

## [COP19 climate negotiations must stop super-typhoons from becoming permanent threat](#)

At the start of the COP19 climate conference in Warsaw, Poland, [CIDSE](#), an international alliance of Catholic development organisations, calls for concrete progress towards an ambitious and fair global climate deal by 2015. As the negotiations enter their first week, it is crucial that governments move forward on the critical issues of the envisaged global agreement, ramping up short term ambition and taking concrete commitments on climate finance.

CIDSE Secretary General **Bernd Nilles**, just back from meetings with the **Asian Bishops Conference (FABC)** on how to best respond to the climate crisis, said, *“The current situation of super-typhoon Haiyan smashing into the Philippines dramatically reminds us that climate change already today puts people at risk. It is an urgent call on all people of good will to show solidarity and to reduce their CO2-emissions as well as on governments to fulfil their responsibilities and commitments towards the international community, first and foremost to the most vulnerable people that are currently suffering violent climate impacts. International solidarity and adequate climate policies are the only valid options for this COP.”*

COP19 is an important step on the way to a fair, global climate deal. It is a crucial opportunity for developed countries to commit to greater emission cuts by 2020, the only way to avoid a carbon lock-in. Urgent progress is needed on international climate finance, as developed countries are failing their commitments.

CIDSE Policy and Advocacy Officer for Climate Justice **Emilie Johann** said, *“COP19 must be a milestone towards climate justice for the poorest in the form of a global climate deal. Finance will be critical, as developed countries have promised to increase overall climate financing to US\$100 billion per year by 2020, but little of this has materialized. Developing countries urgently need clarity and predictability on the levels of public finance they can count on for their adaptation and mitigation plans.”*

CIDSE is bringing a large delegation to the Warsaw climate negotiations, including high-level representatives of Church and lay-organisations, from Asia, Africa and South America, who will bring their strong voices and expertise on climate justice to COP19. Together with **Caritas Poland** and **Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University**, CIDSE is arranging an [International conference on climate change: Faith actors working towards climate justice November 18-19](#). The conference will focus on how local communities are coping with climate change and how churches are responding to it. Speakers will notably include Bishop **Theotonius Gomes** of Dhaka - Bangladesh, European Commissioner for Climate Action **Connie Hedegaard**, H.E. Archbishop and Apostolic Nuncio to Poland **Celestino Migliore**, IPCC-Vice-Chair Prof. **Jean-Pascal van Ypersele** and Scottish Minister for Environment and Climate Change **Paul Wheelhouse**.

On Sunday November 17 at 18:00, an **Mass with ecumenical music** will be held at St. John's Archcathedral in Warsaw, and on Thursday November 21 a **Side Event, Ethical and religious imperatives for a just climate deal**, will be held at the UNFCCC Conference Center, in cooperation with the **World Council of Churches (WCC)**.

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[CIDSE Media Information for COP19](#)

[More information on CIDSE activities at the COP19](#)

**Notes to the editors**

- **CIDSE** is an international alliance of Catholic development agencies. Its members share a common strategy in their efforts to eradicate poverty and establish global justice. [www.cidse.org](http://www.cidse.org)
- **CIDSE members:** Broederlijk Delen (Belgium), CAFOD (England and Wales), CCFD - Terre Solidaire (France), Center of Concern (USA), Cordaid (the Netherlands), Development & Peace (Canada), Entraide et Fraternité (Belgium), eRko (Slovakia), Fastenopfer (Switzerland), FEC (Portugal), FOCSIV (Italy), Fondation Bridderlech Deelen (Luxembourg), KOO (Austria), Manos Unidas (Spain), MISEREOR (Germany), SCIAF (Scotland), Trócaire (Ireland)