

Maina Vakafua Talia

Minister of Home Affairs, Climate Change and Environment
Tuvalu

Darragh O'Brien

Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment
Ireland

September 15, 2026

Dear Ministers,

We write to you as representatives of faith-based organizations and communities, united in our profound reverence for the Gift of Life and our moral obligation to care for our Common Home. We commend your ministries' for carrying forward the leadership demonstrated by Colombia and the Netherlands, as well as for building upon the outcomes of the First Conference on Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels, which took place in Santa Marta, Colombia, in 2026. Your commitment to guiding the global community toward a fossil-fuel-free future is an essential step in confronting the environmental, social, and civilizational challenges posed by climate change.

As the world continues to reflect on the outcomes of the First Conference, we firmly believe that technical and political discussions must be rooted in deep ethical, moral and spiritual principles. Policy alone cannot heal the Earth; meaningful transformation requires a change of heart and an unwavering commitment to justice, solidarity, and care for creation.

We acknowledge, with profound sorrow and urgency, that the world around us is experiencing escalating ecological degradation and may be nearing a critical tipping points. In unity with Pope Leo XIV, we affirm that "it is essential to translate words and reflections into choices and actions grounded in responsibility, justice, and equity, ultimately achieving lasting peace through our care for creation and our neighbors."

With that aim, and guided by these principles, faith communities around the world are contributing to the moral, spiritual, and social dimensions of this vital global effort; and today we reach out to you, as representatives of the Catholic, Ecumenical, Interfaith and Spiritual organizations that participated in the First Conference - both through an interfaith pre-conference gathering and through our four representatives at the High-Level Conference - to respectfully request that the role of faith-based organizations be formally recognized as an important sector.

We ask to be granted the opportunity to contribute more meaningfully to both the pre-conference process and the conference itself through recognition as an official sector. Our goal will continue to be bringing together diverse faith voices and denominations from around the world to collectively discern pathways toward responsible environmental stewardship and climate justice.

We declare our unwavering support for a just transition and urge governments worldwide to adopt binding legal measures to stop the expansion of fossil fuels and to enact a phased, time-bound exit. Guided by the principles of precaution and non-repetition, these measures must prevent ongoing harm and guarantee accountability through enforceable investigations, proportionate penalties for socio-environmental damage, and full reparations for affected communities.

We offer our prayers, our networks, and our steadfast commitment to walk alongside your ministries in making the second summit a beacon of hope for all humanity and a catalyst of meaningful action.

We remain at your disposal for any clarification or additional information regarding this letter.

Please receive our respectful salutations,

Signatories:

Sol Angela Hoyos, Coordination Team and the Commission on Peace, Nonviolence, and Anti-Militarization, Alianza Global Convida 20

Josianne Gauthier, Secretary General, CIDSE – International family of Catholic social justice organisations

Jenny Paola Ortiz, Intercultural Affairs Coordinator, Centro de Investigación y Educación Popular – CINEP/PPP

Gabriela Mulder, Moderator, Consejo Latinoamericano de Iglesias - CLAI

Rev. Fletcher Harper, Executive Director, GreenFaith

Nathaly Quito Quintero, Climate Justice Project Coordinator, Iglesia Evangélica Luterana de Colombia - IELCO

Father Darío Bossi, Coordinator, Iglesias y Minería

Abilio Peña Buendía, Executive Director, JPIC Comunidad Franciscana de NSL

Lorna Gold, Executive Director, Laudato Si' Movement

Martha Inés Romero M., Secretary General, Pax Christi International

Maestro Leonardo Mejía (Zheng Gong), Coordinating Team, Plataforma Eco-Espiritualidad

Rev. Dr. Neddy Astudillo, Coordinator, Red de Fe por la Justicia Climática Abya Yala Latinoamérica y el Caribe

Rev. Milton Mejía, Secretary General, Red de Universidades Protestantes y Evangélicas – Qonakuy

Monsignor Juan Carlos Barreto, President, Secretariado Nacional de Pastoral Social, Cáritas Colombiana

Rev. Emilie Teresa Smith, Co-Chair, Servicio Internacional Cristiano de Solidaridad con los Pueblos de America Latina — Oscar Arnulfo Romero. SICSAL-OAR

Ximena Lombana, Executive Secretary, Red Eclesial Panamazónica - REPAM

Rev. Prof. Dr Jerry Pillay, General Secretary, World Council of Churches – WCC

Supporting Faith-based Organizations

International

Anglican Communion Environment Network on behalf of the Anglican Communion

Caritas Internationalis

Center for Climate Justice and Faith of Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

Christian Climate Observers Program - CCOP

Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd

Congregation of the Mission
Dominican Leadership Conference
Dominicans for Justice and Peace
Franciscans International
Franciscan Missionaries of Mary
Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns
Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic, Inc.
Mennonite Central Committee U.S.
Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate
Missionary Society of St Columban
Proclade International
Presbyterian Hunger Program PC(USA)
Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary – JPIC
School Sisters of Notre Dame - SSND
Sisters of Charity Federation
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Justice Team
Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur
Social Justice and Ecology Secretariat – SJES/Jesuit
Soka Gakkai International - SGI
Temple of Understanding
World Christian Leadership Conference - WCLC
World Christian Life Communities

Africa

Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Africa for All – JPICFA – Africa
Caritas Ethiopia

Asia

Living Laudato Si' Philippines – The Philippines
Jesuit Ecology Network of the South Asian Conference – India

Europe

Co-ordination Office of the Austrian Bishops' Conference for International Cooperation and
Global Church – KOO – Austria
Fundação Fé e Cooperação – FEC - Portugal
Jesuit European Social Centre – European Union
Vastenactie – Netherlands

Latin America and the Caribbean

Coalición de Movimientos y Organizaciones Sociales de Colombia – COMOSOC – Colombia

Consejo Episcopal Latinoamericano y Caribeño – CELAM – Latin America and the Caribbean

Orden de Hermanos Menores Capuchinos - Colombia

Faith on Climate – Brazil

Mesa Ecuánica por la Paz – MEP – Colombia

Red Eclesial del Gran Chaco y Acuífero Guaraní – REGCHAG - Argentina – Paraguay - Uruguay
– Bolivia

North America

Adamah – United States

Catholic Climate Covenant – United States

ecoAmerica/Blessed Tomorrow – United States

Lutherans Restoring Creation - United States

New Mexico & El Paso Interfaith Power and Light – NM IPL – United States

Presbyterians for Earth Care – United States

Texas Impact – United States

Oceania

Ekalesia Kelisiano Tuvalu

Society of St Francis – SSF – Oceania

Pacific Conference of Churches – PCC – Pacific