Camargo & ESRAG spearheads Rotarian engagement at this pivotal moment in COP30 in the Amazon.



THE CLIMATE IMPERATIVE: DRIVING ACTION ACROSS ROTARY'S CORE

- ▶ **Cross-Cutting Impact:** Climate change impacts all of Rotary's Areas of Focus (Peace, Disease, WASH, Maternal/Child, Education, Community Dev, Environment) plus Polio Eradication.
- ▶ **ESRAG's ambition:** To drive the integration of climate action throughout Rotary's humanitarian service ecosystem.
- ▶ **ESRAG's Strategy:** Leveraging Continuity, Innovation, and Partnerships to build community resilience against climate threats.



INTEGRATING CLIMATE ACTION IN ROTARY

ABSTRACT / OVERVIEW

- ▶ **Rotary and Rotaract:**
1.4 million members, 50,000 clubs worldwide
- ▶ **Proven capacity:** Polio eradication, global campaigns
- ▶ **Climate action embedded across all Areas of Focus**
(ESRAG Ambition Paper, 2025)
- ▶ **COP30:** milestone 10 years after Paris Agreement, 10 years of ESRAG

INTEGRATING CLIMATE ACTION IN ROTARY ABSTRACT / OVERVIEW



ESRAG's ambition paper to bring awareness to Rotary's Strategic Role in the COP Process:

Integrating Climate Action Across Rotary's Seven Areas of Focus

Background paper compiled by Alberto Palombo with the support of the Rotarians and Rotaractors of the Rotary@COP30 Organization Committee

ESRAG Ambition Paper - Rotary Strategic Role in COP Process 20250908.docx

Version for discussion – DO NOT CIRCULATE OUTSIDE ESRAG BOARD and Rotary@COP30 Org Committee

Send comments and corrections to apalombo@esrag.org

Abstract:

Rotary International, with its 1.4 million members in over 46,000 clubs worldwide, is uniquely positioned to bridge global climate commitments with community-level action. For more than three decades, Rotary has demonstrated environmental leadership — from Paulo Viriato Corrêa da Costa's *Preserve Planet Earth* at the eve of the 1992 Rio Summit to tree planting under President Ian Riseley, mangrove ecosystem restoration projects under President Shekhar Mehta, and the formal recognition of the environment as Rotary's seventh Area of Focus in 2020. Building on this trajectory, President Elect Mário de Camargo has emphasized **continuity, innovation, and partnerships** as Rotary's compass for addressing the defining challenges of humanity, including climate change.

Rotary's greatest achievement so far, the global campaign to eradicate polio, offers a blueprint for climate action. The persistence, partnerships, innovation, and grassroots mobilization that nearly eliminated polio worldwide can now be directed toward building resilience in communities vulnerable to floods, droughts, pandemics, and other climate-driven risks. The spirit of giving "a gift



KEY MESSAGES

- ▶ Rotary's unique humanitarian value and presence in the community
- ▶ Continuity, Innovation, Partnerships motto
- ▶ ESRAG's adoption of COP as multi-year process
- ▶ Youth, Climate Justice, and Just Transition central to fairness of Rotarian spirit

ALIGNMENT WITH GLOBAL CLIMATE INITIATIVES

- **Baku to Belém Roadmap to 1.3T**
 - ❖ Potential collaboration with new climate finance scaling initiatives
- **Roadmap to Mission 1.5**
 - ❖ Opportunity to showcase Rotary community-led solutions globally
- **Global Goal on Adaptation & Loss and Damage**
 - ❖ Position Rotary projects to address local resilience measures

➤ **Global Mutirão**

- ❖ Focusing on the development of an ecosystem of humanitarian services for climate action at the community level



LESSONS FROM POLIO



- ▶ “A gift to the children of the world” – polio eradication
- ▶ Grassroots mobilization → climate action
- ▶ Partnerships (WHO, UNICEF, Gates) → climate funds, UN
- ▶ Persistence, innovation, continuity → COP30 strategy

ROTARIANS' ROLE IN COPS

- ▶ Rotary delegation since COP26, COP27, COP28, COP29: learning, visibility, partnerships
- ▶ COP30: showcase integration of CC across all Areas of Focus
- ▶ ESRAAG task groups & regional chapters → knowledge broker
- ▶ Trusted, volunteer-driven intermediary with climate funds



OBJECTIVES OF COP30 PARTICIPATION



Strategic networking for partnerships

- COPs offered more meaningful informal networking and direct relationship building than large formal sessions.
- Climate Finance and Partnerships

Engagement with key climate funds (GCF, GEF, Adaptation Fund) is key

- Explored ways for ESRAG, districts, and Club [and partners] to secure participation in climate grants

Local activation

- Host country clubs can play a crucial role in scaling up community-led climate projects as COP30 legacy actions – met with RCs Belem to identify projects

Visibility and Promotion of Causes

- Clear and consistent messaging raises ESRAG and partners to advance in joint projects

WHAT WE DID AT COP30

- ▶ Pavilion co-hosted by ESRAG Rotary@COP30 Committee with IAAI GloCha / Climate Chain Coalition / Evercity
 - ▶ Digital innovation + humanitarian service
- ▶ Youth empowerment: Rotaract & Interact voices
- ▶ Potential partnerships with climate funds
- ▶ Global Mutirão: worldwide collective mobilization
- ▶ Side session, bilateral meetings, Climate Action Club launched



Digital Innovation Pavilion

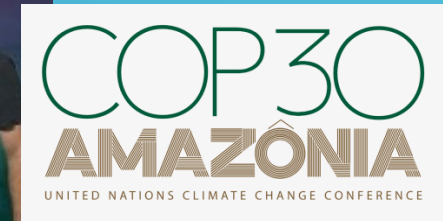


Pavilion

Joint breakout session proposal submitted officially through Rotary International.

The Digital Innovation Pavilion in **BLUE ZONE** was well attended and held an average of **6 sessions per day.**

Rotarians and Rotaractors were able to participate in Blue Zone sessions thanks to the badge arrangement with partners;

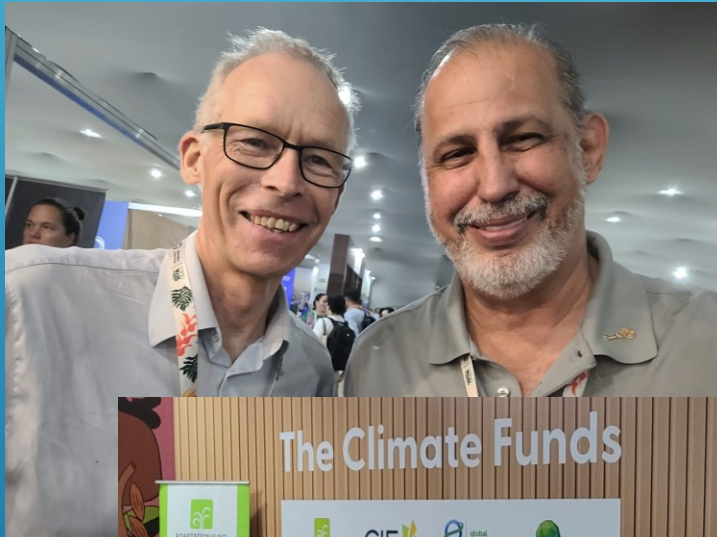


Launching the Rotary Climate Action Club

- ❖ First global club focused in climate action and innovation for sustainability
- ❖ Open to new and existing Rotarians and Rotaractors with the opportunity to promote inter-club partnerships and ESRAG strategic support.
- ❖ First activity: UN Partnership week at NYC HQ (Jan 2026)



STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS



- ▶ Contacts made with GCF, GEF, Adaptation Fund. Follow up in order.
- ▶ Forge alliances upstream: UN, governments, philanthropy, private sector – Gates Foundation, Hedera, Climate VIP experts
- ▶ Forge alliances downstream: ESRAG Chapters, Districts, and Clubs
- ▶ Establish possible “climate grants” or projects with priority sectors: Underprivileged populations (battered women, refugees, persons with incapacities) Indigenous and local communities.
- ▶ Work on DPI for climate action: The digital channel to bring communities to adaptation and resilience



CONCLUSION & CALL TO ACTION

- ▶ Climate action central to Rotary's mission
- ▶ ESRAG as institutional anchor for COP process - accreditation
- ▶ Mobilize clubs worldwide for climate resilience
- ▶ Proposed Rotary's next gift: "resilient communities in a climate-challenged world"
- ▶ Service Above Self



BUDGET AND FUNDRAISING

► Fundraising:

- ❖ Current level: USD 32K
- ❖ Committed: 10K
- ❖ **Raised: USD 32K**

► Budget:

- ❖ Pavilion: USD 20K
- ❖ Catering for sessions: USD 2K
- ❖ Accommodations: USD 8K
- ❖ Local logistics: USD 2K
- ❖ Website and social media: in-kind (ESRAG)
- ❖ **Total: USD 32K**

► Accountability:

- ❖ Management: Rotary@COP30 Committee
- ❖ Fiscal Agent: RC of Brasilia International (4530)
- ❖ Fundraising partner and institutional support: ESRAG and Rotary Club of South Ukiah (5130)



ACTION ITEMS



► **Reiterating Our Goal:** Make ESRAG/Rotary@COP30 a meaningful, high-impact engagement—leading to measurable climate action in ESRAG/Rotary, stronger partnerships, and enhanced global visibility.

► **Next Steps:**

- ❖ Finalize Rotary@COP30 report (February 21)
- ❖ Consolidate all financial accounts (January 31)
- ❖ Finalize website and Rotary Magazine articles (January 31)
- ❖ Zoom Meeting with President-Elect Yinka (TBD)
- ❖ Meeting with Rotary@COP31 Committee

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