



Network of Catholic Climate and Environment Actors (NCCEA) Key Messages for SB64 towards COP31

June 2026

INTRODUCTION

The current global landscape is marked by rising global temperatures beyond 1.5°C¹, intensifying climate impacts, climate human displacement, fragmentation, tech-driven competition, warfare, food insecurity and energy crisis. The consequences of human-induced climate change are increasingly becoming more visible. The geopolitical ecology, how environmental impacts and resource distribution are shaping power dynamics is no longer secondary; it's central. The shrinking civic space, coupled with severe budget cuts and intensified criminalization, is increasingly undermining the vital work of social justice activists and environmental defenders.

It is from this moral framing that the Network of Catholic Climate and Environmental Actors (NCCEA)² wants to enrich the discussions at the SB64, of implementing the Paris Agreement by proposing key messages through the lens of integral ecology, a Catholic framework that recognizes the interconnectedness of humanity, nature, and the moral imperative to care for our common home. At a time when international cooperation is under strain, multilateralism becomes not only a political necessity but a moral duty.

At COP30, Pope Leo XIV renewed the call to live an integral ecology that leaves no room for indifference or resignation: *[Climate Change] endanger[s] the lives of everyone on this planet and therefore require[s] international cooperation and a cohesive and forward-looking multilateralism which puts the sacredness of life, the God-given dignity of every human being and the common good at its center.*³

Now is the time for parties to recommit to the values of solidarity, shared responsibility, justice and accelerate coordinated and transformative global climate action rooted in the dignity of every person and the well-being of the earth. The NCCEA has the following key messages towards SB64:

¹ World Meteorological Center, 2025. [2024, warmest year on record above 1.55°C.](#)

² The Network of Catholic Climate and Environment Actors (NCCEA) is a coalition of Catholic organizations collaborating to advance social and environmental justice through coordinated efforts in policymaking, and advocacy. Together, they aim to influence policy processes and mobilise collective action in relation to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) process and related activities. The purpose of these key messages is to support joint Catholic advocacy towards decision-makers, including the Holy See, by presenting a unified, clear, and compelling moral voice of Catholic actors grounded in Catholic Social Teaching.

³ [Pontifical Message on COP30 2025.](#)

1. JUST TRANSITION

The Just Transition Work Programme (JTWP) established at COP28, also known as the UAE work program on Just Transition set the conversation fully in motion to ensure that the transition doesn't reproduce or widen existing injustices & inequalities created by the fossil fuel era. In Belem, the Just Transition Mechanism or the Belem Action Mechanism was delivered, and it aims to shift the focus from dialogue to practical implementation.

Key messages and recommendations⁴

- **Just Transition Mechanism (JTM) must comply with human rights laws and norms** that include: Common but differentiated responsibilities and polluter pays, ensuring reparative justice from the Global North; Intergenerational equity and ecological integrity, recognizing the interconnectedness of all life; non-retrogression and progressive realization of rights, rejecting false solutions that worsen inequalities.
- **JTM must address the structural challenges by supporting transitions across key sectors** such as energy, agriculture, transport, and mining; ensuring labour rights and social protection; recognizing and redistributing unpaid and un/der/paid care work, largely carried by women; advancing equitable access to land, territories, and natural resources, including through agroecology and redistributive policies.
- **JTM must ensure participation and accountability** that should include Institutionalized participation in governance structures; respect for self-determination and Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC); dedicated, non-conditional funding to enable community participation; strong safeguards against corporate capture and conflicts of interest.

2. GLOBAL GOAL ON ADAPTATION (GGA)

At COP30, 59 indicators under the Global Goal on Adaptation were adapted also known as the Belem indicators. This decision was faced with objections and concerns from parties and therefore allowed for refinement to be continued at the SB64. Adaptation remains a top priority, especially for Africa and other vulnerable regions seeking finance, capacity building, and stronger resilience through preparation and implementation of their National Adaptation Plans. The GGA process has now entered a more operational phase, with increasing attention shifting from conceptual discussions towards the testing, application, and integration of the Belém Adaptation Indicators within national planning, monitoring, and reporting processes. SB64 therefore presents an important opportunity to assess the practicality, effectiveness, and usability of these indicators while ensuring they support country-driven adaptation efforts

Key messages and recommendations⁵

- **Make Adaptation a Top Political Priority:** Adaptation must be treated as equally as mitigation under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) process. It is not a secondary issue but a matter of climate justice for the most vulnerable communities. Urgent political leadership and accelerated implementation are essential to build resilience and protect lives and livelihoods in the face of escalating climate impacts.

⁴ Franciscans International, 2026. [What a Truly Just Transition Mechanism Must Deliver?](#)

⁵ FIMCAP SB64 Position Paper.

- **Ensure Finance is Accessible, Grant-Based, and Just:** Adaptation finance should be predictable, easy to access, and non-debt creating, with grants prioritized over loans. Public finance must lead, while ensuring support reaches frontline communities fairly and without increasing financial burdens. Adaptation needs in developing countries are estimated between US\$310 - 365 billion annually by 2035⁶; this urgency was left not met when parties in Belem agreed to triple adaptation finance by 2035 instead of by 2030.
- **Promote Locally Led, Inclusive, and Gender-Responsive Adaptation:** Adaptation actions must be designed with communities, not for them. Solutions should reflect local knowledge, empower women, protect Indigenous rights, and strengthen the capacity of vulnerable groups to respond effectively to climate impacts.
- **Advance High-Quality Adaptation through the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA):** Under Article 7 of the Paris Agreement, the Global Goal on Adaptation must drive real outcomes by enhancing adaptive capacity, building resilience, reducing vulnerability, and protecting both people and ecosystems. Parties should focus on the effective operationalization of the Belém Indicators, including their integration into national adaptation planning and reporting processes.

3. ACTION FOR CLIMATE EMPOWERMENT (ACE)

Advancing ecological education as a cross-cutting enabler of intergenerational climate solutions is done through the implementation of ACE strategies at the global and national levels. However, ACE has been largely treated in isolation from other climate workstreams, frequently lacking sufficient funding or capacities for proper enforcement or monitoring. With the Glasgow work programme on ACE to undergo midterm review at SB64, these barriers must be addressed to promote a holistic, inclusive, and impactful approach to ecologically-sustainable climate actions.

Key Messages and recommendations⁷

- **Measures must be designed to widen the reach and impact of ACE work to non-State actors, from the global to subnational contexts:** Parties must formulate strategies for more widespread multisectoral participation in activities across the six ACE elements, especially from marginalized sectors and communities (e.g., farmers, fisherfolk, persons with disabilities), as stated in National ACE Strategies.
- **Access to finance and other means of support for ACE implementation and the formulation of National ACE Strategies must be increased under the updated work programme:** These include identifying the technical and financial needs of Parties for developing and implementing national strategies on ecological education, improving the monitoring of related finance into NDCs and NAPs, and capacity-building sessions to enable monitoring and reporting.
- **A recommended and standardized set of indicators to monitor ACE implementation must be developed:** This would result in a more comprehensive, systemic, and accurate assessment of the progress of ACE activities within countries and at the global scale, with mechanisms for reporting by non-government stakeholders, thus enhancing transparency and accountability in the process. This would also aid in the formulation

⁶ [UNEP Adaptation Gap Report 2025](#).

⁷ Living Laudato Si' Philippines, 2026. [Submission to UNFCCC on Enhancing the Glasgow work programme on Action for climate empowerment](#).

and implementation of National ACE Strategies and other relevant national plans on ecological education.

4. CLIMATE FINANCE

The Baku to Belém Roadmap to 1.3T was presented at COP30, outlining five action fronts to scale up finance. However, the Roadmap was merely “taken note of” rather than decisively adopted, with no binding commitments, clear accountability mechanisms, or breakthroughs on grant-based finance, or financial architecture reform. These incremental steps failed to deliver the transformative shift required to address the ecological debt or meet the urgent needs of the most vulnerable. True climate finance must be understood as an act of reparative justice, solidarity, and care for our common home (LS, 49; LD). This echoes the collective discernment and call of the Catholic Church in the Global South.⁸

The messages below must be put forward formally to rebalance the UNFCCC’s current negotiating streams on climate finance, namely the Veredas Dialogue (on Article 2.1(c) of the Paris Agreement) and the new Climate Finance Work Programme. Private finance and technocratic solutions benefitting the Global North currently dominate these discussions.

Key messages and recommendations

- **Recognize and repay the ecological debt:** Developed countries must honor their historical responsibility by providing new, additional, adequate, predictable, and primarily grant-based public finance in line with common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities (CBDR-RC) and the polluter-pays principle. This includes full operationalization and scaling-up of the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage, debt cancellation or significant reduction for Global South countries to create genuine fiscal space, and reparative transfers that do not generate new indebtedness.
- **Scale up ambition and close the finance gap:** Parties must advance concrete, time-bound deliverables under the Baku-to-Belém Roadmap to mobilize finance at the trillions scale needed. While mitigation finance remains the central pillar of the process to keep the 1.5°C limit within reach, adaptation and loss and damage finance must receive significantly greater priority, scale, and dedicated resources to address the disproportionate and immediate impacts on the most vulnerable countries and communities. Climate finance cannot continue to come at the expense of other humanitarian spending.
- **Ensure high-quality, accessible, and rights-based finance:** Climate finance must reach frontline communities, Indigenous Peoples, women, and marginalized groups directly, with full respect for Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) and safeguards against corporate capture and conditionalities. Reject false solutions such as offsets, carbon markets that license continued emissions by the wealthy, financialization and commodification of nature, and extractive “green” projects that deepen vulnerabilities.
- **Reform the international financial architecture:** Advance urgent reforms including progressive taxation on fossil fuel profits and windfall gains, the phase-out of fossil fuel subsidies, and fair global tax cooperation (including through the UN Tax Convention).⁹ Multilateral development banks and international financial institutions must

⁸ Call for Climate Justice and Care for Our common Home, 2025. [Global South Bishop’s Manifesto](#).

⁹ [Tax Justice Network 2026](#).

immediately end all support for fossil fuels and align their portfolios with the Paris Agreement, integral ecology, and the rights of peoples and nature.

- **Strengthen accountability, participation, and transparency:** At SB64 and towards COP31, establish robust monitoring, reporting, and review mechanisms for the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) that ensure meaningful participation of non-State actors and Global South voices. Finance must enhance sovereignty and equity rather than undermine them. We urge Catholic actors, the Holy See, and all decision-makers to champion climate finance as a moral imperative of ecological conversion, reparative justice, and genuine multilateral solidarity.

5. FOSSIL FUEL PHASE OUT (FFPO)

At the closing of COP30, the COP30 President announced his intention to deliver a roadmap on “transitioning away from fossil fuels in a just, orderly, and equitable manner”. This roadmap follows the agreement made at COP28 to triple renewable energy capacity and double energy efficiency by 2030. To achieve the goals set, countries must urgently phase out fossil fuels, increase climate resilience, and ensure access to clean, affordable, and dependable energy for all. Alongside the UNFCCC process, willing governments participated in the first conference on Transitioning away from Fossil Fuels in Santa Marta Colombia, indicating the urgency and need for FFPO.

Key messages and recommendations¹⁰

- **Transparency and Accountability:** Roadmaps must be practical; UNFCCC aligned and connected to multilateral processes such as the outcomes of the Santa Marta conference so that lessons can inform future COP decisions and national climate plans. They should function as on-going processes rather than one-off reports, offering regular opportunities for follow-up and link to regional climate initiatives to address issues like people-centered and decentralized renewable expansion, phasing out fossil subsidies, avoiding fossil fuel lock-in and strengthening the role of multilateral development banks by a democratic reform in an equitable and just transition.
- **Alignment of financial flows and economic systems with climate goals:** Global finance must shift away from fossil fuels toward renewable energy, climate-resilient infrastructure, and sustainable development pathways, but this cannot create more debt for developing countries.
- **Recognize Subsidiarity, Inclusive Participation, and Decision-Making as rights, not privileges:** The right to access to information, participation in decision-making, and seeking redress must be fully protected, particularly for faith groups, Indigenous peoples, smallholder farmers, women, youth, people with disabilities, and other historically marginalized groups. Active and meaningful CSO engagement is not just beneficial; it is also a legal and moral need.
- **Minimize the need for critical minerals:** Promote sufficiency, circular economy and incentivizing the responsible sourcing of critical minerals to reduce demand for primary extraction and implementing robust demand-side management strategies to reduce overall energy consumption.

¹⁰ CIDSE, 2026. [A moral call for action at the Santa Marta conference.](#)

6. LOSS AND DAMAGE (L&D)

The multilateral work on Loss and Damage is now shifting towards direct provision of financial and technical support to the most vulnerable countries and communities and full operationalization of existing mechanisms - the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM ExCom), Santiago Network (SNLD), and the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD). With resources still limited and climate impacts becoming more extreme, enhancing complementary and coherence among these entities will be critical to accelerating the provision of short-term support, while continuing the work for long-term resource mobilization. Polluters must pay.

Key messages and recommendations

- **Scale up finance from climate polluters:** Developed countries must drastically increase the provision of funding into the WIM ExCom, SNLD, and FRLD to ensure their long-term sustainability, including through the NCQG as decided at COP30. Other forms of resource mobilization must also be explored to fill in the gaps in L&D finance, such as redirection of fossil fuel subsidies and levies and taxes on fossil fuel corporations.
- **Support for development of national L&D action plans:** Knowledge products and other findings under the WIM ExCom and SNLD must inform the formulation of aforementioned plans. After the conclusion of the Barbados Implementation Modalities, the FRLD should create a funding window to directly assist the formulation of L&D plans for developing countries, especially the Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States.
- **Enhance direct access to support for climate-vulnerable communities:** The FRLD must establish a mechanism to enable subnational actors and stakeholders to directly access funds, strictly through grants-based finance to avoid inducing undue burden. The SNLD should expand its roster of members to include more regional and national organizations, bodies, networks, and experts to ease access of technical support by communities.
- **Develop a State of L&D Report that identifies gaps and corresponding interventions:** It must provide a quantitative estimate of the gap on L&D finance. It must also capture the range of non-economic losses and damages and impacts of slow onset events, which addresses existing knowledge gaps. It must also present recommendations on addressing the aforementioned gaps, rooted in the best-available science that also integrates lived experiences and traditional knowledge.

7. FOOD SYSTEMS AND AGRICULTURE¹¹

Agriculture and food systems are known to be both a leading contributor whilst also being highly vulnerable to climate change. Less than 3% of public climate finance flows are targeted towards food and agriculture, the majority of which are not aligned with equitably transformative approaches. Under the Sharm el-Sheikh Joint Work on the Implementation of Climate Action on Agriculture and Food Security (SSJW), the first workshop, held during SB62 and focused on holistic approaches, highlighted the importance of agroecology, with several presenters underscoring its relevance for sustainable and resilient food systems. While progress was made at SB62, several key issues remain unresolved, including the need to strengthen means of implementation, improve access to finance, enhance coordination mechanisms, and strengthen

¹¹ CAN Agriculture Working Group Submission to the Sharm -El-Sheikh Joint Work on Agriculture and Food Security, 2026.

the UNFCCC online portal as a tool for knowledge sharing, capacity building, and collaboration. The second workshop at SB64 will focus on identifying needs and enhancing access to means of implementation for climate action in agriculture and food security. Discussions should remain practical and implementation-oriented, ensuring that climate action responds to the realities and priorities of those most affected, including small-scale farmers, Indigenous peoples, women, youth, and local communities. At the same time, Parties should use this moment to revisit existing tools and processes under the agriculture track and strategically consider the long-term direction of the agriculture agenda under the UNFCCC. This then represents a key opportunity for linking agricultural climate finance mobilisation discussions with the merits of scaling up support towards the equitably transformative approaches identified in the SB62 workshop.

Key messages and recommendations

- **There is an urgent need to scale up grant-based climate finance and support** to advance climate action in agriculture and food security while addressing barriers that prevent vulnerable communities and local actors from accessing support such as marginalized food producers, including smallholder and women farmers, who are central to global food security.
- **Climate finance should increasingly support agroecology and other transformative** approaches that strengthen resilience, enhance food sovereignty, protect biodiversity, and deliver multiple social, economic, and environmental benefits.
- **The SB64 workshop should be inclusive and action-oriented**, incorporating grassroots voices and produce concrete recommendations to progressively direct agricultural climate finance in support of locally led just agricultural transitions.
- **Parties should strengthen the effectiveness of the UNFCCC online portal and other coordination mechanisms** to facilitate collaboration, dissemination of best practices, peer learning, and capacity building.
- **Discussions under the SSJW should increasingly focus on implementation and impact**, while also charting a clear long-term vision for advancing climate action in agriculture and food security under the UNFCCC beyond the current work programme.

LIST OF CONTRIBUTING ORGANISATIONS

1. CIDSE – International family of Catholic social justice organisations
2. CAFOD – Catholic Agency for Overseas Development
3. Caritas Internationalis
4. Caritas Uganda
5. Caritas Zambia
6. Centre Arrupe Madagascar
7. Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd
8. Co-ordination Office of the Austrian Bishops' Conference for International Cooperation and Global Church (KOO)
9. Dominicans for Justice and Peace
10. FIMCAP – International federation of Catholic Parochial Youth Movements.
11. Fastenaktion
12. Franciscans International
13. JESC – Jesuit European Social Centre
14. Laudato Sí Intercultural Association
15. Living Laudato Si' Philippines
16. Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers
17. Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominick
18. Misereor
19. Missionary Society of St. Columban (International)
20. Social Justice and Ecology Secretariat (SJES) of the Society of Jesus
21. The Laudato Si' Movement
22. Trócaire
23. VIVAT International
24. Women for Green Economy Movement Uganda (WoGEMUganda)