NETWORK OF CATHOLIC CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT ACTORS (NCCEA)

Key Advocacy Messages for COP31-Antalya Türkiye

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Climate impacts are worsening. The latest UNEP Emissions Gap Report 2026 warns that global temperatures would inevitably exceed 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels before 2030 due to delayed action, which underscores the urgency for bold and transformative climate action. The 31st United Nations Conference on Climate Change (COP31) comes at a defining moment, when the tide must turn.

As Catholic organisations working alongside communities on the frontlines of the climate crisis and grounded in our commitment to climate justice, human dignity and the care for our common home, we call on governments at COP31 to move beyond commitments and deliver concrete, ambitious and equitable action. This means accelerating a just transition away from fossil fuels, scaling up accessible and non-debt-creating climate finance, mobilising finance for loss and damage, and ensuring that the voices of those most affected shape climate decisions. COP31 must be a moment where political commitments translate into meaningful change for people and our common home.

The following are the key COP31 priorities for the NCCEA: Just Transition, Global Goal on Adaptation, Action for Climate Empowerment, Climate Finance, Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels, Loss and Damage, and Food Systems and Agriculture.

1. JUST TRANSITION

To achieve a just ecological transition, parties must operationalize the Just Transition Mechanism (also termed as the Belém-Antalya Mechanism) at COP31, as agreed upon at COP30 in Decision 2/CMA 7. The mechanism aims to enhance international cooperation on just transitions and translate the key messages and principles agreed upon through the Just Transition Work Programme (JTWP) from dialogue to practical action.

Recommended calls for Parties to deliver on Just Transition at COP31:

- **Establish the Just Transition Mechanism** through agreement on the scope, terms of reference and governance structure, building on discussions from COP30 and SB64.
- The **mechanism should support the implementation of national just transition plans**, notably through technical and financial support.
- The mechanism should ensure **the inclusion of just transition in existing national plan**s, such as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs).
- The mechanism should **address existing implementation barriers** in terms of capacity, knowledge, institutional, technological and financial constraints, whilst recognising the existing opportunities to overcome these challenges.
- **Strengthen inter-institutional and international cooperation** on just transition and across all sectors.
- **Just transition must adopt an integral and holistic approach and place human dignity at the centre.**

That implies a deep reform of all our economic, financial and political sectors shifting away from a model of overexploitation, extractivism and colonialism.

- **Ensure meaningful participation of vulnerable and marginalised communities** including local communities, Indigenous Peoples, workers, women, youth, afro-descendants and other vulnerable groups. Their knowledge, lived experiences and needs should inform national transition pathways.
- **Place the equity principle (the Principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities)** at the centre of the just transition action and negotiations**.**

2. ADAPTATION/GLOBAL GOAL ON ADAPTATION (GGA)

Established at COP27, the Adaptation Fund finances adaptation projects in developing countries and was created to serve the Kyoto Protocol. At SB64, no agreement could be reached on the classification of countries and on board membership calling for governance reforms so it can serve the Paris Agreement exclusively. This delay puts the Global Goal on Adaptation's (GGA) institutional framework at risk, and it threatens the most vulnerable populations, for whom adaptation is a lifeline in today's climate. Parties must overcome these obstacles and make pledges to the Adaptation Fund. According to the Adaptation Gap Report 2025, adaptation finance needs in developing countries could reach US$365 billion annually by 2035. COP31 needs to deliver on adaptation, starting with the commitment made at COP30 to triple adaptation finance.

Recommended calls for Parties to deliver at COP31 on Adaptation:

- **Chart the path to tripling finance.** Agree on a baseline and roadmap for reaching at least USD 120 billion a year in adaptation finance by 2035 even though this falls short of projected needs. This support should come mainly as direct grants rather than market-based instruments, build on existing initiatives, and be directed to the most vulnerable countries and communities.
- **Give the Baku Adaptation Roadmap (BAR) a mandate to deliver.** The BAR needs a clear mandate for implementation, tied to the second Global Stocktake (GST2). Its means of implementation should be linked to the targets of the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience, and it should support testing and piloting of the Belém Adaptation Indicators.
- **Build indicators centered on people.** Finalise a strong set of GGA indicators that puts people first, includes civil society in their development, and recognises and adopts participatory approaches to monitoring and measurement.
- **Anchor adaptation locally.** Stress the close link between localisation and subsidiarity, and affirm that adaptation must be grounded in the territories and communities where people live.
- Agreement that the Adaptation Fund must serve the Paris Agreement.

3. ACTION FOR CLIMATE EMPOWERMENT (ACE)

COP31 is expected to finish the mid-term review of the Glasgow work programme on ACE, with Parties expected to provide political guidance for its implementation until 2031. It is also expected to contribute to the formulation of a new action plan that helps address barriers preventing the realisation of this goal. Key barriers include: insufficient finance, inconsistent country-level institutional arrangements and reporting, weak monitoring, poor multistakeholder awareness and coordination, as well as lack of strong integration of ACE into other climate workstreams. Overcoming these obstacles will enhance implementation and monitoring of the outcomes of all activities across the priority areas and elements of ACE.

Recommended calls for Parties to deliver at COP31 on ACE:

- **Introduce a standardised set of indicators for monitoring and evaluating progress of ACE implementation**. It must include indicators across the six elements of ACE, basing them on existing National ACE Strategies and other relevant national climate plans and reports (i.e., Biennial Transparency Reports, Nationally Determined Contributions).
- **Build capacities and coordination among National ACE Focal Points and non–State actors**. The new ACE Action Plan must feature more activities aimed at enabling further participation of non-State actors, especially those aside from children and youth, within this workstream. It must also be geared towards supporting the formulation of National ACE Strategies, and ensuring the sustainability of intended outcomes of ACE-related activities as a response to frequent turnover of National ACE Focal Points.
- **Enhance the mainstreaming of ACE across UNFCCC bodies and workstreams**. National ACE Focal Points, in coordination with the UNFCCC Secretariat, focal points of negotiating blocs, UNFCCC bodies, and non-State actors, must identify synergies between ACE and other workstreams to facilitate integration of ACE, or some of its six elements, into the work of existing work programmes and implementing entities under the UNFCCC. ACE-related outcomes under these work programmes and implementing entities must be reported accordingly.
- **Mobilise and map out finance and other forms of support for ACE implementation**. Funding for the implementation of ACE activities must be scaled-up from the global to the subnational scales, while existing actions by Parties related to the six elements of said workstream must be more comprehensively mapped out and assessed to further identify needs, gaps, and barriers on ACE implementation.

4. CLIMATE FINANCE

Climate finance remains one of the biggest enablers that are needed to deliver ambitious climate action especially for the most vulnerable countries. While countries are aiming to implement the mitigation and adaptation goals of the Paris Agreement, many developing countries face substantial investment needs and at the same time limited fiscal space and high cost of capital while an ever-growing debt crisis is looming. Therefore, the provision of finance as outlined in the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) is not only a key obligation and responsibility of mainly developed countries, but questions of survival for those most hardly hit by the impacts of global warming and a prerequisite for the transition away from fossil fuels. At COP31 parties must scale up climate finance to meet the needs and build climate resilience for communities.

Recommended calls for Parties to deliver at COP31 on Climate Finance:

- At COP31, **contributor countries should communicate multiannual post-2025 climate finance commitments**, including for climate funds, in line with their fair share of the 300bn USD target and the goal of tripling adaptation finance till 2035.
- **Despite diverging views, countries should engage in the Climate Finance Work Programme (CFWP) in a way that provides clarity on the implementation of the NCQG** and especially its public provision component as well as making the CFWP the central point for climate finance discussions and CMA decisions.
- **The work on alignment of all financial flows, under Art 2.1c/Veredas, should focus on ongoing harmful investments into the fossil fuel economy**, outline how to stop them – including by an international taxation framework - and how to divert public and private investments to a just energy transition.

- **Parties and international financial institutions must deliver grant-based, non-debt-creating climate finance**, to prevent driving developing countries deeper into debt.

5. TRANSITIONING AWAY FROM FOSSIL FUELS (TAFF)

As the primary driver of global greenhouse gas emissions, fossil fuels are accelerating climate devastation worldwide. We must decisively break our dependence on coal, oil, and gas. A truly just transition means more than simply replacing fuel sources. It means dismantling the corporate and colonial structures that have long defined global energy. Our future energy systems must be decentralised, community-led, and rooted in human rights and gender justice. This requires realigning global financial flows toward clean, affordable, and dependable renewables while fiercely protecting everyone's right to participate in shaping climate-resilient development. This collective resolve should take concrete shape in Antalya during COP31, as co-hosts Colombia and the Netherlands officially hand the mantle to Tuvalu and Ireland as co-hosts of the Second Just Transition Away from Fossil Fuels Conference. The pre-conference will take place in Ireland in March 2027, and the conference in Tuvalu and Fiji between April and May 2027. Together, this shared journey bridges continents and communities, grounding our collective action where it matters most, on the frontlines of climate action.

Recommended call for Parties to deliver at COP31 on TAFF:

- **More Parties should actively engage in the second TAFF Conference** and contribute to the development of the three TAFF workstreams alongside other governments that participated in the first conference.
- **Governments must develop concrete roadmaps for phasing out fossil fuels**, while strengthening links between the TAFF process and the UNFCCC.
- **Endorse a binding Fossil Fuel Treaty** as the only credible mechanism to complement the Paris Agreement and as the legal cure for a global system still structurally dependent on coal, oil and gas.
- **Ensure that the Just Transition Away from Fossil Fuels Roadmaps and the implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) are aligned** and consistent with Long-Term Low GHG Emissions Development Pathways (LT-LEDS), and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) reflecting local priorities and acknowledge historic responsibility, including loss and damage.
- **Ensure that national and international just transition strategies explicitly prioritise human rights, equity, and social justice**, moving beyond a purely technological or economic focus.
- **Support the deployment of decentralised renewable energy**, which is less resource-intensive than large projects, flexible, resilient, can be owned by local communities and provides an opportunity to close the energy access gap.
- **Ensure 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 marginalised groups. Active and meaningful CSO engagement is not just beneficial, but a legal and moral obligation.

6. LOSS AND DAMAGE (L&D)

The multilateral work on L&D is shifting towards implementation of solutions to avert, minimise, and address extreme climate risks and impacts. Available finance for disbursement is nowhere near the scale needed by the most vulnerable countries and communities. Finance and technical support remain not as accessible to those who need them the most as they should. Coordination across the three UNFCCC L&D bodies Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM ExCom), Santiago Network (SNLD), and the Fund for Responding to Loss and

Damage (FRLD) is still a work in progress. This requires the L&D workstream to become a more prominent part of the COP31 agenda, after being formally excluded from the discourse at SB64. The ecological debt must be paid by historical polluters, especially to prevent those who contributed the least from bearing the costs. Polluters must pay.

Recommended calls for the Parties to deliver at COP31 on Loss & Damage:

- **Scale up L&D finance and speed up replenishment of resources under FRLD**. While all three UNFCCC L&D bodies require substantially more finance to properly execute their mandates, the FRLD requires drastically more contributions from developed countries, given how underfunded its pilot funding programme, Barbados Implementation Modalities, is vis-a-vis the needs of developing countries. Developed countries must also ensure the FRLD will not run out of funds and disable its capacity to fulfill its mandate.
- **Enhance complementarity and coherence across the three UNFCCC L&D bodies**. Guidance must be decided on by Parties on the interface between technical assistance and financial support to avoid fragmentation and ease access for developing countries. Guidance must also be provided to ensure regular meaningful coordination between the WIM ExCom, SNLD, and FRLD and enable them to respond to gaps and barriers in a sufficient and timely manner.
- **Harmonised reporting across the three UNFCCC L&D bodies**. While evidence of effectiveness of solutions is required for transparency, accountability, and institutional learning, developing countries still need to build their capacities and capabilities for reporting under the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement. Thus, arrangements should be developed such that the reporting to the WIM ExCom, SNLD, and FRLD by developing countries would not induce more burden on their available resources, while still complying with the requirements under each of these bodies.
- **Prioritise support for building country-level institutional capacities and coordination**. Recent meetings under the WIM ExCom, SNLD, and the FRLD have all tackled issues related to country readiness, receiving technical assistance and other forms of support for implementing their respective strategies. Parties at COP31 must explore how to make these forms of support more readily-accessible to developing countries.

7. FOOD SYSTEMS AND AGRICULTURE: *Sharm el-Sheikh Joint Work on* Implementation of Climate Action on *Agriculture and Food Security (SSJWA)*

The four-year SSJWA, established under decision 3/CP.27, was intended to move the UNFCCC agriculture agenda from technical exchanges towards implementation. Its mandate approaches its conclusion at COP31 in Antalya, Parties must determine the substantive outcome, institutional arrangements and follow-up process required to carry this work forward. The outcome at SB64 avoided a complete procedural breakdown, yet largely deferred the political choices required to convert the SSJWA from dialogue into implementation. Significant progress at COP31 will therefore depend on Parties bridging these differences and agreeing how accumulated knowledge and country needs will guide action, cooperation and accountability.

Recommended calls for Parties to deliver at COP31 on Food Systems and Agriculture:

- **Agree on an implementation-centered COP31 outcome.** Parties should adopt a time-bound SSJWA workplan with defined outputs, responsibilities, coordination arrangements and transparent review, rather than a further procedural extension. The outcome should retain adaptation and food security as priorities, especially for vulnerable groups, while enabling context-specific adaptation co-benefits and mitigation.

- **Translate identified needs into coordinated support.** Parties must establish a practical interface between country-identified needs and relevant UNFCCC bodies and institutions for technology development and transfer, capacity-building, knowledge and data, partnerships and institutional strengthening. Climate finance should be addressed within this comprehensive means-of-implementation framework and remain consistent with equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.
- **Protect rights and participation in the negotiated text.** Parties should include explicit recognition of the right to adequate food, human dignity and meaningful participation by small-scale and family farmers, women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and pastoralists. Party interventions should resist uniform or externally imposed pathways and support approaches grounded in national circumstances, local priorities and scientific, local and Indigenous knowledge.
- **Advance a rights-based and inclusive food-systems approach.** While retaining the agreed SSJWA focus on agriculture and food security, Parties should recognise that effective implementation must address the wider food system, including production, processing, distribution, markets, consumption, nutrition, food loss and waste, and their interdependence with water, biodiversity, health and rural livelihoods. Such language should be grounded in integral ecology, the right to adequate and nutritious food, human dignity and the common good; strengthen local economies and territorial markets; and ensure that small-scale producers and affected communities shape the solutions.
- **Operationalise holistic and resilient agriculture within food systems.** Parties support text that connects farm-level action with community, watershed, ecosystem and landscape approaches and recognises regenerative agriculture and agroecology alongside other climate risk informed and context-appropriate pathways. Implementation should encompass soil health, watershed management, agroforestry, biodiversity, resilient seed systems, diversified production and rural livelihoods, while contributing to nutrition and reduced food loss and waste.

The messages were developed with contributions and expertise from members of the NCCEA.

ABOUT NCCEA

The NCCEA is a coalition of Catholic organisations collaborating to advance social and environmental justice through coordinated efforts in policymaking, and advocacy coordinated by CIDSE. Together, they aim to influence policy processes and mobilise collective action in relation to the UNFCCC process by presenting a unified, clear, and compelling moral voice of Catholic actors grounded in Catholic Social Teaching.

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