

# Daily Bulletin No. 2

12/11/2025

UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE

# COP30 AMAZÔNIA

CUIDAR DO PLANETA PARA O FUTURO DA HUMANIDADE



## Overview

Day 2 marked the formal start of substantive work under the Subsidiary Bodies (SBI 63 and SBSTA 63) after a delayed opening. Negotiations expanded across several parallel tracks, including Presidency consultations, SB contact groups, and informal meetings addressing key issues such as climate finance, adaptation, mitigation, and institutional mechanisms. While the tone was largely constructive, sharp divisions persisted over finance obligations, Article 9.1 of the Paris Agreement, and the integration of scientific and justice-based approaches.

## Responding to the Global South Bishops' Call for Climate Justice



Organizing team for the side event and speakers



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## Side Event Organized by Proclade International

A near full house of Church and civil society leaders gathered in the Blue Zone for the side event “Responding to the Global South Catholic Bishops’ Conferences’ Call for Climate Justice.” Organized by Proclade International, Maryknoll Sisters, VIVAT International, Medical Mission Sisters, Caritas-Canada, and KAIROS-Canada, it marked the first time Proclade International hosted an event at an international forum.

Building on the June statement “A Call for Climate Compliance” issued by Catholic Bishops of Asia, Africa, and Latin America, the event framed the climate crisis as a moral, spiritual, and civilizational emergency. It aimed to deepen solidarity between Church and civil society actors advocating for climate justice, ecological conversion, and systemic transformation.

Dean Detloff moderated the bilingual, two-panel session. Opening tributes honored Cardinal Philip Neri (FABC President) and Cardinal Jaime Spengler (CELAM President) for uniting Global South episcopal voices.

## Key Highlights:

- **Cardinal Pablo Virgilio David**, Vice-President of the Federation of Asian Bishops’ Conferences and President of the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of the Philippines, delivered a passionate keynote urging a “conversion of hearts, systems, and civilization itself.” He condemned false solutions such as carbon markets, offsets, and geoengineering, calling instead for a verifiable fossil-fuel phase-out and justice-based climate finance.  
*“The poor are not an afterthought,” he said. “They are our moral compass.”*
- **Bishop Léonard Ndjadi Ndjate** of Kisangani, representing the Congolese Bishops’ Conference, spoke of the Congo Basin as “a lung of the world,” stressing threats from extractive industries and deforestation.
- **Sister Rosita Sida-Smith**, Executive Secretary of the Gran Chaco and Guarani Aquifer Ecclesial Network, described local resilience in the face of drought and deforestation, urging protection of Indigenous territories and food sovereignty.
- **Sister Immaculate Tusingwire** (Medical Mission Sisters, Uganda) emphasized that care for creation is central to spirituality: *“Food healing cannot be separated from the health of the planet.”*
- **Sasquia Antúnez Pineda** (Honduras) and **Lidy Nacpil** (Asian Peoples’ Movement on Debt and Development) called for community governance and for the Global North to honor its ecological debt through grants, not loans.
- **Cardinal Ladislav Nemet** (Europe) and **Bishop Jon Hansen** (Canada) reaffirmed solidarity with the Global South.

Participants described the meeting in Bethlehem as a *kairos moment* — a sacred turning point that calls for an ecological civilization rooted in justice and truth.



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# Negotiation Highlights

## 1. Subsidiary Bodies (SBI 63 and SBSTA 63)

Agendas were adopted with a footnote on consultations regarding Article 9.1 (finance obligations) and unilateral trade measures. No consensus was reached; further consultations were planned. China and Saudi Arabia requested continued dialogue. SBSTA agreed to hold informal consultations on aviation and maritime emissions. Debate continued over whether to “welcome” or “note” the Adaptation Committee report.

## 2. Opening Statements

- G-77/China: Demanded scaled-up implementation; USD 300 billion deemed inadequate.
- EU & EIG: Urged major economies to keep 1.5°C alive and anchor negotiations in science.
- LMDCs & ALBA: Rejected reopening the Paris Agreement and opposed unilateral trade measures.
- AOSIS & LDCs: Called for tripling adaptation finance and stronger NDC accountability.
- African Group: Prioritized finance for NDCs and just transitions.
- Civil Society & Indigenous Groups: Highlighted human rights, gender equality, and grant-based finance.

## 3. Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD)

Developing countries demanded larger, faster disbursements and direct access. Developed nations favored giving the Board flexibility.

## 4. Adaptation Fund (AF)

Debates centered on Board composition and alignment with the Paris Agreement. Draft texts are being prepared.

## 5. Mitigation Work Programme (MWP)

Discussions focused on the digital platform, inclusion of dialogue outcomes, and the continuation timeline.

## 6. Article 6.4 Mechanism

While methodological progress was acknowledged, concerns persisted over transparency and standards. Indonesia warned against integrity risks for nature-based credits; the EU and Norway called for strong monitoring systems.

## 7. Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA)

Parties agreed on voluntary indicators but disagreed on alignment with Paris goals, domestic finance, and adoption timelines.



## 8. Just Transition Work Programme

G-77/China proposed a new mechanism for cooperation; Norway and the UK opposed new institutions, citing budget constraints.

## 9. Gender and Climate Action

Ninety-two Parties endorsed adopting a Gender Action Plan at COP30, emphasizing women's leadership and capacity-building.

## 10. Research and Systematic Observation

The EU proposed branding COP30 as the "COP of Truth." Arab nations and India rejected references to 1.5°C, calling them alarmist.

# Protesters storm the COP30 site in Brazil.

Tensions flared at the COP30 climate summit in Belém when a group of protesters, including Indigenous activists, broke through security barriers and entered the restricted "Blue Zone." Chanting and carrying banners such as "Our forests are not for sale" and "We can't eat money," they demanded stronger action on deforestation, Indigenous rights, and Amazon protection. Security officers quickly intervened, blocking entrances and escorting protesters out after brief scuffles that left minor injuries and some damage to the site. The UN and Brazilian authorities have launched investigations into how the breach occurred. The demonstration reflected growing frustration among Indigenous and local communities who say their voices are being sidelined in climate negotiations. Despite the disruption, talks resumed later in the day, with officials stressing the need to balance security and openness at the summit.

# Delegation and Attendance Analysis

For the first time in COP history, the United States did not send an official delegation to the climate summit, following President Trump's second withdrawal from the Paris Agreement. The absence was widely remarked upon in Belém, symbolizing a major shift in global climate leadership. California Governor **Gavin Newsom** attended independently, representing U.S. subnational leadership. In his remarks, he described his presence as "a state of humility" and affirmed that "the United States must not become a footnote in the global climate conversation," highlighting California's continuing commitment to ambitious climate action.

Despite this notable absence, **COP30 recorded one of the largest attendances in its history**, underscoring the growing urgency of the climate crisis and global engagement in the negotiations.



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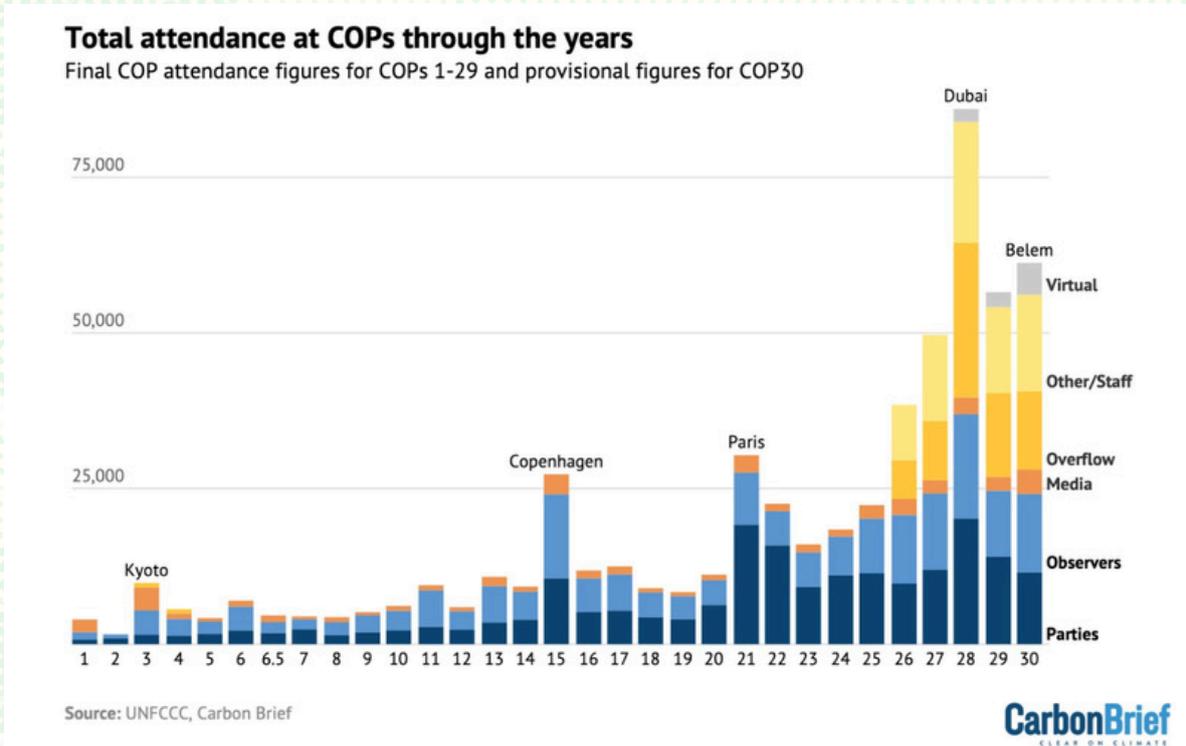


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# Key Highlights:

- **Record Attendance:**

COP30 registered **56,118 delegates (provisional)**, representing **193 countries and the European Union**, along with **over 5,000 virtual participants**—the highest ever for remote attendance. The turnout demonstrated the strong global interest in the process despite accommodation shortages, high costs, and logistical hurdles in Belém.



- **Top Delegations:**

Brazil, as the host nation, led with **3,805 delegates**, followed by **China (789)**, **Nigeria (749)**, **Indonesia (566)**, and the Democratic Republic of Congo (556). The strong participation of African and Asian nations reflected the Global South's growing determination to influence global climate policy and secure fairer financial and technological support.

- **Gender Balance:**

COP30 achieved the **most balanced gender representation** in its history, with **43% women and 57% men** across national delegations. Only a few all-male delegations remained, marking continued progress toward gender equality and inclusive climate leadership.

- **Observers:**

Over **12,000 observers** were registered, with **57% representing NGOs**, **11% from academic and research institutions**, and the rest from intergovernmental and private sectors. Their presence ensured strong civil society engagement and transparency throughout the negotiations.



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- **Media Presence:**

A record **3,920 journalists** were accredited to cover the event, making COP30 one of the most widely reported summits ever. Brazilian media organizations led coverage—**Empresa Brasil de Comunicação, TV Cultura, and TV Liberal**—alongside major international outlets such as **Reuters, Bloomberg, and the BBC**. New digital platforms like **TikTok** and **YouTube** were also present, reflecting the growing role of social media in shaping global climate narratives.

Overall, the unprecedented participation, diverse representation, and broad media engagement at COP30 demonstrated both the complexity and urgency of today's climate diplomacy. Even amid political tensions and logistical challenges, the summit in Belém succeeded in amplifying global voices—especially from the Global South—seeking a just and inclusive path toward climate action.

## COP32 Host Selected Before COP31 Settled

Even before next year's COP31 venue is confirmed, African nations have agreed that COP32 (2027) will be hosted in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, chosen over Nigeria. An Ethiopian official expressed gratitude for the “trust and confidence bestowed on the Ethiopian people and government,” saying the country looks forward to welcoming delegates.

Meanwhile, Australia and Türkiye remain locked in a diplomatic standoff over who will host COP31 (2026). Although Australia enjoys broad regional support, the Western Europe and Others Group requires unanimous consent, giving Türkiye veto power. This stalemate has delayed organizational progress. Pacific leaders are urging Türkiye to allow the Australia-Pacific bid to proceed, citing the need to spotlight island nations' climate priorities.



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# Ecological Debt Takes Center Stage

Caritas Internationalis introduced the concept of “ecological debt” at a side event, highlighting how wealthy nations accumulated environmental debt through industrialization and are now passing financial debt to the world’s poorest countries. Secretary General Alistair Dutton emphasized: “We who have created an ecological debt have also saddled the poorest in the world with a financial debt.” This issue is expected to dominate discussions, especially given Brazil’s focus on debt reform during its 2024 G20 presidency.



## Carbon Markets Face Fierce Opposition

Civil society groups, including the Catholic Church, protested loudly against carbon markets, chanting “No carbon casino!” Critics argued that these markets allow wealthy nations and corporations to continue polluting by purchasing cheap offsets that fail to deliver real emissions reductions or community benefits. Tyrone Scott of War on Want called the UNFCCC “a casino where the global north and polluting corporations gamble with our future.” “False solutions are not acceptable,” shouted civil society groups.

## Latecomers Announce 2035 Targets

The “2035 targets” refer to each country’s new national climate goals for the year 2035—part of the next round of NDCs (nationally determined contributions) under the Paris Agreement. After 2030 targets, governments are now setting mid-term goals for 2035 to show the path toward their long-term net-zero plans.



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Two major emitters—Mexico and South Korea—have unveiled their 2035 climate goals. Mexico pledged to cap emissions at 404 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent by 2035, marking its first-ever absolute emissions cap. The World Resources Institute hailed it as “deep emission cuts” and “among the most ambitious new targets from a major emitter.” South Korea announced a target to reduce emissions 53–61% from 2018 levels by 2035, slightly strengthening its earlier proposal. However, the civil society group Solutions for Our Climate argued that 53% is “far short of what is needed” and called for stronger action in the energy and transport sectors.

These announcements leave India and Saudi Arabia as the only G20 nations yet to submit 2035 targets. India’s submission was widely expected at or before COP30, but with Prime Minister Narendra Modi absent from Belém, no update appears imminent.

## Venue Contradictions Highlight Climate Irony

The COP30 venue’s heavy reliance on over two dozen diesel generator trucks running 24/7 to power air conditioning and LED displays drew criticism. Despite claims of carbon neutrality through offsetting, civil society members noted the irony of discussing net-zero while “literally running on fumes.” Additionally, plant-based food options remained scarce, despite livestock farming being a major climate polluter.

## Summary

Day 2 reflected momentum but also deep ideological divides—especially on finance, just transition governance, and the framing of science. Negotiations advanced procedurally but lacked convergence on most substantive agenda items.



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