

Post-COP 30 report

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COP 30, formally known as the 30th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, was held at the edge of the Amazon rainforest last month. Participants in the international climate talks reported that the formal results were extremely disappointing. But they also expressed excitement at the energy generated by unprecedented numbers of Catholic and Indigenous observers.

Mercy Sister Rosita Sidasmed [represented one of the Church's territorial networks](#) on a panel with cardinals from around the world. The speakers all highlighted some of the themes from [A Call to Climate Justice and the Common Home](#), a document published by the bishops' conferences of Latin America, Africa and Asia and promoted by the Vatican. She said it was exciting participating with Church and Indigenous leaders and meeting with the formal delegation from the Holy See.

The Laudato Si' Movement delivered the [People's Determined Contributions](#) (PDCs), commitments from over 2,000 individuals, institutions and communities to address the climate crisis. The PDCs emerged from the Raising Hope conference outside Rome in October to supplement the often-inadequate commitments from countries to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.

Despite pressure from all these leaders, the final text from COP 30 failed to address the core problem of transitioning away from fossil fuels, according to a report from Lisa Sullivan, a Justice Team partner with Maryknoll. Also, while there were many discussions about putting environmental and social protections around mining for minerals during the energy transition – both in the formal negotiations and in side events – that issue never made it into the final documents. The United States was missing from the delegations at COP 30, and Lisa named that no one else appeared to fill the role that the U.S. often took: to nudge the most resistant countries to accept modest climate measures. The most important development, she said, is that [Colombia and the Netherlands announced a conference in April](#) that will focus on a just transition away from fossil fuels.

The Mercy Justice Team signed onto a [statement that denounces](#) the dominant mentality that places mining and extractivism at the center of responses to the climate crisis. The statement came out of the People's Summit, a parallel gathering outside COP 30. In part, the statement reads:

A just and sustainable transformation cannot emerge from the same extractivist system that caused the crisis. It must dismantle corporate power, challenge neocolonial dependencies, and redefine our relationship with nature based on care, solidarity, and ecological balance.