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UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE

COP30 AMAZÔNIA

CUIDAR DO PLANETA PARA O FUTURO DA HUMANIDADE

BELÉM • BRASIL • 2025



COP30 in Belém came to a close amid dramatic last-minute negotiations, deep divisions over fossil fuels, and unresolved disputes on climate finance, pushing talks into overtime and leaving the world without a clear mandate for phasing out fossil fuels. While the summit achieved progress on adaptation funding, transparency, and more inclusive climate action, its final outcome revealed the widening gap between political ambition and what science—and vulnerable communities—demand. Yet COP30 also witnessed unprecedented civil-society energy, urgent global calls for a just transition, and the resilience of the climate community. Momentum for real-world climate action continues to grow, even as much bolder decisions are needed to meet the 1.5°C goal.

This year, the Catholic Church played an historic and highly visible role at COP30. For the first time, large numbers of Catholic leaders—including cardinals, bishops, religious congregations, youth networks, pastoral movements, advocacy coalitions, and Catholic NGOs—were present and engaged. They participated in panel discussions, issued public statements, organized prayer and reflection moments, hosted awareness events and webinars, and stood in solidarity with those most affected by the climate crisis. Their broad and unified presence brought a strong moral and spiritual voice to Belém, highlighting the Church’s growing global commitment to ecological conversion and climate justice.

The Claretians were deeply involved in this global journey. Nearly six months before COP30, we began a coordinated process of awareness-building and formation across the congregation and with our mission partners. We hosted a major **global webinar** featuring Church leaders and frontline climate justice advocates, creating a shared space for discernment, theological reflection, and action. With strong grassroots participation across all Major Organisms—particularly through the engagement of the **Prefects of Apostolate** — we prepared the **Proclade (Claretian) Policy Brief for COP30**, offering a justice-centered and pastoral contribution to the wider climate discourse of the summit.

As COP30 unfolded, and seeing the importance of the moment, **Fr. General later issued a special message to the entire congregation**, encouraging Claretians worldwide to remain attentive to the signs of the times, deepen ecological conversion, and stand courageously with the poor and the vulnerable. His message strengthened and renewed our collective commitment during the final days of the conference.

During the summit itself, the Claretian presence was both **onsite and global**:

- **3 delegates** participated in Belém,
- **9 members** joined virtually,
- we offered **three COP30 countdown reflections**, and
- we delivered **twelve consecutive daily updates** (with a final update expected tomorrow), enabling the entire Claretian family to journey in real time with the global climate movement.

Through our presence, prayer, advocacy, communication, and collaboration, we walked with the world in Belém—amplifying the cry of the poor and the cry of the earth, and joining the global Church in calling for courageous, hope-filled, and faith-rooted ecological action.



NCCEA Leads Global Catholic Call in Belém for Ecological Conversion



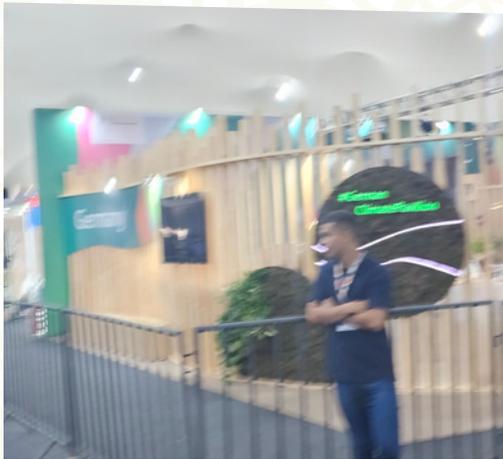
On the final day of COP30, the National Catholic Council for Ecological Action (NCCEA) **initiated a global Catholic appeal** in Belém, bringing together cardinals, bishops, religious communities, youth networks, and Catholic organizations from every region of the world to issue a united call for ecological conversion and urgent climate action. Rooted in days of prayer, dialogue, advocacy, and solidarity during COP30 and the Peoples’ Summit, the statement embodies the Church’s commitment to amplify what Pope Francis describes as “the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.”

Released ten years after both the Paris Agreement and *Laudato Si’*, the statement acknowledges the accelerating climate crisis while drawing hope from the Church’s longstanding collaboration with Indigenous peoples and social movements in Brazil. Delegates spoke of experiencing a deep spirit of synodality in Belém—walking together through shared meals, panel discussions, the Peoples’ Summit, Eucharistic celebrations, and the procession of the *Virgem de Nazaré*—and affirmed that the Church stands ready to accompany the most vulnerable communities affected by the climate emergency.

Citing Pope Francis’ call for “ecological conversion,” the declaration also referenced a message from Pope Leo XIV urging COP30 participants to embrace this conversion with courage, keeping the human face of the climate crisis at the center of all decisions. The appeal calls Catholics everywhere to deepen solidarity, care tenderly for creation, and respond faithfully to the urgent challenges affecting women, youth, migrants, Indigenous peoples, and marginalized communities. As Pope Leo affirmed: “We walk alongside scientists, leaders and pastors of every nation and creed. We are guardians of creation, not rivals for its spoils.”

The statement was endorsed by cardinals and bishops from Asia, Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, Europe, and North America. More than 80 Catholic organizations from over 30 countries—brought together through NCCEA’s leadership—participated in Belém, while over 300 additional organizations from more than 40 countries signed on in solidarity. The effort marks one of the most significant and coordinated global Catholic mobilizations at any UN climate conference to date.

COP30 Final Day Ends in Deadlock: Fire, Fractured Negotiations, and Fossil Fuel Battles Push Talks Into Overtime



The final scheduled day of COP30 ended in disarray on Friday as delegates failed to reach a consensus on a final agreement, forcing negotiations into overtime and casting uncertainty over the outcome of one of the most high-stakes climate conferences to date. What began as a tense day quickly became a dramatic one, shaped by deep divisions over fossil fuel language, an intense struggle over climate finance, the aftermath of a major venue fire, and unrelenting civil society pressure both inside and outside the COP30 grounds.

A Controversial Draft Ignites Tensions

Brazil Unveils the "Mutirão Text" Without Fossil Fuel Commitments

The day's political storm erupted early when the Brazilian Presidency released a new draft agreement—swiftly dubbed the "mutirão text"—that removed all explicit references to phasing out fossil fuels or outlining a roadmap for transitioning away from oil, gas, and coal. The omission shocked many negotiators, especially since earlier drafts had contained phasedown proposals and transition language aligned with the 1.5°C temperature limit.

Anger was immediate and widespread. More than 30 countries—including the European Union, the United Kingdom, Mexico, Colombia, Palau, and especially the Small Island Developing States—declared they could not sign an agreement that sidestepped the core driver of climate change. "A COP without fossil fuel commitments is a COP without credibility," one EU negotiator said in a tense press briefing.

Fossil Fuel Producers Hold the Line

Behind the scenes, the deletion reflected weeks of pressure from major fossil fuel producers and consumers—China, India, Saudi Arabia, Russia, and the United Arab Emirates—who strongly opposed any binding commitments. They argued for national sovereignty, energy security, and developmental needs, insisting that no global agreement should dictate the pace of their transition.

The standoff became the defining fault line of the day, freezing progress in the negotiations hall and overshadowing other advances.



"Coalition of the Willing" Emerges in Response to Fossil Fuel Deadlock

High-Ambition Countries Forge Alliance for a Just Transition as COP30 Text Drops Fossil Fuel Language

As the mutirão text released on the final day of COP30 stripped out all references to fossil fuels, a coalition of high-ambition countries led by Colombia announced that they would press ahead with their own commitment to phasing out fossil fuels—regardless of whether COP30 reaches universal consensus. Their message was clear: the absence of fossil-fuel language in the draft will not stall global momentum for a just transition.

Following the publication of the new text, which omitted earlier references to a “fossil-fuel roadmap,” Colombia convened a press conference to launch a renewed push for transitioning away from fossil fuels. While more than 80 countries at COP30 have expressed support for a roadmap for moving beyond fossil fuels, only 24 nations signed the “Belém Declaration for transitioning away from fossil fuels.”

The signatories are: **Australia, Austria, Belgium, Cambodia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, Fiji, Finland, Ireland, Jamaica, Kenya, Luxembourg, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Micronesia, Nepal, Netherlands, Panama, Spain, Slovenia, Vanuatu, and Tuvalu.**

Colombian Leadership Takes Center Stage

In a press huddle, Colombian environment minister **Irene Vélez Torres** criticized the consensus-based system that has allowed the most ambitious elements of the COP30 negotiations to be struck from the text. “The problem is, right now, the method is only of consensus,” she said, noting that “the most ambitious agenda ends up eliminated.”

Despite this setback, she emphasized that the fight is not over:

“We still believe that a change in the text is possible. This COP hasn’t ended.”

Speaking shortly after the briefing, Chilean environment minister **Maisa Rojas** expressed continued commitment to the multilateral process but acknowledged its current shortcomings. “We are very committed to the multilateral process,” she said, “but it’s true that a coalition of the willing is more necessary than ever because the process is failing us.”



Santa Marta Conference: A Parallel Track for Accelerating Climate Action

Looking beyond the immediate tensions of COP30, Colombia unveiled new details of a landmark initiative that could shape the future of international climate cooperation. The **First International Conference on the Just Transition Away from Fossil Fuels** will take place on **28–29 April 2026** in **Santa Marta**, one of the world's major coal ports and the heart of Colombia's coal-producing region.

This will be the **first global summit dedicated explicitly to discussing the fossil fuel phase-out**, marking a historic moment for global climate governance. Its location is symbolically powerful: hosting the conference in a major coal-exporting region of the world's fifth-largest coal-producing country underscores a central truth—ending dependence on oil, gas, and coal is possible, but doing so fairly requires unprecedented cooperation, support, and planning so that no community is left behind.

The Santa Marta summit aims to gather national governments, Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendant communities, civil society organizations, energy experts, industry leaders, academics, and climate advocates. Together, they will work to shape equitable pathways toward diversified, sustainable, and accessible energy systems. The conference seeks to become a strategic global platform for advancing cooperation on the transition away from fossil fuel extraction.

Organizations and public figures worldwide are encouraged to amplify the announcement in their own communications—using their distinctive voices and platforms—to welcome the conference and call on governments to attend.

Finance Fights Leave Key Gaps Unresolved

Ambitious Figures, Few Guarantees

The mutirão text preserved significant targets on climate finance, including a proposal to mobilize at least \$1.3 trillion annually by 2035 for climate action—of which \$300 billion would be allocated to adaptation. It also called for tripling adaptation finance by 2030, a longstanding demand of vulnerable countries.

But the lack of clarity on how the money would be raised—through public funds, private investment, or blended finance—sparked frustration among developing nations. African Group negotiators said the deal offered "big numbers with no delivery system," while the Least Developed Countries bloc expressed fear that the promises were "politically attractive but practically empty."

Adaptation, Loss and Damage Still Stuck

While the text introduced new indicators for tracking adaptation and referenced simplified access to the Loss and Damage Fund, disagreement persisted over replenishment cycles, accountability, and operational details. With climate impacts escalating worldwide, negotiators warned that ambiguity in these areas was unacceptable.

Trade and Climate Policy Tensions Emerge

Beyond finance and fossil fuels, negotiations also stumbled over the intersection of climate policy and international trade. Discussions emerged around the possibility of launching climate and trade dialogues at future COPs—a proposal that divided the room.

Some developing countries supported the idea, seeing potential benefits in coordinating climate action with trade policy. However, the proposal proved controversial for others, particularly the European Union, due to concerns about its carbon border adjustment mechanism and similar trade-based climate policies.

The EU worried that formal climate-trade dialogues could create forums that might undermine existing carbon pricing tools or open their policies to challenges. The issue remained unresolved by day's end, adding another layer of complexity to an already fractured negotiation landscape.

Fire in the Blue Zone Adds Crisis to a Critical Day

Evacuation, Smoke, and Delays After Thursday's Blaze

The already tense environment at COP30 was further shaken by the fire that broke out the day before in Area B of the Blue Zone—a section containing plenary halls, delegation offices, and pavilions. Thick smoke filled parts of the venue as thousands of participants were evacuated. Thirteen individuals were treated for smoke inhalation, and many delegates described the experience as "terrifying," "chaotic," and "traumatic."

On Friday morning, Area B remained closed for inspection, forcing major negotiations to relocate to improvised spaces—cafeterias, outdoor areas, and even the parking lot. Delegates waited in the Brazilian heat with limited access to shade and facilities, while volunteers distributed water and offered assistance to those visibly shaken.

The fire delayed key drafting sessions, disrupted bilateral meetings, and contributed significantly to the day's compressed timeline. UN officials repeatedly assured participants that the venue was safe, but the sense of urgency and fragility lingered.

Civil Society Rises in Protest

"1.5 Degrees Celsius Under Life Support": Activists Demand Action

As negotiations faltered, civil society intensified its presence. Demonstrators surged through the corridors of the venue, chanting and displaying banners, the most photographed of which read: "**1.5 degrees Celsius under life support**"—a stark message about the precarious state of the crucial climate target.

Activists condemned the removal of fossil fuel language and accused negotiators of bowing to the interests of oil-producing states. Outside, protests continued despite the humid heat, adding visible pressure to an already strained summit.



Stalled Agenda: What Was Decided, What Was Not

52 Issues Resolved, 28 Left Open

By Friday evening, the UNFCCC reported that out of 121 agenda items:

- 52 were fully agreed and closed
- 41 had provisional agreement
- 28 remained completely unresolved, including the summit's most consequential political issues

Among the unresolved items were:

- Fossil fuel phase-out commitments
- Climate finance scaling architecture
- Global Goal on Adaptation indicators
- Loss and Damage Fund procedures
- International cooperation on deforestation and ecosystems
- Climate-related trade measures and border adjustments

The deadlock meant COP30 could not close as scheduled.

Geopolitical Divisions Shape the Outcome

High-Ambition vs. High-Resistance Camps

The negotiations exposed sharp divides:

- EU, SIDS, and the Climate Vulnerable Forum—pushing for strong fossil fuel language and climate finance clarity
- United States and Canada—supporting ambition but leaning toward compromise
- China, India, Saudi Arabia, Russia, UAE—blocking fossil fuel commitments
- African Group and LDCs—warning that finance language lacked predictability and fairness
- Brazilian Presidency—caught between ambition and consensus, criticized for moderating the text too heavily

These dynamics left negotiators entrenched in their positions as the deadline passed.

Belém Political Package: Broader Effort Overshadowed

Mutirão Text at the Core, But Not the Whole Story

The Brazilian Presidency stressed that the mutirão text forms part of the wider Belém Political Package, a suite of initiatives and partnerships launched at COP30 to accelerate global action. However, in the absence of agreement on fossil fuels and finance, the broader package received little attention on the final day.

COP31 Assigned to Turkey as One Rare Moment of Consensus

In an otherwise gridlocked day, one item achieved smooth agreement: Turkey will host COP31, with Australia assuming the presidency.

The decision stood out as one of the few moments of unity in an otherwise fractured conference.



A Summit Without Closure

Uncertain Future as Talks Continue Into the Weekend

As midnight came and went, delegates moved between ministerial consultations and closed-door meetings with no clear indication of when a final plenary might be held. Exhaustion was visible; frustration was palpable. Many negotiators privately admitted that the weekend would determine whether COP30 would be remembered as a turning point—or a missed opportunity.

The extension of negotiations into the weekend has become a common occurrence for recent COPs, reflecting both the complexity of reaching consensus among nearly 200 countries and the deepening divisions on critical issues. However, the stakes at COP30 felt particularly acute given the urgency of the climate crisis and the visible backsliding in the draft texts.

With Colombia and its coalition partners charting an alternative path forward through the Santa Marta conference and the "coalition of the willing," the question now is whether multilateral consensus remains possible—or whether climate action will increasingly proceed through smaller, more ambitious alliances of nations willing to lead where others won't follow.

With the conference now in overtime, the fate of the global climate agenda remains unresolved, suspended between rising public pressure, widening geopolitical gaps, and the hard reality of a world already in climate crisis.

This is a developing story. Updates will follow as negotiations progress through the weekend.

