



Network of Catholic Climate and Environment Actors Summary of Key Messages for SB64 towards COP31

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The Network of Catholic Climate and Environmental Actors (NCCEA)¹ proposes key messages for the SB64 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.

1. The Just Transition Mechanism must:

- Comply with human rights and include common but differentiated responsibilities, polluter pays, reparative justice from the Global North, intergenerational equity, and rejection of false solutions that worsen inequalities.
- Address structural challenges by supporting transitions in energy, agriculture, transport, and mining; ensure labour rights and social protection; recognize and redistribute unpaid and un/der/paid care work, advance equitable access to land and natural resources.
- Ensure participation in governance structures; respect for self-determination and Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC); dedicated, non-conditional funding; and strong safeguards against corporate capture and conflicts of interest.

2. Adaptation must:

- Be considered a top political priority, equal to mitigation. It is not a secondary issue but climate justice for the most vulnerable communities and requires urgent political leadership and accelerated implementation to protect lives and livelihoods.
- Receive finance that is accessible, grant-based, predictable, easy to access, non-debt creating, in the form of grants with public finance leading. The COP 30 decision to triple adaptation finance by 2035 is not adequate to the adaptation needs of developing countries.
- Be locally led, Inclusive, gender-responsive, reflect local knowledge, empower women, protect Indigenous rights, and strengthen the capacity of vulnerable groups to respond effectively to climate impacts.
- Advance forward through a high-quality Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) with a 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) must:

- Widen its reach and impact to non-State actors, from the global to subnational contexts, assure widespread multisectoral participation especially from marginalized sectors and communities.
- Receive adequate finance and support to allow for implementation and the formulation of National ACE Strategies.
- Be guaranteed within NDCs and NAPs along with capacity-building sessions to enable monitoring and reporting.
- Be monitored by a standardized set of indicators to guarantee a more comprehensive, systemic, and accurate assessment of the progress of ACE activities.

4. Climate Finance must include:

- Recognition and repayment of the ecological debt by developed countries by providing new, additional, adequate, predictable, and primarily grant-based public finance.
- Greater ambition to close the finance gap by mobilizing the trillions scale needed.
- Attention to all pillars of finance. Mitigation finance must continue as central to keep the 1.5°C limit while also giving adaptation and loss and damage finance significantly more resources.

¹ 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.

- Guarantees of high-quality, accessible, and rights-based finance that reaches frontline communities, Indigenous Peoples, women, and marginalized groups directly.
- Rejection of false solutions such as offsets, carbon markets that license continued emissions by the wealthy, commodification of nature, and extractive “green” projects.
- Reform of the international financial architecture: progressive taxation on fossil fuel profits, phase-out of fossil fuel subsidies, fair global tax cooperation. Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) and international financial institutions must end support for fossil fuels and align portfolios with the Paris Agreement
- 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.

5. Fossil Fuel Phase Out requires:

- Transparency and Accountability: Roadmaps must be practical, UNFCCC aligned and connected to multilateral processes such as the outcomes of the Santa Marta Conference and should function as on-going processes rather than one-off reports.
- 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.
- Recognition of subsidiarity, inclusive participation, and decision-making as rights, not privilege that must be fully protected, particularly for faith groups, indigenous peoples, smallholder farmers, women, youth, people with disabilities, and other historically marginalized groups.
- Minimizing the need for critical minerals: Promote sufficiency, circular economy and incentivizing the responsible sourcing of critical minerals to reduce demand for extraction.

6. Loss and Damage funding requires:

- Scale up finance from climate polluters. Developed countries must drastically increase the provision of funding into the WIM ExCom, SNLD, and FRLD, 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 the development of national L&D action plans. 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.
- 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. The SNLD should expand its roster of members to include more regional and national organizations and experts to ease access of technical support by communities.
- Development of a State 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 Agriculture requires attention to:

- Scaling up grant-based climate finance to advance climate action in agriculture and food security while addressing barriers that prevent vulnerable communities from accessing support.
- Prioritizing grant-based support for marginalized food producers, including smallholder and women farmers, who are central to global food security.
- Finance for agroecology and other transformative approaches that strengthen resilience, enhance food sovereignty, protect biodiversity, and deliver multiple social, economic, and environmental benefits
- Incorporation of grassroot voices in SB64 workshop and produce concrete recommendations to progressively direct agricultural climate finance in support of locally led just agricultural transitions.
- Strengthening 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 focus on implementation, impact, and charting a long-term vision for advancing climate action.