Brazil outlines plan to end fossil fuels

LEVEL B2


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I. WARM-UP

1. How fast should countries move away from coal, oil and gas?
2. What climate steps are realistic for your country now?
3. Do international plans help, or do national plans work better?

II. KEY VOCABULARY

roadmap
a plan that shows the main steps to reach a goal

phase out
to remove or stop something gradually over time

implement
to put a plan or decision into action

benchmark
a standard or point used to measure progress

timeline
a schedule showing when actions should happen

coalition
a group of countries or people joining for a shared aim

deforestation
the cutting down of forests, often on a large scale

flaring
burning off gas from oil and gas sites as a safety step

III. READING

Brazil has published what it calls the first global roadmap to phase out fossil fuels. As host of Cop30, it wants UN climate talks to move from negotiating new promises to implementing targets already agreed.

The documents are not binding, set no end date for fossil fuels, and ask countries to diagnose their dependence on coal, oil and gas before choosing policies. André Corrêa do Lago, the Cop30 president, said ministries such as finance, transport, energy and infrastructure should lead the work.

One roadmap focuses on transitioning away from fossil fuels in energy systems in a just, orderly and equitable way; the other targets halting and reversing deforestation. Suggested steps include rapidly cutting the flaring and venting of gas at extraction sites. Some experts welcomed the move but warned about limits.

Joeri Rogelj of Imperial College London said the plans lack timelines and key benchmarks, making the pace of change unclear for meeting the Paris goal of keeping warming well below 2C, preferably 1.5C.

Brazil's effort sits alongside a separate coalition from Santa Marta, where nearly 60 countries began national roadmaps; Germany, France and the Netherlands have already set out more specific, prescriptive plans. Cop31 is to be held in Antalya, Turkey.

Reading text adapted from reporting by **The Guardian***: "Brazil publishes first global 'roadmap' for...". Original article linked at theenglishwire.com.*

IV. COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. What has Brazil published about fossil fuels?
2. What change does Brazil want in UN climate talks?
3. What weakness did Joeri Rogelj highlight?
4. What two areas do Brazil's roadmaps cover?
5. How do Santa Marta national plans differ from Brazil's?

V. DISCUSSION

1. Should a global roadmap be binding, or is flexibility better?
2. How useful are timelines and benchmarks in climate policy?
3. Which step from the text could your country implement first?
4. Do coalitions of willing countries speed up real change?

VI. GRAMMAR FOCUS

Mixed conditionals

Mixed conditionals join two times. 1) Past condition → present result: If + past perfect, ... would + verb (now). 2) Present condition → past result: If + past simple, ... would have + past participle (then).

> *"If the plans had included benchmarks, progress* **would be** *clearer now."*
>
> *"If talks were unified, countries* **would have set** *targets earlier."*

VII. GRAMMAR EXERCISE

Complete each sentence using "would".

1. If ministries had coordinated, targets (appear) ___ clearer now. _____
2. If coal had been phased out, cities (enjoy) ___ cleaner air now. _____
3. If countries were aligned, policies (implement) ___ years ago. _____
4. If forests were valued more, deforestation (slow) ___ long ago. _____
5. If gas flaring had been cut, emissions (remain) ___ lower now. _____

Teacher's Notes

TEACHERS ONLY

These notes are designed to help you get the most out of this lesson. Please do not share this page with students.


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I. LESSON GUIDE

- Timing: 8–10 minutes warm-up, 8–10 minutes vocabulary, 12–15 minutes reading and comprehension, 8–10 minutes grammar, 10 minutes discussion.
- Pre-teach key terms from the text: Cop30/Cop31, roadmap, phase out, implement, benchmark, timeline, coalition, deforestation, flaring.
- Run the reading in two passes: skim for the main idea, then scan for specifics (who, what, where, limits). The topic can feel political; keep discussion on policy design rather than personal beliefs, and allow students to speak about public plans instead of their own behaviour.
- Differentiation: stronger students summarise Rogelj's critique in two sentences; others list three concrete steps ministries in their country could implement, then compare in pairs.

II. DISCUSSION FACILITATION TIPS

1. Take a quick show of hands, then pair students with different views to justify their choice.
2. Elicit examples of timelines or benchmarks from school or work before applying them to climate.
3. Have students pick one step (flaring cuts, ministry leadership) and explain why it fits locally.
4. Split the class: one side argues for coalitions, the other for UN-wide action; then swap sides.

III. EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

Writing: In pairs, write an 80-word press note announcing one ministry's first step from the roadmap.

Debate: In teams, prepare 2 minutes for and against binding timelines, then hold a short debate.

IV. ANSWER KEY OVERVIEW

Comprehension questions: short factual answers from the text.

Grammar exercise: Mixed conditionals

Discussion: open-ended. Accept any reasonable ideas supported by examples and reasoning.

Answer Key

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These answers are for teachers only. Please do not share this page with students.


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IV. COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. What has Brazil published about fossil fuels?
   A global roadmap to phase out fossil fuels.
2. What change does Brazil want in UN climate talks?
   A shift from negotiating new promises to implementing agreed targets.
3. What weakness did Joeri Rogelj highlight?
   They lack timelines and benchmarks, so the pace is unclear for Paris goals.
4. What two areas do Brazil's roadmaps cover?
   Energy transition away from fossil fuels, and halting and reversing deforestation.
5. How do Santa Marta national plans differ from Brazil's?
   They are more specific and prescriptive national plans by governments.

V. DISCUSSION

Open answers. Accept any reasonable ideas supported by examples and reasoning.

VII. GRAMMAR EXERCISE

Complete each sentence using "would".

1. If ministries had coordinated, targets ___ clearer now. **would appear**
2. If coal had been phased out, cities ___ cleaner air now. **would enjoy / would be enjoying**
3. If countries were aligned, policies ___ years ago. **would have been implemented**
4. If forests were valued more, deforestation ___ long ago. **would have slowed**
5. If gas flaring had been cut, emissions ___ lower now. **would remain**

VI. GRAMMAR FOCUS

Key point: Mixed conditionals join two times. 1) Past condition → present result: If + past perfect, ... would + verb (now). 2) Present condition → past result: If + past simple, ... would have + past participle (then). (Examples constructed.)

> *"If the plans had included benchmarks, progress* **would be** *clearer now."*
>
> *"If talks were unified, countries* **would have set** *targets earlier."*