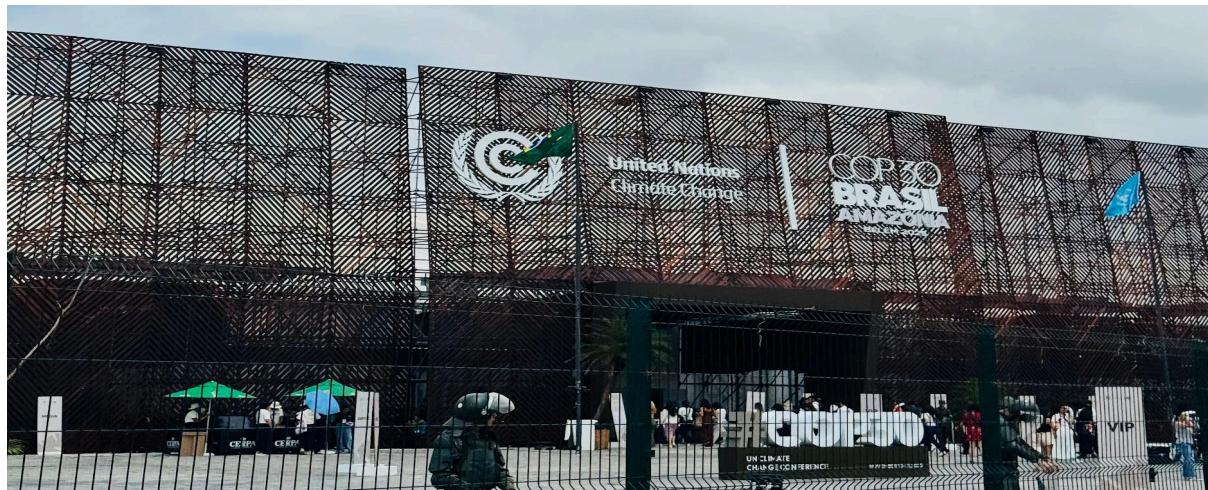

PODT-COP30 REPORT: GENDER, CLIMATE JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE- SAUTI SALAMA



1. Introduction

COP30 took place at a moment of profound urgency for climate governance. Climate impacts are accelerating across the globe, yet the international system continues to respond with fragmented commitments, limited financing, and persistent resistance to rights-based language. For Kenya and the wider African continent, the climate crisis is already reshaping daily life, affecting water access, food security, public health, mobility, safety, and community cohesion.

Against this backdrop, Sauti Salama, a youth-led, survivor-centered feminist organisation, entered COP30 with a mandate to ensure that the lived realities of women, adolescent girls, queer communities, and marginalised groups remained visible in global climate conversations. Our participation reflected the interconnected nature of our work: gender justice, care, climate resilience, survivor protection, and community-rooted adaptation.

Belém's Amazonian setting reinforced the stakes. At the heart of ecological richness and histories of extractivism, the venue served as a reminder that climate decisions must be grounded in the lived experiences of those who are most impacted by environmental

degradation yet excluded from policy power. This Executive Summary presents the overarching findings of our participation and introduces the full report.

2. Overview of Participation



Across the two weeks, Sauti Salama engaged in a wide range of formal and informal spaces including:

1. Informal Consultations on Gender and Climate Change
2. Gender Action Plan negotiations observed through the Women and Gender Constituency
3. Loss and Damage Fund governance discussions
4. Climate Justice and Reparations dialogues
5. Water Governance and Youth engagements
6. A session on Women's Leadership and Policy
7. A panel contribution at the C.A.S.E House event
8. A speaking role at the UNFPA session focused exclusively on GBV within climate-affected communities

Across these engagements, Sauti Salama consistently emphasized the intersections between climate impacts, gendered inequalities, care burdens, safety risks, and community-rooted resilience strategies. Our contributions ensured that Kenyan realities were not peripheral to the debate but recognized as critical evidence informing global decision-making.

3. Key Insights

3.1 Gendered Harm and Climate Impacts

Across negotiation rooms and civil society dialogues, a recurring observation emerged: **climate change magnifies pre-existing inequalities**. In Kenyan communities facing droughts, floods, and displacement, women and girls shoulder expanded care responsibilities, navigate longer and more dangerous routes for essential resources, lose access to health and protection services, and face heightened exposure to gender-based violence. These patterns are not unique to Kenya but reflect a shared Global South experience, from the Amazon Basin to the Horn of Africa. COP30 made clear that global climate frameworks still fail to meaningfully integrate these gendered dimensions.

3.2 Gaps and Opportunities in the Gender Action Plan

The final Gender Action Plan reflects both meaningful openings and significant political constraints.

Notable advances include:

- Recognition of care work in UNFCCC monitoring
- Continuation of protections for women environmental defenders
- Inclusion of intersectional references and violence against women and girls in reporting obligations

However, major gaps remain:

- Complete removal of SRHR
- No acknowledgment of climate-induced GBV
- Diluted language on gender-responsive finance

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- No financing provisions for care systems

The GAP retains gender visibility but stops short of the transformation demanded by frontline realities

3.3 The State of Loss and Damage Finance

Discussions on the Loss and Damage Fund highlighted a fundamental mismatch between commitments and capability. Only a portion of pledged funds is currently available, contributions remain voluntary, and governance structures hosted under the World Bank restrict direct access for frontline communities. From a gender perspective, this is especially concerning. Women, girls, and caregivers are disproportionately impacted by displacement, livelihood collapse, and social protection breakdowns, yet remain structurally excluded from funding mechanisms intended to address irreversible harm.

3.4 Reparations and Justice Conversations

Outside formal negotiation spaces, dialogues on climate justice and reparations created rare opportunities for honest assessments of historical responsibility, systemic harm, and state obligations. These conversations sharply contrasted with the sanitized language of negotiation rooms. For Sauti Salama, these exchanges aligned closely with the lived experiences of Kenyan communities navigating climate stress, survival economies, and slow-onset displacement. The dialogues underscored the need for justice-driven approaches rather than charity-based interventions.

3.5 Leadership, Representation, and Invisible Labour

The Women's Leadership and Policy discussion illuminated the emotional and intellectual labour women carry within climate negotiations, labour that remains unacknowledged and unfunded. Financial barriers continue to exclude young women from Global South countries during critical negotiation moments, reducing feminist influence on final decisions. The session reinforced the need to formalise support mechanisms for women negotiators, build cross-regional solidarity networks, and elevate women's knowledge systems in climate policy-making.

3.6 Community-Rooted Realities: Water, Care, and Resilience

The Water Governance and Youth session demonstrated how water scarcity is deeply gendered, affecting safety, care work, time burdens, and mobility. Experiences from Kenya, especially within the Kiwu project, mirrored those shared from other countries, reaffirming that youth and women are central actors in water governance but face exclusion from policy

and financing spaces. These insights strengthened the argument that resilience must be grounded in community experience rather than external prescriptions.

4. Sauti Salama's Contributions



Throughout COP30, Sauti Salama played a significant role in ensuring that frontline gendered experiences remained central to discussions. The organisation provided narrative evidence of the GBV–climate nexus, care burdens, youth leadership, and community-rooted adaptation models. During the C.A.S.E House event, we shared perspectives on integrated safety and resilience frameworks grounded in Kenyan realities. At the UNFPA session, we contributed a detailed analysis of how climate shocks intensify exposure to violence and weaken community protection systems, demonstrating the need for survivor-centered approaches in climate governance.

These contributions positioned Sauti Salama as a critical voice linking climate policy to grounded community experience, an approach that remains overlooked in many negotiating spaces.

5. Conclusion

COP30 reaffirmed that gender justice is inseparable from climate justice. While global frameworks continue to advance incrementally, the lived realities of frontline communities demand far more decisive, well-resourced, and rights-based action. The presence of organisations like Sauti Salama at COP30 is not supplementary but essential. We return from Belém with strengthened resolve to advance feminist, community-rooted climate



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resilience and to continue advocating for climate governance that recognises and responds to the interconnected realities of safety, care, bodily autonomy, and survival.