



November 2025

To activists, grassroots organizers, frontline communities and civil society participants:

As another round of international climate negotiations approaches, activists, grassroots organizers, frontline communities and civil society participants once again prepare to fight for climate justice and uphold the Paris Agreement – driven by both hope for change and/or despair for the pace of action.

Hope, because what is at stake, has never been clearer. Across the world, communities are mobilizing, youth are demanding climate justice, and the movements are growing. In the face of multiple crises, people are resisting and creating solutions rooted in care, justice, and solidarity. We know another world is possible. COP 30 in Brazil is drawing global attention and mounting pressure. Held in Belém, in the heart of the Amazon, the summit carries deep symbolic weight. The Amazon reminds us of both the urgency of climate action and the centrality of Indigenous, local, and faith voices in shaping just and sustainable futures.

And yet, **despair** lingers. Around the world, we are facing profound threats to democracy, peace, multilateralism, and both climate and economic justice. Interconnected crises, rooted in extractivism, colonial legacies and unjust power structures, continue to shape our lives. Anxiety is everywhere, though felt differently depending on where you stand. Even our shared sense of solidarity and empathy is being challenged. The gap between science and policy is widening. Each year the urgency of the climate crisis is met with short-term national interests over a long-term vision for our planet, our common home. For the global majority, this isn't just about emissions or targets; it's about survival, human dignity, and justice.

With this message of solidarity, we want to honor your courage and commitment to these processes: showing up repeatedly, speaking hard and uncomfortable truths, pushing back against denial, delay and compromise, representing communities, and our shared future. We deeply acknowledge the sacrifice you make: the time away from home, long and exhausting journeys, discriminatory and dehumanizing visa processes, personal risk to safety and well-being and financial strain. Yet, your presence in these spaces is so powerful. In the face of systems designed to exclude and exhaust, your presence is an act of courage, resilience and deep commitment to justice; it is an act of persistence - and of resistance. Your voice is a force of hope – echoing the struggles, dreams and demands of communities around the globe.

In the spirit of hope and solidarity, we share reflections and messages from the Systemic Change dialogues – an initiative by CIDSE that brought together 157 participants from 6 different continents and 44 countries. The dialogues convened global faith actors, grassroots communities and broader civil society networks inspired by Pope Francis' call for an integral approach and synodality- journeying together in dialogue to confront the systemic crisis driving the climate emergency on the road to COP30.

We came together to challenge ourselves with difficult and uncomfortable questions around extractive addiction, false solutions, and ecological and climate debt. We strengthened solidarity, shared knowledge and power, and rejected the dominant narrative that "it is too late and there is no hope to reverse this path we are on".

We hope these reflections and messages from the participants can be a source of inspiration, courage, and strength as you engage in the climate negotiations and other spaces, you'll be part of during COP30.

- 1. Our power is in working together as collective** – across borders, movements, languages and generations. By coming together in dialogue and storytelling from different walks of life, we were able to deepen our understanding that our struggles are interconnected, and this strengthened us. Holding space for dialogue and exchange allowed us to share alternatives, build capacity and nurture empowerment. To resist and persist, we need greater solidarity, bridging North–South divides, linking those affected by

extractivism with those benefiting from it. Together, we must spread awareness of affected communities and amplify their voices; and make actions visible happening around the world.

“Despite the dangers, local groups and communities have continued to publicly oppose EACOP (East Africa crude oil pipeline) and have assembled an alliance of African and international organizations to help amplify our message.” – Nicolas Omonuk, Uganda – Dialogue 1

2. Real transformation rises from below, from the power of the grassroots and peoples’ movements. It comes from local struggles that combine diverse strategies, from territories under threat to youth-led resistance, from indigenous wisdom to creative acts of care and resilience. It is therefore crucial to keep strengthening our movements, connecting our struggles and ensuring solidarity between peoples resisting extractivism and climate injustice. We know that transformation will not come from closed door negotiations alone. The real energy for change does not lie with governments or corporations. It lies in the courage, creativity, and autonomy of people and communities who are resisting extractivism and building alternatives. It comes from the rivers, the sacred lands, the communities who have always known how to live in harmony with mother nature.

“During the international climate summits, they talk about how to resolve economic issues. For example, how to make forests profitable. They come with formulas from outside to try to tell us how we should manage the forests that we, as indigenous peoples, have lived in for thousands of years. They don’t include us. These are new forms of extractivism and colonization.”
Patricia Gualinga, Ecuadorian Amazon – Dialogue 1

3. We resist by not compromising on our vision for an alternative future. In diverse and unique ways, we are already reclaiming a post extractivist world; every act of resistance and every demand for justice builds that future. As civil society fragments and many organizations compromise their principles, we remain steadfast in exposing the root causes of the crisis—an economic system built on extraction and exploitation. Real transformation requires an alternative model grounded in justice, care, and interdependence. Though ecological debt may never be fully repaid, we can choose a future free from perpetual indebtedness. If exploitation and accumulation define our economy, justice and peace will remain out of reach. An economy of reciprocity and service to life must ensure dignity for all, the right to land, but also access to education, health, cultural events, and territory.

“We, the indigenous peoples, feel that all efforts to pay the 'ecological debt' with false green solutions will be in vain if we do not undergo a paradigm shift, which involves ecological conversion, caring for the self and the other, for our land as a living being.”
Sister Laura Vicuña, Brazil- Dialogue 2

Remember, your voice echoes the voice of many

When you walk into these negotiation spaces, you are not alone; it is with communities beside you, communities that were present in these dialogues, with generations past and the dreams of those yet to come. When you speak, it is not only your voice; it echoes the voice of many – especially the vulnerable communities around the world. Be assured of our prayers for strength, courage, and sustenance as you represent us.

We hope you’ll carry with you the stories of environmental violence, of lives displaced and lost, of rivers poisoned. But also of hope, of alternatives, of alternative futures being built and shaped.

Your work in these intergovernmental spaces matters. Your courage and resistance matters. Because we refuse to leave the future in the hands of those who protect profit over people, governments who delay, corporations who deny and negotiations coopted by industry interests.

“Small actions, taken by good people of goodwill in many small places, can promote extraordinary changes on earth.” – Sister Laura Vicuña, Brazil- Dialogue 2

The following organizations helped us co-shape the Systemic Change Dialogues:

