

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Faith in Action for Climate Justice: Catholic Voices Call for Urgent, Just and Equitable Outcomes at SB64 and COP31

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The Network of Catholic Climate and Environment Actors (NCCEA) today launched its [key messages](#) for the 64th Session of the Subsidiary Bodies (SB64) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), calling on governments to place climate justice, human dignity, ecological integrity, and solidarity at the center of negotiations leading to COP31.

The messages were presented during the press conference, "[Faith in Action for Climate Justice: Catholic Voices Shaping the Road from SB64 Towards COP31](#)", bringing together Catholic organizations and climate advocates from Africa, Asia, Europe, and Oceania to outline priorities on adaptation, just transition, transitioning away from fossil fuels, climate finance, and Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) and Loss and Damage.

Guided by Catholic Social Teaching, *Laudato Si'*, and *Laudate Deum*, NCCEA emphasized that climate action must move beyond technical negotiations and respond to the lived realities of communities already experiencing climate impacts.

Opening the press conference, **Winnie Nalubowa of CIDSE**, who moderated the event on behalf of NCCEA, stressed that climate negotiations must remain grounded in justice and the realities faced by vulnerable communities.

"Climate action must place human dignity, solidarity, ecological integrity, and care for our common home at its center. The voices of communities already experiencing the impacts of climate change must help shape the decisions that will determine our collective future."

Nalubowa emphasized that adaptation, just transition, transitioning away from fossil fuels, climate finance, climate empowerment, and loss and damage are interconnected pillars of climate justice.

"Adaptation is not only about survival. It is about justice. Transitions must be fair. Finance must serve people and the planet. Education and participation must

empower communities. And those suffering the greatest losses and damages must not be left behind."

She noted that the key messages presented by NCCEA members are grounded in the experiences of communities confronting climate impacts across the world and reflect a shared commitment to justice, participation, and transformative action.

**Full NCCEA SB64 Key Messages:**

<https://www.cidse.org/2026/06/03/sb64-catholic-actors-urge-parties-to-recommit-to-solidarity-shared-responsibility-and-the-common-good/>

## **Adaptation is Climate Justice**

Antonio Yayra Korkuvi of the International Federation of Catholic Parochial Youth Movements (FIMCAP) stressed that adaptation should be treated with the same urgency as mitigation and must receive significantly greater financial support.

"Adaptation is not merely a technical pillar of the Paris Agreement. It is a matter of survival, dignity, justice, and solidarity. Those who contributed least to climate change must not be left behind in global resilience efforts."

Korkuvi called for adaptation indicators under the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) to measure real resilience outcomes experienced by frontline communities rather than simply procedural achievements.

## **A Just Transition Must Be Rooted in Human Rights**

Budi Tjahjono of Franciscans International highlighted the need for climate transitions that reduce inequality rather than deepen it.

"A Just Transition is not simply an economic transition. It is a moral imperative. It must uphold human rights, intergenerational equity, participation, and reparative justice."

He emphasized the importance of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC), the Polluter Pays Principle, Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), social protection, labor rights, and safeguards against corporate capture.

Tjahjono also warned against false solutions, including geoengineering.

"Geoengineering does not address the root causes of the climate crisis. Climate solutions must respect our common home and prioritize genuine transformation rather than technological fixes that perpetuate injustice."

## **Rebuilding Trust Through a Fossil Fuel Phase-Out**

Madeleine Alisa Wörner of Misereor emphasized that the transition away from fossil fuels is essential to rebuilding trust in the international climate process.

"The transition away from fossil fuels is not only an environmental necessity. It is a moral responsibility."

Wörner noted that trust remains fragile following recent climate conferences and called for stronger commitments from major emitters.

"Countries with the greatest historical responsibility and highest emissions must move first and fastest. SB64 is a crucial moment to rebuild trust and demonstrate genuine commitment to climate action."

She further highlighted the importance of linking fossil fuel phase-out efforts with a broader Just Transition that protects workers, communities, and vulnerable populations.

## **Climate Finance is About Justice, Not Charity**

Martin de Jong of Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand and Caritas Oceania underscored that climate finance should be understood as repayment of ecological debt rather than development assistance.

"Climate finance is not charity. It is not aid. It is about recognizing and repaying the ecological debt owed by those most responsible for the climate crisis."

He called for climate finance that is new, additional, adequate, predictable, and delivered primarily through grants rather than loans.

De Jong also advocated for debt cancellation, reform of the international financial architecture, taxation of fossil fuel profits, and an end to fossil fuel subsidies.

"Communities facing climate disasters should not be forced into deeper debt simply to survive a crisis they did not create."

## **Climate Action Requires Empowered Communities**

John Leo C. Algo of Living Laudato Si' Philippines emphasized that climate action depends on informed and empowered people.

"Climate action requires more than policies and finance. It requires informed, enabled, and empowered peoples."

Algo called for stronger implementation of Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE), including climate education, public awareness, capacity building, participation, and access to information.

He also highlighted the urgency of addressing Loss and Damage.

"Polluters must pay. Those most responsible for the climate crisis must contribute fairly to addressing its consequences, especially for the communities that have contributed least to the problem."

Algo further emphasized the need to recognize non-economic losses and damages, including impacts on culture, identity, biodiversity, traditional knowledge, and spiritual relationships with land and nature.

## **Food Sovereignty, Agroecology, and Climate Justice**

Responding to questions from participants, NCCEA reiterated its support for food sovereignty and agroecology as essential pathways toward climate resilience and justice.

The network called for increased climate finance for sustainable food systems, locally led adaptation, and agroecological approaches that strengthen biodiversity, resilience, and community self-determination.

## **A Moral Call Ahead of COP31**

As negotiations begin in Bonn, NCCEA called on Parties to act with urgency, solidarity, responsibility, and courage.

The network emphasized that adaptation must protect the vulnerable, transitions must be fair, climate finance must serve people and planet, communities must be empowered through education and participation, and those suffering the greatest losses must not be left behind.

In her closing remarks, Nalubowa reminded participants that the climate crisis is ultimately a question of justice and shared responsibility.

"The climate crisis is not only an environmental challenge. It is a moral challenge. It is a question of justice, human dignity, and our shared responsibility to care for our common home."

NCCEA also expressed concern over false solutions that distract from the urgent need to reduce emissions, support vulnerable communities, and transform systems that drive ecological degradation and inequality.

As preparations continue toward COP31, the network called on governments, financial institutions, civil society, faith communities, and all stakeholders to work together to advance ambitious, equitable, and people-centered climate action.

NCCEA will hold a second press briefing on **12 June 2026** to provide updates and reflections on the progress of negotiations at SB64 and priorities leading toward COP31.

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