

Church document ahead of COP 30

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Church leaders in the Global South are taking a strong role in the lead-up to this year's [international climate talks](#) (COP 30) in Belem, Brazil.

Mercy Sister Rosita Sidasmed of Argentina participated in conversations that contributed to [Climate Justice and the Common Home: Ecological Conversion, Transformation and Resistance to False Solutions](#). This document was first drafted by Church leaders in Latin America and the Caribbean, endorsed by bishop conferences in Africa and Asia, and then endorsed by the Vatican.

The document rejects the commodification of nature and extraction of minerals for renewable energy technologies as “false solutions” to the climate crisis. It instead demands that rich nations pay their “ecological debt” to countries most harmed by climate change; promotes phasing out fossil fuels and fairly taxing those who have benefited from these industries; calls for the defense of Indigenous peoples, ecosystems and impoverished communities; and recognizes climate migration as a challenge of justice and human rights.

The authors invite everyone to “adopt a new lifestyle marked by joyful simplicity” that focuses on “living a productive and supportive life, in peace and harmony with our brothers and sisters and with ecosystems.” Specifically, they call for reducing unnecessary consumption and challenging military investments; fostering spiritual experiences of contemplation and love for all creation; working with scientists to respond to local, regional and global needs; encouraging food, energy and cultural projects; and promoting narratives of hope and common care.