1,138 lives lost

Together for global justice



Foreword	3
2024 Highlights	4
Systemic Change in Action	7
Climate & Biodiversity	8
Integrating Feminism	9
Decolonising Systems of Power	10
Human Rights	11
Transforming Economic and Political Systems	12
Facts and Figures	13
Governance Structures	14
Finance	15
About CIDSE	16

Published by CIDSE

Editor in Chief: Josianne Gauthier

Editor: Giorgio Gotra

Contributors: Annia Klein & Marie-Paule Ogereau Contact: Rue Stévin 16 – B-1000 Brussels

T: +32 (0)2 230 77 22 | E: postmaster@cidse.org | <u>www.cidse.org</u>

Cover and Back Cover Photo Credits: Abdesslam Mirdass, Friends of the Earth Europe @ 2025 CIDSE

The year 2024 was characterised by an increasingly polarised geopolitical landscape, with a series of elections worldwide reflecting mounting divisions and uncertainty. Conflicts continued to escalate, exacerbating global insecurity and displacing communities, while the climate crisis intensified its impact across regions. Nevertheless, encouraging developments, such as the long-awaited EU agreement on the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD) in April, offered a glimpse of the change that can be achieved through persistent, coordinated advocacy.

In this challenging environment, CIDSE remained steadfast in its commitment to systemic change and social justice. The CIDSE directors came together to issue a joint statement on the global elections, underlining CIDSE's commitment to defending democracy, human rights, and care for our common home.

We fostered dialogue, amplified the voices of our partners from the Global South and strengthened international cooperation. Our collective presence in Brussels has grown in impact, with CIDSE organising numerous advocacy meetings and welcoming partners in our newly renovated building as part of European lobby tours. This physical space, which also houses the office of ACT Alliance EU, has evolved into a vibrant hub for civil society engagement and collaborative action.

In the face of converging crises, our engagement at COP29 was an important demonstration of our solidarity and determination. Although the outcomes did not meet the demands of justice, the roadmap from Baku to Belém signalled incremental progress on climate finance. In 2024, CIDSE concluded a three-year project on Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), reinforcing the vital role of civil society in shaping ambitious, fair and inclusive climate policies.



As we look ahead to COP30, it is crucial that we continue to advocate for ambitious national climate plans that leave no community behind. The stakes are too high for hesitation: urgent, transformative action is needed to keep 1.5°C within reach.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would also like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Caoimhe De Barra, former Director of Trócaire, for her dedicated leadership as President of CIDSE over the past two and a half years.

The road ahead is not easy, but our shared mission continues to inspire us to take action. I warmly invite you to read this annual report, which provides an insight into our achievements and reflections, and demonstrates how we are working together to contribute to a just and sustainable world.

Bernd Nilles
Director Fastenaktion (Switzerland)
President of CIDSE
August 2025



JANUARY

17-19 January | The CIDSE Directors met for their annual Board meeting and welcomed two new members, Inès Minin, Director of CCFD-Terre Solidaire (France), and Lorraine Currie, Director of SCIAF (Scotland).

25 January | The 5th anniversary of the dam collapse in Brumadinho (Brazil) was a striking reminder to the EU of the need for binding legislative measures to force businesses to comply with the respect and protection of human rights and the environment.



1 February | Solidarity with farmers in Europe: CIDSE supported a joint civil society statement calling for food sovereignty, organic agriculture, agroecology, peasant rights and fair food prices.

6-10 February | Calls to ceasefire in Gaza: As part of a series of lobby visits to the EU by partners from Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory, CIDSE welcomed Ilan Baruch, former Israeli ambassador, and Ashraf Ajrami, former Palestinian Minister.





MARCH

18 March | Human rights and sustainable environment: CIDSE joined the <u>call from civil society</u> for the Right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment to be recognised at the Council of Europe.

21-22 March | CIDSE was involved in <u>two workshops</u> at the European Citizens' Summit in Brussels, organised ahead of the European Elections.



APRIL

17 April | EU seed legislation: CIDSE and its member organisations called on the European Parliament to <u>adopt a legislation</u> that recognises the importance of small farmers in preserving seed diversity, and strengthens the human rights of farmers to their seeds and their right to participation.

24 April | CIDSE and its member organisations welcomed the <u>adoption of</u> <u>the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive</u> (CSDDD) by the European Parliament and encouraged Member States to go beyond the final text when transposing and implementing it.





MAY

8 May | On the <u>approach of elections in Europe and elsewhere</u>, the CIDSE Directors called on citizens to stand up for justice, promote the common good, and protect the rights of all, and urged politicians to listen.

27-29 May | The <u>COMED Forum</u> — the annual meeting of CIDSE communication, education and fundraising staff — was hosted in Lisbon by FEC, our Portuguese Member Organisation.



10 June | UN climate negotiations: A <u>side event</u> was organised in Bonn on the moral case for innovative sources of public finance and the need to reform global financial architecture to achieve climate justice.

10-12 June | The Board of Directors met in Ghent.
They bid farewell to Pirmin Spiegel, outgoing Misereor Director, and
welcomed Heleen van den Berg, Director of Cordaid.
Appreciation was expressed for the CIDSE Monitoring, Evaluation and
Learning (MEL) toolkit, a new guiding tool for the network.



JULY

4 July | CIDSE and other Catholic social justice organisations, submitted an Amicus Curiae to reiterate the <u>importance of adopting the results of the legally binding popular consultation</u> held by the Cajamarca community in Colombia in 2017, which rejected mining in the area.

16 July | Tribute to CIDSE former Directors: Within a few weeks, CIDSE grieved the loss of <u>Bernard Pinaud</u> from CCFD-Terre Solidaire and <u>Justin Kilcullen</u> from Trócaire, who was CIDSE President from 1998 to 2001.



SEPTEMBER

11 September | CIDSE co-organised the first screening of the documentary "Landgrabbed", which exposes the abuses committed by the Belgian company SIAT in rubber and palm oil plantations in West Africa.

12 September | A new <u>policy brief</u> on the protection of human rights of indigenous peoples and local communities to halt biodiversity loss was released with the support of CIDSE and its Member Organisations.





OCTOBER

7 October | One year after the Hamas attack on Israel, CIDSE commemorated the victims and reiterated its call for a ceasefire and the immediate release of hostages. It also condemned the killing of almost 42,000 Palestinians and the injuries of many more by Israel since that day.

11, 17, 24, 31 October | A <u>webinar series</u> was organised for policy and advocacy experts working on national climate plans to equip them to influence their country's upcoming submission.

A handbook titled "<u>NDC engagement made simple</u>" was also released.

NOVEMBER

11-22 November | UNFCCC COP29: A <u>CIDSE delegation was in</u>
<u>Baku</u> with partners and allies from the Global South and the Global
North to urge world leaders to make bold decisions on ambitious,
equitable and long-term financing for climate action.

24-27 November | EU Due Diligence Directive: The <u>transposition</u> guide for civil society organisations, providing key insights and recommendations for the transposition and implementation of the EU Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD), was published.





DECEMBER

12 December | Archbishop Ettore Balestrero, Permanent Observer of the Holy See in Geneva, gave the opening address at <u>a webinar</u> organised ahead of the Tenth session of negotiations for a UN legally binding instrument on business and human rights.

16 December | After participating in the COP16 biodiversity conference, Lidia Paz Hidalgo, from the Bolivian NGO CENDA, was <u>interviewed</u> about the vital role of indigenous and local community women as biodiversity custodians, and the importance of having their voices heard in global spaces.





With the window to limit global warming to 1.5°C closing rapidly, CIDSE is responding to the interconnected crises of climate change, biodiversity loss, and social injustice by issuing an urgent and clear call for systemic transformation. Rooted in Catholic social teaching, CIDSE is calling for an ecological transition that prioritises the rights and needs of the most vulnerable people — those who are least responsible for the crisis, yet are the most affected. Through its participation in international climate and biodiversity initiatives, CIDSE promotes fair and sustainable alternatives to existing extractivist social and economic models.

CIDSE has maintained a dynamic and impactful presence on the global stage of climate and biodiversity governance, advocating for a justice-driven, faith-based approach. At the UNFCCC climate negotiations in Bonn (SB60), CIDSE presented a <u>briefing paper</u> outlining the moral case for innovative sources of public finance for climate justice. The delegation also co-organised several side events focusing on climate finance, the Loss and Damage Fund, and the phase-out of fossil fuel. Key moments for fostering relationships included meetings with negotiators from the Global South and North, the Holy See, and interfaith groups. These meetings reinforced CIDSE's role in building bridges between different parties in the international arena.

In preparation for COP29 in Baku, <u>a dedicated webpage</u> was created, outlining the CIDSE delegation and planned interventions. Members such as <u>CAFOD</u>, <u>Fastenaktion</u>, <u>Misereor</u> and <u>SCIAF</u> supported official side events on Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and the just transition for all, in collaboration with the Network of Catholic Climate & Environment Actors (NCCEA).

Meanwhile, CIDSE continued to support the monitoring and advocacy of national climate commitments through the 'NDC Transparency Initiative' - a joint project with Misereor, Fastenaktion and BUND. In May, a new study tracing climate justice action in France and Germany, was launched at a webinar. Other activities included organising a webinar series in October with CANSA, Caritas Internationalis and Alliance2015 and publishing a handbook titled 'NDC Engagement Made Simple'. The objective was to equip civil society actors with accessible tools for influencing their country's national climate commitments.

Regarding biodiversity, CIDSE members <u>Broederlijk Delen</u> and <u>Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns</u>, along with partners from the Global South, attended the COP16 conference in Cali, Colombia. The <u>policy brief</u> titled "Strengthening Indigenous and Local Community Partnerships to Halt Biodiversity Loss" released in September, was officially launched at a <u>side event</u> co-organised by CIDSE.

CIDSE also sought to influence European legislative processes at various levels. Ahead of the European Parliament's vote on the marketing reform of plant reproductive material (PRM), CIDSE lobbied to ensure that the rights of farmers and the principles of agroecology were upheld. Furthermore, CIDSE has fostered critical reflection on the dangers of new genome techniques (NGT) through contributions such as a <u>blog post on the importance of seeds</u>, which linked climate and biodiversity action to broader themes of human rights and food sovereignty.



In collaboration with our member organisations and partners from the Global South, we are committed to challenging patriarchal and discriminatory power dynamics in order to promote gender equality. From this perspective, we examine and confront injustices, question systems that perpetuate gender inequality, advocate transformative changes to decision-making processes and promote a vision of a world that is socially and environmentally just.

In 2024, CIDSE placed a strong emphasis on embedding gender justice and feminism across its areas of work. On International Women's Day, the secretariat highlighted the diverse initiatives led by its members through a comprehensive mapping exercise, showcasing how women's rights and gender justice are woven into various projects and campaigns.

To further amplify these voices, CIDSE relaunched its podcast mini-series on agroecology and feminism, providing an engaging platform to explore what food systems would look like if they were built on feminist values.

Following the COP16 conference on biodiversity in Colombia, CIDSE published a compelling blog post titled "The vital role and contributions of indigenous and local community women as biodiversity custodians" which examined the interconnected nature of gender injustice and biodiversity loss, highlighting their combined impact on food system resilience. This piece brought the perspective of local communities in Bolivia and further underlined how empowering Indigenous women and protecting biodiversity are inseparable elements in the struggle for food sovereignty and justice.

The <u>3rd Latin American Caravan for Integral Ecology</u>, hosted by CIDSE in Brussels and by our member organisations in other European cities, was also an opportunity to bring the perspectives of Indigenous women from the Global South to the forefront. They were able to share their experiences, as well as those of their communities, which have been affected by mining activities in Latin America.

At COP29 in Baku, the need for gender-responsive solutions and for local communities to be at the centre of debates about a just transition away from extractivist logic was also emphasised during the <u>side event</u> titled "Just Transition for All: What to do if Green Extractivism is challenging the Just Transition?" coorganised with <u>Misereor</u>, the <u>International Labour Organisation (ILO)</u>, and the <u>European Commission/DGEMPL</u>.

It is necessary to recognise that it is fundamental that indigenous communities and particularly women should be included in the updating of the Biodiversity Action Plans to ensure that their voices and knowledge are reflected in conservation policies at local, regional, national and global levels.

Lidia Paz Hidalgo, The vital role and contributions of indigenous and local community women as biodiversity custodians.



Through our daily collaboration with members, we actively support civil society organisations (CSOs) and local communities in the Global South in their efforts to achieve dignity and justice. We work to strengthen their access to and influence within regional and international political arenas. At the same time, we foster partnerships between CSOs from the Global North and South, recognising the value of jointly shaping responses to global challenges and building cross-border solidarity and transformative advocacy.

As part of its commitment to decolonising systems of power and challenging structural injustice, CIDSE has deepened its engagement in defending Indigenous rights and promoting community-led alternatives to development. In collaboration with <u>Misereor</u> and <u>KOO/Welthaus</u>, CIDSE co-organised a webinar on the forced displacement of the Maasai people in Tanzania, together with partners from the Our Land is Our Life platform, <u>PINGOs Forum</u>, and <u>FIAN International</u>. The event exposed how conservation efforts, when rooted in top-down, exclusionary models, can reproduce colonial patterns of land control and dispossession. It reinforced CIDSE's call for rights-based approaches that prioritise the self-determination of Indigenous peoples and challenge dominant narratives about progress and development.

A lobby tour across Austria, Belgium, France, and Germany organised by MISA, the Maasai International Solidarity Alliance, provided a platform for directly affected communities to confront policymakers and advocate for justice. In addition to a new policy brief, Maasai representatives shared the Maasai vision for the future of land, pastoralism and co-existence with wildlife. These actions reflect CIDSE's broader aim to challenge and dismantle exploitative power structures and amplify the voices of those resisting neocolonial practices on their lands.

To further expose corporate impunity and highlight grassroots resistance, CIDSE supported the first screening of the documentary 'Landgrabbed'. The film sheds light on land grabbing and human rights violations in West Africa tied to the operations of SIAT, a Belgian company specialising in rubber and palm oil production. Co-organised with Entraide et Fraternité and CNCD-11.11.11, and supported by DKA Austria, the initiative served as a powerful tool for public awareness and solidarity with communities in Côte d'Ivoire demanding compensation.



As religious leaders and communities of faith, we have a vital role in preventing atrocities and advocating for sustainable peace in the Holy Land. Beyond the immediate crisis, we must address the underlying causes of this ongoing suffering. The Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territory must end.

Embracing Our Faith: A Call to Speak Out on the Holy Land Faith Leaders' Statement, December 2024



We urge governments and international institutions to respect, protect, and fulfil human rights, advocating for the integration of a human rights-based approach across economic, political, and environmental policies. From this standpoint, we continue to challenge political systems that enable human rights violations, while condemning the erosion of civic space and the inconsistent application of international law. We also stand firmly with human rights and environmental defenders, supporting their unwavering efforts to achieve justice and accountability.

In 2024, CIDSE was actively involved in defending and promoting human rights through several key initiatives.

In response to the catastrophic humanitarian situation in Gaza, CIDSE intensified its advocacy work with the EU, calling for an immediate ceasefire and full access for humanitarian aid to civilians, as well as the release of all hostages. A <u>statement</u> was released, denouncing the killings and famine in the Gaza Strip as well as a <u>powerful blog</u> describing the devastating impact of the shortage of humanitarian aid on children in Gaza.

A lobby tour was organised with Palestinian and Israeli partners — <u>HaMoked</u>, <u>Adalah</u> and <u>Physicians for Human Rights</u> (PHR) — to draw attention to the <u>terrible conditions endured by Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails and detention centres.</u> This initiative emphasised CIDSE's dedication to advocating for prisoners' rights and humane treatment.

CIDSE co-launched a statement by faith leaders titled "Embracing Our Faith: A Call to Speak Out on the Holy Land", together with Pax Christi International and members of ACT Alliance EU. This initiative encouraged religious leaders to speak out about human rights issues in the region, showcasing CIDSE's approach of combining advocacy with faith-based moral authority.

CIDSE also joined other international civil society organisations in <u>denouncing the assassination of Narciso Beleño, a peasant leader from Colombia</u> who led the struggle of the communities of Sur de Bolívar and Magdalena Medio, in their efforts to achieve a dignified life, free from violence and launched an urgent alert regarding the worrying situation faced by these communities.

At global level, CIDSE participated in the 13th Session of the Forum on Business & Human Rights. Representatives from member organisations, including <u>Broederlijk Delen</u>, <u>Fastenaktion</u>, <u>Manos Unidas</u>, <u>Trócaire</u> and the CIDSE Secretariat, engaged in bilateral meetings with permanent missions to raise awareness of human rights issues related to business practices.



As public awareness continues to grow, economic and political systems that enable environmental harm and human rights violations are increasingly being called into question. We stand with global movements challenging these injustices, while amplifying and supporting concrete, just, sustainable, and transformative alternatives. Our advocacy denounces the exploitation of resources that benefits corporations and wealthy nations at the expense of the Global South. We champion genuine multilateralism that prioritises people over profit and seeks to rebalance global power dynamics.

In 2024, CIDSE played a significant role in advocating for the transformation of economic and political systems to promote justice and sustainability.

In the final stages of negotiations on the EU Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence (CSDD) Directive, CIDSE actively lobbied <u>EU Member States</u> and Members of the European Parliament (MEPs). The Directive was ultimately adopted in a plenary vote at the European Parliament on 24 April. Although the <u>final text</u> was weaker than the compromise agreed during the trialogue negotiations, <u>CIDSE and its member organisations welcomed the adoption of the Directive</u> as a crucial step for mandatory human rights and environmental due diligence. It will continue to encourage Member States to go beyond the final text during the national transposition and implementation process. In this regard, CIDSE co-published a <u>Transposition Guide</u> in November, to help stakeholders implement the new legislation effectively.

In the fall, the 3rd Latin American Caravan for Integral Ecology travelled to Spain, Belgium, Italy, Austria, France and Germany. Co-organised with the support of CIDSE, this initiative aimed to raise awareness of the risks associated with the energy transition paradigm and its impact on Latin America in terms of human rights and ecological degradation. The objective was also to share proposals from communities affected by mining in their efforts to combat climate change and promote alternative economies, so as not to reproduce the same patterns of injustice when mining rare minerals. The delegation, which included representatives Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile and Peru, met with our member organisations at the CIDSE planning meetings. The session fostered cross-regional dialogue on integral ecology and corporate accountability.

CIDSE partnered with Pax Christi International, Caritas Internationalis, and Trócaire to co-organise a webinar titled "Caring for our common home: the need for a UN legally binding instrument for transnational corporations (TNCs) and other types of business enterprises." The event opened with a powerful statement from Archbishop Balestrero, the Holy See Permanent Observer to the UN Institutions in Geneva, and coincided with the launch of CIDSE's position for the 10th session of UN negotiations, reinforcing the call for binding international rules to regulate corporate conduct.

CIDSE continued to advocate for stronger accountability and the upholding of human rights within trade relations. The organisation lent its voice to the <u>civil society campaign demanding the suspension of the EU-Israel Association Agreement</u>, as well as to civil society organisations calling for an <u>end to negotiations on the EU-Mercosur trade agreement</u>. This followed concerns raised about the potential announcement of a new deal at the end of the year.



Social media



12,995 Total Followers



388



192,040 Impressions



New Followers



6,452 Page Views



5,516















1,926Subscriptions to CIDSE Newsletter





Blogs by CIDSE, Members and Partners







Board of Directors

The Board is composed of the Directors of CIDSE's 18 member organisations. The Board meets twice a year and is responsible for the general management of CIDSE, in particular for reviewing current activities and formulating policies for the future.

In 2024, the CIDSE Board welcomed Dr Andreas Frick (Misereor), Inès Minin (CCFD-Terre Solidaire) and Ana Patricia Fonseca (FEC). They bid farewell to their predecessors: Mgr. Pirmin Spiegel, and Manuel Martins.

In June, CIDSE was deeply shocked by the sudden passing of two former Board members who had played a significant role in the network: Bernard Pinaud, former Director of CCFD-Terre Solidaire (2012–2018) and member of the CIDSE Executive Committee (2013–2017), and Justin Kilcullen, former Director of Trócaire (1981–2013) and President of CIDSE (1998–2001).

Executive Committee (as of August 2025)

The Executive Committee is the implementing and supervising arm of the Board of Directors:

- President: Bernd Nilles (Fastenaktion)
- Members: Christine Allen (CAFOD), Anja Appel (KOO), Axelle Fischer (Entraide et Fraternité), and Ricardo Loy (Manos Unidas)
- Secretary General: Josianne Gauthier (CIDSE)
- Spiritual Advisor: Mgr. A. Tesfaselassie Medhin (Eparchy of Adigrat/Ethiopia)
- Treasurer: Thomas Vercruysse (Entraide et Fraternité)

The Spiritual Advisor, the Treasurer and the Secretary General are non-voting members.

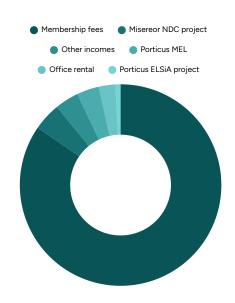
Finance

The CIDSE network is funded by membership fees, additional funding from members for special projects and external funding.

Income 2024

In 2024, CIDSE received external funding from:

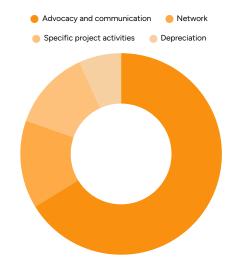
Membership fees	€ 1,072,790.35
Misereor NDC project (2021-2024)	€ 56,995.48
Other incomes (public subsidies and reimbursements)	€ 48,376.03
Porticus MEL project (2021-2024)	€ 45,214.97
Office rental	€ 33,825.00
Porticus ELSiA project + annual fees (2024-2026)	€ 10,429.23
TOTAL	€ 1,267,631.06



CIDSE is grateful to all its network members as well as to Porticus for making the work presented in this report possible.

Expenditure 2024

Advocacy* and Communication (staff and coordination)	€ 799,138.75
Network (office, administration and governance)	€ 170,276.78
Specific project activities	€ 155,014.91
Depreciation	€ 81,766.34
TOTAL	€ 1,206,196.78



*CIDSE's 2024 advocacy work covered the following thematic areas: Systemic Change, Energy and Extractivism, Food and Land, and Fighting Corporate Power.

In 2024, the CIDSE Secretariat also coordinated the following project: Israel-occupied Palestinian Territory: 62,649.18.

CIDSE's financial year runs from 1 January to 31 December. The 2024 financial statements have been audited by an external auditor, Clybouw Achiel, Andre & Co bvba, Belgium, in accordance with Belgian accounting standards.



CIDSE (Coopération internationale pour le développement et la solidarité) is an international family of Catholic social justice organisations. We work with global partners and allies to promote justice, harnessing the power of global solidarity to achieve transformational change for people and the planet. We challenge systemic injustice and its destructive impacts through connecting, mobilising, influencing and telling stories of change. We promote environmentally and socially just alternatives to allow everyone to thrive in our common home. CIDSE's work is guided by Catholic Social Teaching and Gospel values.

CIDSE's work promotes food sovereignty and land justice, addresses impunity and corporate power and explores the relationship between energy and extractivism, all the while striving for a model of sufficiency. We take a systemic approach to our thematic work, with a focus on human rights, decolonisation, feminism, climate and biodiversity justice, as well as on challenging prevailing economic and political systems and exploring alternatives.

CIDSE brings together 18 member organisations from Europe and North America:







Belgium



Belgium



Canada



England and Wales



France



Germany



Ireland



Italy



Luxembourg



the Netherlands



the Netherlands



Portugal



Scotland



Slovakia



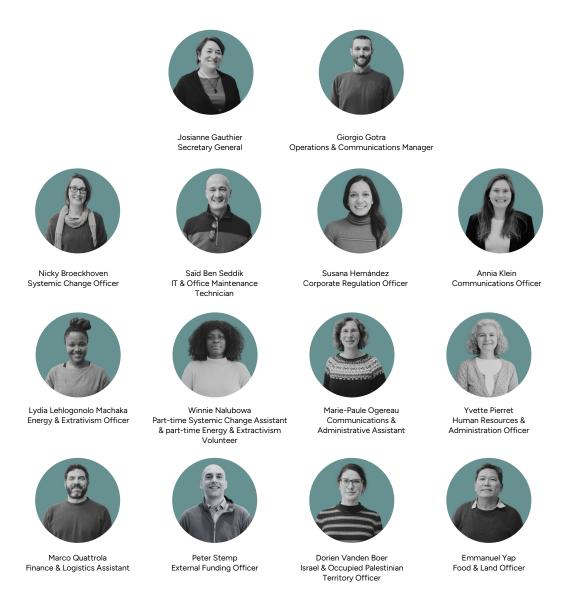
Spain





Based in Brussels, the <u>CIDSE Secretariat</u> facilitates and coordinates the common efforts of its members, represents CIDSE at the EU and international levels, and undertakes advocacy activities and other initiatives in collaboration with its members to contribute to systemic change and global justice. The Secretariat is organised into teams which coordinate different working groups to achieve CIDSE's objectives.

The Secretariat Team members as of August 2025 are:



We thank Carmen Contreras, Inês Barral, Kim Claes, Myriam Eboule and Daniel Fernández Campos for their valuable contributions to CIDSE's work and mission.

Collaborations

CIDSE works closely with various local and international alliances and organisations such as <u>Caritas Internationalis</u>, <u>Caritas Europa</u>, <u>COMECE</u>, <u>Franciscans International</u>, <u>JESC</u> and the <u>Laudato Si' Movement</u>. We are member of <u>Concord</u>, <u>Climate Action Network-Europe</u>, as well as a founding member of the <u>European Laudato Si' Alliance</u> (ELSiA).

