

COP 30 in the Amazon & Raising Hope in Rome

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Next month people concerned about international efforts to curb climate change will be keeping their eyes and ears tuned to negotiations going on in Belem, Brazil, in the Amazon rainforest. COP 30, the 30th convening of the Convention of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, will be held Nov. 10–21.

The most well-known international conference on climate change to date was in Paris, France in 2015. There, the nations of the world agreed to hold “the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels” and pursue efforts “to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.” But their commitments to date fall far short of reaching that goal.

In Belem, [nations are supposed to bring](#) new, more ambitious commitments for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and addressing gaps in funding for countries most harmed by climate change.

Mercy Sister Rosita Sidasmed of Argentina was part of a writing team that drafted [A Call to Climate Justice and the Common Home](#), a message from the Church in the Global South ahead of COP 30. Franciscan Rodrigo Peret of Brazil shared the urgency of this moment in [this 10-minute video](#).

Pope Leo issued his own call for climate justice in his [address to the Raising Hope conference](#) outside Rome last month that celebrated the 10th anniversary of the encyclical *Laudato Si'*. “What must be done now to ensure that caring for our common home and listening to the cry of the earth and the poor do not appear as mere passing trends or, worse still, that they be seen and felt as division issues?” he asked. He later suggested that “we must shift from collecting data to caring; and from environmental discourse to an ecological conversion that transforms both personal and communal lifestyles.”

At the end of the Raising Hope conference, participants made their own commitments to address climate change, in what will be collected together as People’s Determined Contributions to be delivered to COP 30 in Belem. Countries’ commitments are called National Determined Contributions.