

# CIDSE is an international alliance of Catholic development agencies working together for global justice.

16 catholic development organisations from Europe & North America, inspired by shared Christian values, come together under the CIDSE umbrella to promote global justice and solidarity.

Central to CIDSE's policy formulation and advocacy is its member organisations' work on a wide range of priorities, with local partner organisations in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Contributing to the fight against poverty and inequality, as well as bringing about sustainable development and well-being by challenging global structural injustices are key elements of CIDSE's mission, which we attempt to achieve through joint advocacy, campaigning and development cooperation work.

Our priority issues are global governance; resources for development; food, agriculture & sustainable trade; climate justice; and business & human rights.

As a lay-led Catholic network, we believe in a world with peaceful and fair foundations where the lives and choices of rich and poor alike are transformed through solidarity.

*"To desire the common good and strive towards it is a requirement of justice and charity"*

Pope Benedict XVI  
Caritas in Veritate

CIDSE is an international non-profit alliance composed of the following 16 member organisations with its headquarters in Brussels.



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**Together for Global Justice**  
Justice Campaign Development    Common Good Faith    Solidarity Partnership Subsidiarity    Ownership Advocacy Alliance    Stewardship Sustainability Dignity



## Working together in North and South

### Advocacy and campaigning

Advocating and campaigning for the reform of current policymaking is one of CIDSE's core priorities and strengths. This is where we promote and facilitate the social justice agenda of our members and partners. Through coordinated efforts, we target key events at European, North American and international level in order to influence policy making and therefore impact the lives of the world's most vulnerable people.

Our work is based on solid research capacity as well as on the expertise and experience built up by CIDSE as a network. Influencing these policies and working towards structural change is therefore complementary to the development cooperation programme and project work that CIDSE members support.

### Development co-operation

CIDSE members have been working in more than 100 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America for over 40 years, building strong relationships with local Churches and NGOs. We work on a social justice agenda guided by Catholic Social Teaching, resulting in socially and culturally sensitive development co-operation programmes.

We aim to extend and deepen the collaboration among members on our development co-operation programmes. Through regular analysis and review of the effectiveness and impact of our approach, we attempt to make a greater difference to the lives of poor people that we serve in developing countries.

We closely cooperate with our Southern partners. Through country and regional groups we strengthen their, and build linkages to our, advocacy work.

### Alliances and networking

Our vision calls us to work with other people of goodwill in order to promote justice and global solidarity and end poverty and inequality. This includes other Catholic, faith-based and secular organisations and networks as well as international alliances pursuing similar goals.

CIDSE is an active and continuously evolving network, with a good capacity to respond quickly to new challenges and opportunities.

Visit [www.cidse.org](http://www.cidse.org) for more information about our latest projects and activities.

## Key Areas of Work

### Global Governance

Poor countries with little political influence and economic power continue to be marginalised in global decision-making. We advocate for institutional reform which will allow the United Nations –where all countries have an equal voice – to play a key role in global economic governance. Global finance and economic policymaking must be brought into line with UN Human Rights Declarations and Conventions and needs to serve the poorest and most vulnerable people.

### Resources for Development

We work for the creation of international policy and structures which would lead to the increase in urgently needed resources for Southern-driven development. We urge governments to honour their financial commitments and lobby for innovative measures to raise additional money. We also seek to increase revenues in developing countries, countering illegal financial outflows through, for example, tax evasion by individuals and multinationals.

### Food, Agriculture and Sustainable Trade

We strive for an environmental policy based on the protection and promotion of the right to access to affordable, nutritious, culturally appropriate food. Promoting food security, sustainable agricultural production and livelihood opportunities for men and women living in poverty are therefore cornerstones of our agenda. We believe small-scale farmers and rural sectors in the South must be supported and strengthened to eradicate poverty and hunger.

### Climate Justice

We believe strongly that climate change is not only an environmental matter, but equally a development and a justice issue. Increased climate variability and the increasing frequency and intensity of natural disasters brought about by climate change are repeatedly destroying lives and livelihoods of vulnerable communities who have done the least to cause it. We advocate for effective and equitable policies that significantly reduce global greenhouse gas emissions and support developing countries to adapt to the impacts of climate change and pursue sustainable development paths.

### Business & Human Rights

We call on governments and the international community to ensure businesses respect human rights and the environment in their operations, meet standards of transparency and are held to account when they become complicit in violations.



## Towards Global Solidarity

We stand for a more equitable and environmentally-friendly world and aim at changing the unequal power relations that lie behind morally unacceptable disparities.

Working with and for people living in poverty on every continent since 1967, CIDSE is deeply concerned by the severe enduring inequality between and within states, and between men and women. In our globalised world, crises in food, energy, climate, finance and the economy endanger poor communities in the South, thereby washing away progress made in poverty reduction and progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

As a network, we wish to collectively contribute to the articulation of new economic and development models essential for the promotion of the common good and well-being, and where both developed and developing countries have a say on global issues.

We believe that CIDSE, working through its members in over 100 countries, has a crucial role to play in the fight against poverty. Through our advocacy, campaign and development cooperation work inspired by the social teachings of the Church, we introduce ethical principals and values into public debates on economic and social structures.

### Our Values:

*Solidarity*

*Ownership*

*Partnership*

*Subsidiarity*

*Dignity*

*Sustainability*

*Stewardship*

