COOP IN COP

COP31 • ANTALYA, TURKEY

COOP MANIFESTO FOR COP31

Cooperation as a pathway to implementing the climate agenda

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INSTITUTIONAL INTRODUCTION

The international climate agenda is entering a new phase: the challenge is no longer simply to make commitments, but to translate them into tangible results. Building on the progress achieved at recent UN Climate Change Conferences, the COP31 Presidency proposes an implementation-focused approach guided by the principles of Dialogue, Consensus, and Action. Its priority areas (the transition to clean energy and expanded electrification, food security and climate-resilient agriculture, the circular economy and waste reduction, green industrialization, urban adaptation, education and training for younger generations, and stronger mechanisms to connect financing with implementation) are closely aligned with the Brazilian cooperative movement's trajectory.

This approach builds on the position taken by the cooperative movement at COP30, **where we championed environmental sustainability as a social and economic value, climate action as a driver of development, communities at the heart of our efforts, and cooperativism as a means of putting the climate agenda into practice at the local level**. We also advocate for a climate agenda capable of recognizing the specific circumstances of tropical countries, reconciling development and sustainability, and ensuring that financing, innovation, and technology reach those who live and work in these territories.

For COP31, these principles remain firmly in place and are more relevant than ever. The priority now is to accelerate implementation by turning ambitious goals into local action: bringing stakeholders together, mobilizing resources, sharing knowledge and technology, and scaling up sustainable solutions.

This is where the cooperative movement can serve as a strategic partner. Our movement comprises 4,400 cooperatives and 29 million members, supports 613,400 direct jobs, and operates in 3,425 municipalities. In 2025, cooperatives generated BRL 848.4 billion in revenue, held BRL 1.6 trillion in assets, and recorded BRL 61.3 billion in net surpluses. These figures reflect the extensive reach of their operations across the country.

Cooperatives bring people together voluntarily to meet their shared economic and social needs and achieve common goals through democratic, collective management that promotes sustainability and inclusion. They create economic, social, and human value while improving the communities they serve. They provide access to credit, knowledge, technology, technical assistance, markets, and infrastructure. They create a platform for initiatives that, individually, would not be able to achieve economic viability. At the same time, they maintain strong, lasting ties with the communities in which they operate.

The Brazilian cooperative movement comes to COP31 to bridge the gap between global ambition and local action, reaffirm its commitments, and demonstrate its ability to help put the climate agenda into practice. Food security, climate finance, energy transition, bioeconomy, circular economy, and climate resilience are global challenges that require locally developed and implemented solutions. Cooperativism therefore provides both a pathway and an opportunity to turn climate goals into sustainable, inclusive development that puts people at its heart.

To cooperate is to implement.

OCB System

PROPOSALS FROM THE BRAZILIAN COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT FOR COP31

The global climate agenda must recognize environmental sustainability as a social and economic value while promoting sustainable production and environmental conservation. Climate action must drive development without creating trade barriers or restricting market access. Climate policies must put communities at the heart of their efforts, promoting local development and productive and financial inclusion. Cooperativism must also be recognized as a strategic path toward strengthening sustainability and ensuring the effective implementation of this agenda.

With this in mind, we have organized our proposals into five thematic areas, outlined below:

1 Food security, technology, and low-carbon agriculture

Ensuring food security in a climate change scenario requires balancing greater production capacity with natural resource conservation, emissions reductions, and improved resilience in agrifood systems.

Brazilian agricultural cooperatives play a strategic role throughout the production chain. The sector comprises 1,254 cooperatives with more than 1.13 million members, who account for 53% of Brazil's grain production and 25% of its storage capacity (IBGE and CONAB). More than 10,700 technical assistance and rural extension professionals help spread new practices and technologies, improving access to agricultural inputs, storage facilities, value-added activities, and markets.

The sector reaffirms the importance of adapting international sustainability standards to the realities of tropical agriculture, recognizing the environmental value of production chains, and investing in technology and infrastructure. The cooperative model is already a leader in promoting low-carbon farming practices, soil and water conservation, restoration of degraded land, waste treatment, biological inputs, and innovation. This contribution is closely aligned with COP31's priorities for food security, sustainable agricultural systems, and training young farmers in climate-resilient practices. To this end, we advocate the following:

- Food security must advance alongside sustainability without creating unjustified trade barriers. Food and energy production, income generation, and natural resource conservation must be pursued together;
- Promoting the production and use of biofuels and renewable energy as part of the energy transition;
- Strengthening sustainable tropical agriculture as part of the global response to climate change;
- Recognizing metrics and technologies suited to agricultural production conditions in tropical countries;
- Expanding technical assistance, research, connectivity, and the transfer of low-carbon technologies;
- Strengthening the ABC+ Plan, the use of biological inputs, and regenerative agriculture;
- Using cooperative structures to provide climate education to producers, with particular attention to younger generations.

2 Recognizing the value of communities and ensuring access to climate finance

The climate transition can only succeed if financial resources reach the communities responsible for putting solutions into practice. The Brazilian cooperative movement advocates for the decentralization of climate finance, broader access to public and private funding, the development of green economic instruments, and greater cooperative participation in carbon markets and policies for payment for environmental services.

Brazilian Credit Unions (682 cooperatives, 22.96 million members, and 134,400 direct jobs) have a physical presence in 59% of Brazil's municipalities and are the only financial institutions physically operating in 1,072 cities. This extensive network brings financial resources within reach of producers, small businesses, and communities that would otherwise face greater challenges in developing projects or securing climate finance.

This capacity aligns with the COP31 Presidency's proposal to strengthen the Climate Implementation Bridge (CIB), which connects climate priorities, financing projects, capital, and implementation. Cooperatives can pool projects, organize beneficiaries, reduce transaction costs, and turn smaller initiatives into structured investments. We therefore advocate the following:

- Recognizing cooperatives, particularly credit unions, as partners in delivering climate finance at the local level;
- Developing mechanisms to bring small projects together into financeable portfolios;
- Reducing barriers to accessing climate funds and expanding guarantees and risk mitigation mechanisms;
- Ensuring that cooperatives can participate in carbon and environmental services markets;
- Fostering partnerships among public funds, multilateral institutions, private investors, and cooperative financial institutions.

3 Energy transition and sustainable development

The energy transition must balance decarbonization, energy security, competitiveness, and inclusion. The Brazilian cooperative movement advocates for scaling up renewable energy generation, strengthening solar, wind, biomass, and biogas energy, expanding the use of biofuels, and recognizing cooperatives as key players in a decentralized and just energy transition.

One of the objectives of the COP31 Presidency's Action Agenda is to increase the share of electricity in global final energy demand from just over 20% to 35% by 2035, alongside the expansion of clean energy sources and electricity grids and improvements in energy efficiency. This objective also acknowledges that infrastructure, financing, and regulatory constraints remain obstacles to achieving this transition.

The cooperative movement is already making a tangible contribution to this goal. In Brazil, electricity distribution cooperatives operate approximately 115,000 kilometers of power lines and 42 substations of their own, supplying electricity to sparsely populated areas in 800 municipalities. In conventional electricity generation for commercial sale, 77 power plants are in operation, with a combined installed renewable energy capacity of more than 405 MW. Across all cooperative sectors, 1,017 cooperatives already generate their own electricity through 6,503 facilities with a combined installed capacity of approximately 710.8 MW—demonstrating that electrification, local development, and community organization can go hand in hand.

Clean energy must be about more than switching energy sources: it must expand access, drive development, and create opportunities for communities. The transition will therefore be more equitable when communities, producers, and small businesses can also access and share in its benefits. Accordingly, we advocate the following:

- Recognizing cooperatives, particularly those involved in electricity generation and distribution, as strategic partners in expanding electrification and renewable energy;

- Creating favorable regulatory and financial conditions for modernizing and expanding cooperative electricity networks;
- Promoting distributed generation, energy storage, and energy efficiency;
- Expanding the production and use of biogas, biomethane, and other renewable energy sources;
- Strengthening the role of biofuels in the energy transition and the development of production chains.

4 Bioeconomy as an opportunity for development

The bioeconomy offers an opportunity to turn biodiversity, biomass, and scientific and traditional knowledge into productive development, added value, and employment and income generation through the sustainable use, regeneration, and conservation of natural resources. Guided by innovation, technology, inclusion, and justice, the bioeconomy helps reconcile competitiveness, biodiversity conservation, and climate stability. For the Brazilian cooperative movement, this agenda must reflect the unique characteristics of each biome, recognize the value of local communities, promote research and biotechnology, improve traceability, and add value to production chains—while also taking into account the circular economy, reverse logistics, and the efficient use of resources.

COP31 gives greater prominence to this discussion by making waste reduction and the circular economy implementation priorities, intending to halve the rate of growth in global waste generation by 2035.

The cooperative movement offers practical solutions in both areas. The labor sector comprises 601 cooperatives, 188,500 members, and 11,200 direct jobs. Of these cooperatives, 114 specialize in waste management and recycling, including the collection, sorting, recovery, and reverse logistics of materials. Cooperatives also organize sociobiodiversity value chains, add value to local production, improve access to markets, and promote a more equitable distribution of the economic benefits generated by the sustainable use of natural resources.

The bioeconomy and circularity must therefore create not only environmental value, but also economic and social value for the people and communities in the areas where these resources are found. Accordingly, we advocate the following:

- Expanding policies and financial instruments, including Payments for Environmental Services, to support regional bioeconomies;
- Promoting research, innovation, traceability, and value addition in biodiversity value chains;
- Ensuring that local communities participate in the economic benefits generated;
- Recognizing and strengthening recycling cooperatives as key players in the circular economy and waste reduction;
- Encouraging reverse logistics, recycling, and the valorization of secondary materials;
- Improving infrastructure and other structural conditions to connect sustainable production systems with markets and value chains;
- Promoting cooperative solutions for making use of agro-industrial waste, biofertilizers, biogas, and biomethane.

5 Climate adaptation and climate risk mitigation

The impacts of climate change are already being felt in communities, cities, and productive activities. Droughts, floods, heatwaves, fires, and other extreme weather events affect production, infrastructure, health, income, and food security. Strengthening adaptation policies, supporting the ABC+ Plan, enforcing the Brazilian Forest Code, improving climate risk insurance, and investing in resilient infrastructure are essential steps in addressing these risks.

COP31 emphasizes adaptation as an essential part of implementing the climate agenda, focusing on resilient cities, food security, health, infrastructure, and integrating efforts to address climate change, biodiversity loss, and land degradation. However, these policies are ultimately put into practice at the local level, and the cooperative movement's extensive reach is one of its greatest strengths.

Operating in 3,425 municipalities, cooperatives are active in sectors directly linked to communities' ability to respond to challenges. Their close ties with members enable them to identify risks, share information, facilitate access to credit, technical assistance, and financial protection, and develop solutions suited to each region. To this end, the following measures are needed:

- Increasing cooperative participation in the development and implementation of national and local adaptation plans;
- Strengthening insurance coverage and other financial protection mechanisms against climate risks;
- Prioritizing preventive investment in resilient infrastructure;
- Expanding monitoring, early warning, and risk management systems;
- Promoting nature-based solutions and locally developed strategies that involve communities.

An agenda for turning commitments into results

COP31 aims to advance climate action beyond the negotiating table and make its impact visible across fields, cities, industries, energy systems, and people's everyday lives. The Brazilian cooperative movement is ready to contribute to this goal.

We propose strengthening a climate agenda that recognizes the diverse realities of countries and regions, values existing solutions, and creates the conditions for technology, financing, and opportunities to reach communities.

The climate challenge is global. Implementation is local. Cooperation is the bridge between the two.

The Brazilian cooperative movement reaffirms its commitment to a sustainable, just, and inclusive transition and stands ready to help develop solutions that turn climate commitments into tangible results.



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