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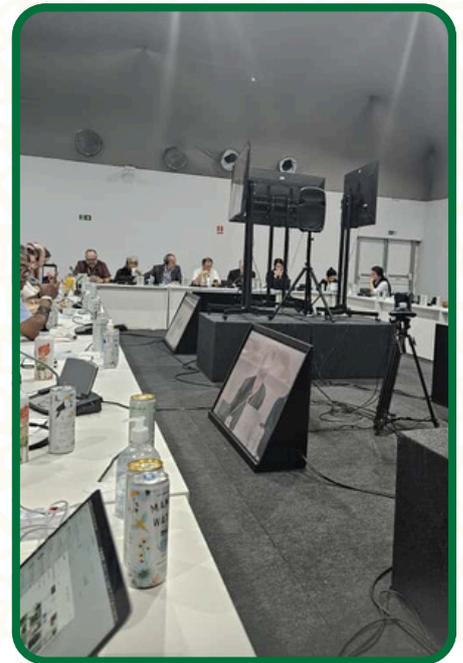
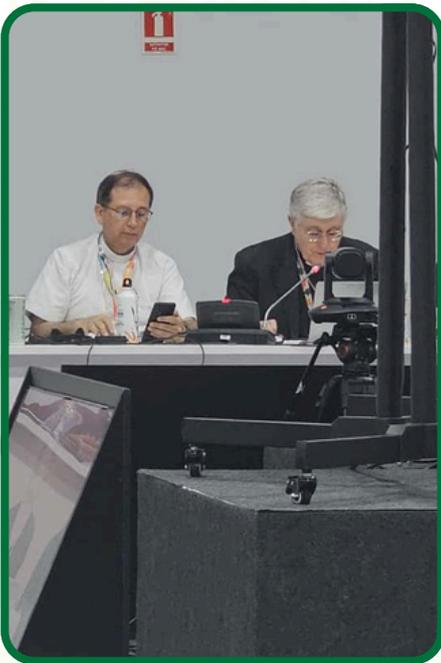
UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE

COP30 AMAZÔNIA

CUIDAR DO PLANETA PARA O FUTURO DA HUMANIDADE

BELÉM • BRASIL • 2025

The Second Meeting of the NCCEA With the Holy See Delegation at COP30



Catholic actors at COP30 gathered for the second meeting of the NCCEA with the Holy See Delegation at COP30, reaffirming their commitment to climate action with a strong focus on education, gender inclusion, and protecting vulnerable communities. The meeting was led by Archbishop Giambattista Diquattro, Apostolic Nuncio to Brazil and head of the Holy See delegation, and Dr. Paolo Conversi, the newly appointed national focal point.

The Holy See emphasized that climate action must be rooted in human dignity and social justice, with education becoming a central pillar of the Just Transition Work Programme. Participants stressed that students should learn within institutions that are ethically grounded, inclusive, and environmentally responsible. They also referenced education beyond classrooms, referring to Pope Francis' Global Educational Pact, which promotes community-based, values-driven formation.

A second draft of the Just Transition proposal reportedly highlights five key areas, with priority given to education, women's leadership, and protecting the 1.5°C global warming limit. Speakers underscored that empowering women is non-negotiable, urging full implementation of the Gender Action Plan, while reminding all to recognize the social challenges and responsibilities they also face.

Discussions also touched on ongoing global conversations about debt cancellation and the connection between ecological debt and financial debt, especially for communities suffering the most from climate change. The delegation recalled the Vatican City State's climate commitments, including a 28% emissions-reduction target by 2030, and long-standing efforts to pursue climate neutrality.

To measure progress, members called for clear indicators centered on human wellbeing, particularly for indigenous peoples, women, and other at-risk groups. They urged responsible use of technology and better communication strategies so that communities understand and can act on climate data.

Six thematic sub-groups created earlier — **Just Transition, Global Stocktake, Education, Loss and Damage, Global Goal on Adaptation and Agriculture, Article 6, and Climate Finance** — will meet in the coming week, with the full group reconvening on Thursday, November 20, to review next steps and leadership assignments.

Participants agreed that future work should clarify:

- the status of debt-relief negotiations
- a full education roadmap including formal, informal, and community-based pillars
- a fair system for reporting and communication using ethical technology

The Holy See delegation reaffirmed that their mission remains rooted in human rights, moral responsibility, and care for our common home, committing to move from dialogue toward concrete action.



Climate Summit Enters Make-or-Break Second Week as Tensions Mount Over Slow Progress

The first week of the UN climate conference ended with growing frustration, as countries failed to reach agreement on several crucial issues, leaving many delegates warning that time is running out to prevent catastrophic climate change.

A New Strategy to Break the Deadlock

Conference President André Corrêa do Lago announced a restructured approach for the second week, organizing negotiations into three parallel tracks:

1. High-level political talks where government ministers tackle the biggest disagreements
2. Technical discussions where experts finalize detailed language and legal text
3. Presidency-led consultations to help bridge gaps between opposing positions

A special intensive negotiating session — called a "Mutirão" (a Brazilian term meaning collective effort) — will bring ministers and delegation heads together early in the second week to try to unlock stalled issues.

The Major Battles Being Fought:

• Cutting Emissions (Mitigation)

Countries are deeply divided over how quickly greenhouse gas emissions must fall and how ambitious national climate plans should be. Small island states and African nations are pushing for stronger commitments to keep global warming below 1.5°C, the critical threshold scientists say is needed to avoid the worst climate impacts.

Many vulnerable countries want clearer plans to phase out fossil fuels and end harmful subsidies that support coal, oil, and gas. However, some major economies are resisting language that targets specific energy sectors.

• The Global Stocktake (GST)

Think of the GST as the world's climate "report card" — a review of whether countries are doing enough based on the latest science. The question now is: what should happen with these findings?

The European Union, island nations, and many developing countries want the stocktake results to directly shape stronger national plans and create binding commitments for faster action. Others prefer softer, voluntary language that gives countries more flexibility.

▪ **Just Transition**

Negotiators are grappling with how to shift to cleaner energy and green economies without leaving workers, communities, and poorer nations behind. This means more than just closing coal mines or stopping oil production — it requires job retraining programs, new employment opportunities, and support for affected communities.

Developing countries emphasize that fair transition plans are meaningless without actual financial support, technology transfer, and capacity building. They are asking for guarantees that they will not face new environmental rules without the resources to meet them.

▪ **Climate Finance: The Biggest Sticking Point**

Money remains the most contentious issue. Developing nations say they cannot reduce emissions, adapt to climate impacts, or recover from disasters without reliable, predictable financial support from wealthy countries — who are historically responsible for most emissions.

Frustration reached a peak when a major pledging conference for the Global Environment Facility was cancelled due to a lack of interest from donor countries. This raised serious questions about whether rich nations are truly committed to their promises.

Countries are calling for:

- Tripling adaptation finance to help communities prepare for worsening droughts, floods, and storms
- Easier access to climate funds, especially for the poorest nations
- Debt-relief options so countries are not forced to choose between loan repayments and climate action
- Greater transparency about who is contributing what
- A fairer global financial system that redirects money from polluting industries to climate solutions

Speakers at a high-level finance event emphasized that money exists in the world — it just needs to be redirected from activities that harm the planet to those that protect it.

▪ **Technology and Research**

Talks aimed at helping developing countries access climate-friendly technologies — such as renewable energy systems, early-warning tools for extreme weather, and drought-resistant crops — have stalled completely. These discussions will now continue next year, raising serious concerns about delays in getting real solutions to communities that need them most.

Meanwhile, many countries expressed disappointment that recent scientific warnings and record-breaking extreme weather events were not properly acknowledged in negotiating texts. They argued that the science is clear and urgent, but politics is moving too slowly.

▪ Gender Equality

Negotiations on gender remain unresolved, with some countries warning against weakening previous commitments to women's leadership and equal participation in climate decision-making and climate action. The debate reflects broader tensions about whether to strengthen or roll back existing agreements.

What Vulnerable Countries Are Demanding

The most climate-vulnerable nations — including small island states, least-developed countries, and African nations — are united in several key demands:

- Stronger emissions targets for 2030 from wealthy, high-polluting countries
- A concrete roadmap to end deforestation by 2030
- Real implementation support — not just promises on paper
- Recognition of the emergency — that climate impacts are happening now, not in a distant future
- Financial fairness — acknowledging that those who contributed least to the problem need the most support

The Path Forward

As negotiations move into their critical second week, the atmosphere is tense but determined. Technical experts will work to finalize draft agreements while ministers search for political compromises that can bring everyone on board.

UN Climate Chief Simon Stiell urged negotiators to be creative and flexible:

"Find each other in the hallways. Meet informally. Be ready to give a little to gain a lot."

His message was clear: the stakes are too high for business as usual. Real lives, communities, and futures depend on what happens in these negotiating rooms.

The question now is whether countries can move beyond defending their positions to find common ground — and whether the world will get the ambitious climate action it desperately needs, or just another round of vague promises.

The world is watching — and waiting for action, not just words.

Climate Negotiators Make Some Progress on Agriculture and Food Security, But More Work Ahead

The negotiators discussed how to better connect climate action with farming and food security — a major concern for millions of people worldwide. According to the session report, countries made some progress, but the talks were not completed, and more time is needed.

Delegates reviewed the results of the first workshop held under the Sharm el-Sheikh Joint Work, which focuses on climate-friendly agriculture and ways to secure food systems — from farms to markets — while protecting people from hunger and climate shocks. The workshop highlighted the need for holistic and coordinated approaches, meaning that agriculture, climate policies, food supply chains, and national development plans must be linked rather than treated separately.

The negotiators agreed that cooperation between countries is essential to tackle climate-driven threats such as drought, floods, pests, and rising food prices. They also reaffirmed that agriculture and food systems must be part of climate action, not left out or delayed.

Because discussions were not finished, governments will continue talks next year in June 2026 at SB 64, using the current draft text as a starting point.



CLIMATE SCIENCE DEBATE HEATS UP AT COP30

Climate negotiations on research and scientific observation ended in disappointment as several countries objected to the final text for not clearly recognizing the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) as the world's best source of trusted climate science. Bangladesh, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and the UK warned that weakening scientific references undermines truth, urgency, and informed climate decisions, especially at what leaders are calling the **"COP of truth."** Meanwhile, the Arab Group stressed that strong science must be paired with real climate finance, reminding negotiators that developing nations cannot act without support.



STOCKTAKING PLENARY



At the end of the first week of COP, the stocktaking plenary reviewed progress and set the direction for week two. The COP30 President reported that consultations on trade, climate finance, keeping the 1.5°C limit in reach, and emissions reporting were productive and full of new ideas. A summary note will be released to guide the next round of talks, and a high-level ministerial meeting will be held early next week to seek political guidance and push for convergence. Due to limited time, no country statements were allowed, and the message now is to shift from discussion to real negotiation mode.

Thousands Take to the Streets of Belém: Civil Society Demands Real Climate Action

For the first time since 2020, climate activists were able to march outside a UN climate conference on Saturday, November 15 as thousands took to Belém's streets demanding that world leaders move beyond negotiations to genuine action on climate justice and territorial rights.

The "**Great People's March**" marks a significant moment: the last three climate summits — in Egypt (COP27), the United Arab Emirates (COP28), and Azerbaijan (COP29) — banned street protests entirely. Authoritarian host governments silenced civil society voices precisely when they needed to be heard most loudly.

Saturday's demonstration was more than a protest — it was a reclaiming of space for those most affected by climate change but least represented in negotiating rooms.

Throughout COP30's first week, Indigenous peoples led the most powerful actions: a flotilla sailing the Amazon River on Wednesday, a conference center blockade on Friday, and Saturday's massive march



What Civil Society Demands

Beyond the demonstration, the march carried concrete demands:

- Genuine territorial protection — Indigenous land rights are climate action
- Climate justice, not climate capitalism — no false solutions or greenwashing
- End fossil fuel expansion — no new coal, oil, or gas projects
- Accountability from leaders — match words with action
- Intersectional justice — climate, racial, economic, and territorial justice are inseparable

After four years of being shut out, civil society's return to the streets sends a powerful message to negotiators entering COP30's crucial second week: communities will not accept another round of broken promises.

The march was not just a protest — it was a declaration that while governments debate, communities are already protecting forests, defending territories, and building real solutions.

One banner captured it perfectly:
"The forest is not negotiable. Our future is not negotiable. Act now."

The question now is whether leaders inside the conference will match the courage and urgency of those outside — or whether civil society will once again be left to do the real work of climate action while governments simply talk.



With the current president of the Conference of Religious of Brazil (CRB), **Sister Maria do Disterro Rocha Santos**, of the Congregation of the Daughters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (Cordimarianas), at the march.

