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Leaders of Catholic development agencies call for climate justice

On the occasion of the release of the IPCC report, leaders of Catholic development agencies call for more climate action

We, leaders of Catholic development agencies working together in more than 100 countries to promote poverty reduction and social justice react to the release of the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report by sending an urgent call for climate justice.

The IPCC report released today once again makes clear that climate change is an undeniable fact, and is caused by human activity. The report confirms what we see daily in our work with vulnerable communities: that climate change hits hardest the poorest, who have contributed the least to the problem.

The time for doubt is long over, as is the time for short-sighted decisions and self-interest. If we do not take action consistent with the urgency of the climate crisis and cut the emissions causing climate change, the temperature will rise well above the internationally agreed threshold of 2°C increase by the end of the century. Beyond this limit, science warns us that climate change could spiral out of control. This will put vulnerable communities and the human family as a whole at risk.

This is why we today call on governments to take urgent actions to shift our fossil fuel-based economies into low-carbon societies, while financially and technically supporting developing countries in their efforts to cope with climate impacts and build sustainable development paths. World leaders must urgently adopt policies that will address the climate challenge and ensure development efforts and human rights are not put in jeopardy. At the UN climate talks, it is imperative that all countries act constructively to agree on an ambitious and fair climate deal, with developed countries that are most responsible for causing climate change leading the way. We are also calling on the citizens of the world: we all need to live more simply so that all humans can simply live.

As leaders of faith-based organizations, we reaffirm our strong commitment to securing the well-being of all humans within God's creation, prioritizing the needs of the poor and vulnerable.

List of signatories

- Attilio ASCANI – Secretary General of FOCSIV – Volontari nel mondo (ITALY)
- Chris BAIN – President of CIDSE and Director of CAFOD (ENGLAND and WALES)
- Philippa BONELLA – Head of Communications and Education of SCIAF (SCOTLAND)
- Michael CASEY – Executive Director of Development and Peace (CANADA)
- Marian CAUCIK – Director of eRko (SLOVAKIA)
- Patrick GODAR-BERNET – Director of Bridderlech Deelen (LUXEMBOURG)
- René GROTENHUIS – Director of CORDAID (THE NETHERLANDS)
- Antonio HAUTLE – Director of Fastenopfer (SWITZERLAND)
- Lieve HERIJGERS – Director of Broederlijk Delen (BELGIUM)
- Heinz HÖDL - Director of Koordinierungsstelle der Österreichischen Bischofskonferenz für internationale Entwicklung und Mission (AUSTRIA)
- Jorge LÍBANO MONTEIRO – Director of FEC – Fundação Fé e Cooperação (PORTUGAL)
- Eamonn MEEHAN – Director of Trócaire (IRELAND)
- Lester A. MYERS – President of Center of Concern (UNITED STATES)
- Bernd NILLES – Secretary General of CIDSE
- Bernard PINAUD – Secretary General of CCFD–Terre Solidaire (FRANCE)
- Angelo SIMONAZZI – Secretary General of Entraide et Fraternité (BELGIUM)
- Mgr. Pirmin SPIEGEL – Director of MISEREOR (GERMANY)
- Soledad SUÁREZ MIGUÉLEZ – President of Manos Unidas (SPAIN)



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