Religious Life for Climate Justice: Turning Hope into Action

GUIDE TO

UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE

COP30 AMAZÔNIA

CUIDAR DO PLANETA PARA O FUTURO DA HUMANIDADE

BELÉM • BRASIL • 2025

GOVERNO FEDERAL BRASIL UNIÃO E RECONSTRUÇÃO

COP30 AMAZÔNIA

COP stands for **Conference of the Parties**, which is basically a large-scale, high-level meeting of the countries that have ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Why the number 30? Because this will be the 30th session of the Conference of the Parties.

WHEN?

COP30 will take place from the 10 to 21 November 2025.

WHERE?

Belém do Pará, Brasil.

WHO?

It is estimated that around 60,000 people will participate in COP30. This figure includes delegates from approximately 190 countries, as well as representatives from institutions, non-governmental organizations, private sectors and other interested stakeholders.

HOW?

Agenda: The agenda includes a world leaders' summit, panel discussions, roundtables, side events, press conferences, plenaries and negotiations.

Negotiations: Parties organise themselves into negotiating groups according to their interests and/or circumstances.

Some of the most important negotiating groups are: the G77 and China, which includes developing countries; the Small Island Developing States (SIDS); the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), the Umbrella group, which represents several developed countries; and the Europe Union (EU).

P.S.

Although countries group themselves into negotiating blocs to gain more influence, it's by no means guaranteed that all states within the same group will always have identical agendas or interests on every single point.

What is the UNFCCC?

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

The **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change** (UNFCCC), established in 1992, is the central international body dedicated to tackling the climate crisis. Its primary objective is to **prevent "dangerous" human-induced interference with the global climate system**.

The UNFCCC came into force in 1994 and boasts near-universal membership, with **198 countries**, known as "Parties," having ratified the agreement. These Parties convene annually for **Conferences of the Parties** (COPs), where they review progress and negotiate new actions to address climate change.

Building upon the foundation of the UNFCCC, significant legally binding agreements have been adopted:

- **The Kyoto Protocol,** adopted in 1997 and implemented in 2005, was the first to set legally binding targets for developed countries to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- The **Paris Agreement**, adopted in 2015 and implemented in 2016, succeeded the Kyoto Protocol. It marked a new era by committing all signatory nations to contribute to the global climate response, aiming to limit global warming to well **below 2°C** above pre-industrial levels, and ideally to **1.5°C**.

THE PARIS AGREEMENT

Parties to the Paris Agreement are obliged to prepare, communicate and commit to agreed goals known as **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)**. Every 5 years, countries are expected to update their climate action plans and make them more ambitious. This is done through a **Global Stocktake,** aiming to assess global progress on climate action, identify gaps in efforts, and inform countries on how to enhance their Nationally Determined Contributions.

COP30 will be the culmination point for countries to submit their new national climate plans (NDCs) for the period leading up to 2035.

Published by the COP30 Presidency

TRANSITIONING ENERGY, INDUSTRY, AND TRANSPORT

STEWARDING FORESTS, OCEANS AND BIODIVERSITY

UNLEASHING ENABLERS AND ACCELERATORS, INCLUDING ON FINANCE, TECHNOLOGY AND CAPACITY-BUILDING

KEY TOPICS FOR COP30

TRANSFORMING AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS

FOSTERING HUMAN AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

BUILDING RESILIENCE FOR CITIES, INFRASTRUCTURE AND WATER

As of June 2025

OUR 4 CALLS

1. **Cancel the debts of poor countries,** as unjust and unpayable debts should not compromise resources for climate adaptation and mitigation efforts.

2. **Strengthen the Loss and Damage Fund (FRLD)** by allocating sufficient resources to tackle the severe effects of climate change.

3. **Set clear targets for a fair energy transition that aims to reduce CO_2 emissions,** considering historical responsibilities, respecting human rights—especially Indigenous rights, valuing and protecting nature, and prioritizing sustainable livelihoods over profit-driven models.

4. **Set clear goals to develop a global food system based on food sovereignty and agroecological practices**; one that promotes culturally adapted methods for production, transformation, distribution, and food consumption.

JESUITS FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE
FAITH IN ACTION AT COP30

Take Part

At COP30, our tomorrow is being built. Be part of the change!

Be informed

- Nine weeks before the beginning of the COP, we will launch the **Faith and Ecology Podcast**, a series that focuses on creating awareness and a shared knowledge around this process and the impacts it has on our daily lives.
- As part of our campaign, we will also launched the **Letters to the Earth Education Initiative Toolkit** which is comprised of three teaching materials tailored to different age groups in English, French and Spanish.
- During COP, we will be publishing a **bulletin** which will cover the highlights of the conference and news from the Jesuit delegation in Belém, Brasil. Follow us on **EcoJesuit**.

Act

We want to ensure that important issues such as the cancellation of the debt, the Loss and Damage Fund, the just energy transition, and food systems are on the COP agenda. Use our **NDCs mechanism template** to write to your elected representatives and demand change.

Reflect

The **COP30 Liturgical Guide** will be released a month before the conference to accompany Sunday masses. The **COP30 Prayer Guide** will accompany the conference with daily reflections. Join us in prayer for the future of our common home.

COP GLOSSARY

- **Adaptation**: measures to reduce climate change risks on people and ecosystems.
- **Mitigation**: actions taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Just Transition**: greening the economy in a way that is as fair and inclusive as possible to everyone concerned, creating decent work opportunities and leaving no one behind.
- **Loss and Damage**: the economic and non-economic destruction, losses and damages caused by climate change, especially in developing countries.
- **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)**: are the climate action plans submitted by countries under the Paris Agreement. They outline how each nation will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change.
- **Global Stocktake**: is a 5-yearly review under the Paris Agreement to assess collective progress towards its climate goals.
- **Net Zero**: achieving a balance between human-caused greenhouse gas emissions and their removal from the atmosphere.
- **New Collective Quantified Goals (NCQG) on Climate Finance**: a key element of the Paris Agreement, aiming to mobilise $100 billion per year for developing countries.
- **Common But Differentiated Responsibilities Principle (CBDR)**: acknowledges that all countries share the responsibility for addressing global environmental issues, like climate change, but that their individual responsibilities should be differentiated based on their historical contributions and capabilities.