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Annual Report

2019

MANAUS  
2018

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# FOREWORD

## FROM THE PRESIDENT



I had the pleasure of beginning my role as CIDSE President at the start of an incredible year. Youths blocked the streets to demand their future in the face of the climate emergency and the church convened a historical Synodal process to listen to, learn from, and defend the Amazon as a key source of life on this planet.

A major shift happened in CIDSE senior leadership. My election as the first female president, and the appointment of other women directors inspired a video of interviews on gender equality in leadership. The Believe in Change Gender Toolkit was published: a guide to facilitate discussions and exercises with Catholic communities on gendered experiences and rights. These materials can help us all reflect on gender equality in our organisations.

January 2019 was marked by tragedy: a mine tailings dam collapsed in Brumadinho, Brazil, a chilling repetition of the crime in Mariana just a few years before. We accompanied our partners from Brumadinho in events in Geneva and Brussels.

The youth changed the whole tone of the climate debate this year. Our network of volunteers got swept up in the unprecedented youth mobilizations for climate action, and we encouraged them to share their stories and motivations in social media actions and at the Our Common Home Residential.

The Pan-Amazonian Synod was an

opportunity far greater than we could have imagined. The Amazon is a place where all the challenges of social-ecological justice connect. The Church reexamined their pastoral and social engagement in the region, and the expertise of the entire CIDSE network was much valued inside the halls of the Vatican.

Every year, we get more creative in leveraging communications materials and channels for change. We launched our new website to better reflect our systemic change approach, shared graphics and videos, co-organised a trip to the Amazon for media and journalists, as well as a photo exhibition.

Meanwhile, some of our working groups took this year to evaluate. Our land working group has been pioneering partnerships with the West African Caravane, and our agricultural working group developed the follow up work on agroecology.

It's hard to think how we could follow up on such a year. 2020 is off to an unexpected start, and it's certainly a transitional moment. With seeds such as these, I am confident in CIDSE's ability to facilitate the connections that we need now more than ever, and to shine light on exciting new paths of systemic change. One thing is for certain, we will keep working together. Read our 2019 annual report to catch up on a busy year and get ready for our next steps.

*LIEVE HETZJAGERS*

Director, Broederlijk Delen (Belgium)

**BEST OF 2019**

7-11  
JANUARY

### Land grabbing in Africa

CIDSE participated in the 3rd meeting of the “Our land is our life” platform in Addis Ababa. Set up in 2015, the platform gathers church and non-church actors who exchange knowledge and strategies on land grabbing in Africa.



### Launch of ISDS campaign

CIDSE supported the international (Investor-State Dispute settlement) [ISDS campaign](#) launched on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum. Campaigners dressed as corporate wolves invaded the streets of Davos to protest against ISDS ‘corporate courts’.

23  
JANUARY

23-25  
JANUARY

### New CIDSE President

[Lieve Herijgers, Director of Broederlijk Delen \(Belgium\)](#) was elected President of CIDSE in replacement of Eamonn Meehan at the annual Board of Directors’ meeting. CIDSE Directors also welcomed a new member, Vastenactie (Netherlands).



### Energy to Change documentary

[FEC \(Portugal\)](#) kicked off a series of national screenings of the CIDSE documentary “Energy to Change”, followed by Manos Unidas (Spain), [Broederlijk Delen/EcoKerk \(Belgium\)](#) and [CIDSE/Focsiv/Fastenopfer \(Rome\)](#).

25  
FEBRUARY

6  
MARCH

### Testimonies from mining disasters

Human rights defenders denounced damages caused by extractive industries in Brazil and the Democratic Republic of Congo at a [side event](#) with experts during the UN Human Rights Council 40th session in Geneva.



### Global climate march

CIDSE and its network of volunteers joined the [global march](#) organised by the Fridays for Future movement, urging politicians and decision-makers to take action on climate change actors.

15  
MARCH

19-21  
MARCH

### Preparing for the Pan-Amazonian Synod

The [international conference on integral ecology](#) convened by REPAM was a milestone for CIDSE’s preparations for the Pan-Amazonian Synod. [Mini video interviews of participants](#) were produced as part of a toolkit released on 1st July.



### The Christian voice at the EP elections

In the run up to the European Parliament elections, CIDSE co-organised an [evening debate](#) with the Jesuit European Social Centre (JESC), the Chapel for Europe and COMECE between MEP candidates and representatives of Christian organisations.

10  
APRIL

15  
APRIL

### For a more sustainable Europe

CIDSE and four other civil society networks launched 'The Fair Times' campaign, calling European Parliament candidates to commit to a fair and sustainable European consumption and production agenda by 2024.



### Race to Justice

Four months after the launch the ISDS campaign, CIDSE co-organised a [media stunt with the Stop ISDS coalition](#) to hand over the first half a million signatures to Frans Timmermans, First Vice President of the European Commission.

29  
APRIL

8-10  
MAY

### Sharing and Learning

Misereor hosted the CIDSE annual COMED Forum in Aachen. The Forum is a space for our members where they can exchange experiences on campaigning, development education and fundraising.



24  
MAY



### Laudato Si' 4th anniversary

On the occasion of the 4th anniversary of Laudato Si', CIDSE published [testimonies of young volunteers](#) explaining how they joined the global climate movement and how they felt inspired by Laudato Si'.

© CIDSE

29  
MAY

### Welthaus turning 20

Welthaus/KOO (Austria) invited CIDSE to make a presentation on climate justice and systemic change as part of a workshop on Laudato Si' organised for their 20th anniversary celebrations.



© Welthaus

12  
JUNE



© CIDSE

### Towards a lifestyle conversion

Together with representatives of European Bishops' Conferences and other Catholic organisations, CIDSE held the [Second European Laudato Si' Reflection Day](#). Discussions focussed on ecological conversion and lifestyle changes initiatives and good practices.

17-19  
JUNE

### Directors' meeting in Luzern

CIDSE Directors discussed the conclusions of the mid-term review of the CIDSE strategic framework (2016-2021) aimed at framing CIDSE's work for the next two years.



© CIDSE

18  
JUNE



© CIDSE

### HR defenders in the Amazon

CAFOD, CIDSE and COMECE organised a [dialogue meeting on challenges faced by human rights defenders in the Amazon](#) with José Batista from the Land Pastoral Commission (CPT) of the Marabá diocese (Brazil).

8-18  
JULY

### #AmazonSourceofLife

REPAM and CIDSE organised a [media trip to the Amazon three borders' region](#) with the objective to promote stories from the Amazon region in the run up to the Pan-Amazon Synod. The visit resulted in extensive media coverage.



© CIDSE



### Solidarity visit to Brumadinho victims

After taking part in the Iglesias y Minería General Assembly meeting in Argentina, CIDSE joined the lyM delegation's visit to people affected by the dam collapse in Brumadinho (Brazil).

20-28  
AUGUST

28 AUGUST-  
3 SEPTEMBER

### Camp Our "Common Home"

Young volunteers from CIDSE member organisations participated in the [youth sustainable camp](#) "Our common home" organised by CAFOD in Alston/UK.



© CIDSE



### Launch of new CIDSE website

Our [new website](#) offers a clearer portrait of CIDSE, our collective vision guided by our systemic change approach and our activities to better respond to the needs of our members.

6  
SEPTEMBER

19  
SEPTEMBER

### Gender equality and church toolkit

The CIDSE gender equality and church toolkit was launched at an [evening debate](#) in Brussels with Tanja Haque, the main author of the toolkit.



© CIDSE



© CIDSE

### UN Climate Summit

Ahead of the [United Nations Climate Action Summit](#), CIDSE Directors issued a joint statement asking Heads of State to urgently tackle the climate emergency. The network also joined [global climate strike actions](#) in different cities.

23  
SEPTEMBER

6-27  
OCTOBER

### Pan-Amazonian Synod

CIDSE Secretary General, Josianne Gauthier and Misereor Director, Pirmin Spiegel participated in the [Pan-Amazonian Synod](#) as special guests. A CIDSE delegation was also involved in the activities of the "[Amazon: Common Home](#)" centre.



© CIDSE



© CIDSE

### Fragile Amazon

"Fragile Amazon", the [photo exhibition](#) by Spanish photojournalist Ana Palacios, produced by CIDSE in collaboration with REPAM was launched in Rome. The exhibition has been designed to continue its journey to other venues.

7-27  
OCTOBER

14-18  
OCTOBER

### Business and human rights

A CIDSE delegation including partners and volunteers from CCFD-Terre Solidaire and Trócaire was present in Geneva for the [5th Session of the UN Working Group on business and human rights](#) to lobby for a UN binding treaty.



© CIDSE

### Communicating on sustainable lifestyles

The CIDSE Journalists' toolkit on sustainable lifestyles was officially launched in Rome at a [panel debate with journalists and experts](#), entitled "Talking integral ecology and living sustainably".

16  
OCTOBER



© CIDSE

5  
NOVEMBER

### Mariana dam collapse 4th anniversary

As part of a lobby tour organised by Misereor, CIDSE welcomed Brazilian partners from Brumadinho. Besides meetings with European Union officials, a [debate](#) was organised for the 4th anniversary of the Mariana dam collapse.



© CIDSE

### The EU and the UN Binding Treaty

CIDSE moderated the [policy lunch debate](#) "Bridging the gap – How to reconcile the EU with a UN treaty on business and human rights" co-organised with the Development and Peace Foundation (sef).

19  
NOVEMBER



© SEF

19-22  
NOVEMBER

### Israel and the oPt

The CIDSE Israel and occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) working group invited Ilan Baruch, Former Israeli ambassador and Ashraf Ajrami, former Palestinian Minister for a lobby tour to Brussels.



© Ashraf Ajrami & Ilan Baruch

### Human rights and the environment

CIDSE participated in the [21st EU-NGO Forum on Human Rights](#). Discussions focussed on human rights and the environment, notably how to empower and protect environmental human rights defenders.

3-4  
DECEMBER



© Daniel Cima / CC

05  
DECEMBER

### COP25, Madrid

As part of its [activities during the COP25 climate conference](#), CIDSE co-organised a [side event](#) with CAN-US entitled "Grassroots Community Solutions - Amplifying the voices of frontline communities."



© Liam Finn / CAFOD

### Solidarity with Bolivian civil society

CIDSE and Welthungerhilfe issued a [joint statement](#) on the situation in Bolivia, condemning all acts of violence and human rights violations and calling for a peaceful transition process until the next elections.

12  
DECEMBER



© REPAM



AREAS OF WORK



## SYSTEMIC CHANGE

What is systemic change? How can it be applied as an approach? We brought our understanding of systemic change into new spaces through messaging and our participation. The Pan-Amazonian Synod provoked several reflections on the interlinked crises and a holistic approach to the challenges in the Amazon. We deepened our engagement both online and in sectoral fora to bring our expertise in and understanding of systemic change to a broader public.

### EVENTS

The process of the Pan-Amazonian Synod inherently had an integral approach. We connected our preparation and participation to the issues of mining, human rights, corporate power, [climate justice](#), sustainable lifestyles, and gender equality. Our Secretary-General wrote [a reflection](#) on the relevancy of the Synod for systemic change.

Our systemic change approach remains particularly appreciated among the Brussels community of political organisations; we participated in new informal spaces to share our knowledge such as the Brussels Systemic Change Network and the CONCORD Learning and Exchange Forum.

### RESOURCES

We have [redesigned our website](#) to reflect our systemic change approach and the intersectionality of our work.

### STORIES

We spoke to [Maria Dolores Marroquin](#) from the Guatemalan webzine, La Cuerda, on the mental modes that continue to oppress women today, and the parallels between the exploitation of natural resources and women.

[José Batista Afonso](#) who is working for the Land Pastoral Commission described to us the pressures of European consumption on Brazilian natural resources, and why the Synod gave him hope.

At the international conference on integral ecology - convened by REPAM in Washington, D.C. in March, we filmed [a series of short interviews](#) on systemic change, integral ecology, and the upcoming Synod.

We [translated into 5 languages](#) a series of short interviews of different spiritual perspectives on systemic change filmed at our Systemic Change Forum in 2018.



## GENDER EQUALITY

We honed and released an essential tool of great potential to ignite the Church's engagement on gender equality. The gender toolkit is a collection of exercises to provoke reflection on gender and change in our behaviours and organisations, with inspiration from Catholic Social Teaching, theology and *Laudato Si'*. We made this toolkit more widely accessible by translating it into French and Spanish and giving instructions for its use at workshops with different communities.

### EVENTS

We held a [launch event](#) in September to release the CIDSE edition of the 'Believe in Change' gender toolkit. The author of the toolkit, Tanya Haque, CAFOD's gender advisor from 2009-2018, was present to answer questions from the larger church and gender community.

### RESOURCES

The '[Believe in Change gender toolkit](#)' was developed to support the Church in promoting gender justice. It is a gender resource for organisational staff from church organisations, particularly Catholic church organisations and those who intend to work with these church organisations.

The toolkit is an inspirational and practical guide to support them in their work towards achieving gender justice. It intends to raise awareness of the importance of gender equality, address concerns and common misconceptions and increase staff gender competency and programme quality. An [introductory leaflet](#) completes this document.

### STORIES

CIDSE has recently seen more gender equality in our leadership. Our women directors [shared their thoughts and experiences](#) on being women leaders, and on improving gender equality in their organisations and through development work.

The [gender equality blog](#) is written by CIDSE partners and allies, to find how gender intersects with climate justice, extractivism and more. Our blogs this year focused particularly on women in leadership, but also continued to highlight the gendered impacts suffered by women that disproportionately burden them and hold them back from participation. We looked at the potential for the inclusion of women and women's issues in [the Church](#), the [European Parliament](#), and the [UN binding Treaty](#) on business and human rights.



## THE AMAZON SYNOD

The ground-breaking work of the encyclical *Laudato Si'* has been built upon this year with an unprecedented Synod of the Bishops on the Pan-Amazonian region. The Synod was an extraordinary opportunity to further the work of the Church on social and environmental justice, and the entire CIDSE network brought highly valuable expertise to the discussions in Rome.

### EVENTS

The preparations for the Synod kicked off with an [international conference on integral ecology](#) in Washington, D.C. that prepared the CIDSE network, our allies and partners, for the Synod.

The October Pan-Amazonian Synod was more than an event, and still more than a process of spiritual awakening. It was *Laudato Si'* being breathed into a specific, emblematic territory at a time when the world was paying attention. Among the special guests inside the Synod were our Secretary-General along with Msgr. Pirmin Spiegel, Director General of MISEREOR. A CIDSE delegation was [involved in series of activities](#) organised under the umbrella "our Common Home". We organised three main events: a [photo exhibition](#), a [screening](#) of our documentary *Energy to change* and a [panel](#) of journalists discussing how to communicate on sustainable lifestyles.

We saw the impact of our contributions in the final document and outcomes, as well as in the follow-up which will continue in 2020.

### RESOURCES

Together with REPAM, CIDSE arranged a tour for journalists in the Amazon. They released [media articles and audiovisual pieces](#) on the Synod and what it could mean for the Amazon region.

CIDSE was directly represented on October 14 in an [official press briefing](#) about the Amazon Synod.

### STORIES

We prepared a graphic toolkit with visuals relating the Amazon to our working areas in multiple formats for our members and allies. The toolkit included [17 video interviews](#) filmed at the international conference on integral ecology.

The photojournalist, Ana Palacios, who participated in the journalists' tour of the Amazon, assembled her photos into [an exhibition titled 'Fragile Amazon'](#) displayed in Rome during the Synod. The photo exhibition is ready to travel to other venues upon request to the Secretariat.

After the conclusion of the Synod, we shared [our reflections](#) from an insiders' perspective on what it meant for our work.



© Kenyan Conference of Catholic Bishops

## BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

In the face of corporate negligence, we raised the voices of impacted communities in live debates, videos, and publications. Their testimonies are strong evidence of the unjust impunity of the powerful. Their experience informs our own policy interventions in the negotiation process for the UN binding treaty on business and human rights, both in our research and in our presence at the negotiating sessions.

### EVENTS

Before and during the 5th session of the UN inter-governmental working group (IGWG) on transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights, we continued to give updates on our activities and resources.

Side events were organised, giving space for our partners to highlight the effects of extractivist industries on their communities: [mining in Congo and Brazil](#) and [hydroelectric dams in the Amazon](#).

Volunteers from Trócaire and CCFD–Terre Solidaire attended the negotiations for the first time, offering them the opportunity to learn about this policy process.

MISEREOR welcomed partners from Mariana, Brazil for a [lobby tour for the 4th anniversary of the dam collapse](#); a panel was held during their visit to Brussels.

The [November policy lunch](#) of Development and Peace Foundation (SEF) co-organised with CIDSE was dedicated to the UN binding Treaty on business and human rights.

### RESOURCES

A [CIDSE submission](#) was released for the 5th session of the IGWG. At the closing of the session, we issued [our own statement](#) in which we reiterated the EU's international duty to take a stance.

The inauguration of Brazilian President Bolsonaro saw a rise in human rights abuses and environmental deregulation. CIDSE signed an [open letter](#) to call on the EU to immediately halt trade negotiations with Brazil.

Following a series of visits by partners, we gathered their recommendations in a document, [“The EU should support the defenders of the Amazon”](#).

Belgian MEP Marie Arena presented the proceedings from the UN Treaty negotiations at a meeting of the Subcommittee on Human Rights of the European Parliament and invited CIDSE to join. (Click ahead in [this video](#) to 16:39-17:28)

### STORIES

We released three animated short videos in [6 languages](#), that explain simply why policies on a binding treaty on business and human rights and investor state dispute settlement mechanisms matter, and how the public can address decision makers.

We interviewed [MEPs present at the negotiations](#) in Geneva on why the EU must engage in the Treaty process.

We welcomed the Feminists for a Binding Treaty to write a [blog](#) about why the Treaty must assure gender justice.



## RESISTING EXTRACTIVISM

© CIDSE

2019 opened with tragedy. The collapse of the mine tailings dam in Brumadinho (Brazil) was a shock, but also disturbingly familiar. The owner, Vale SA, was also involved in the dam collapse in Mariana, just three years before. This repetition of criminal neglect only underlines the corruption at the heart of the extractivist economic model, and the senseless losses in Brumadinho agitated us and the Church to challenge this model.

### EVENTS

With our partners at the 40th session of the Human Rights Council, we co-organized a [discussion on mining disasters from Brazil and the Democratic Republic of Congo](#), to show that these disasters are not isolated by national policy, but are in fact inherent to the global operations of the mining sector.

The Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) seminar on mining in Rome, provided an occasion to further deepen these reflections with allies, members and partners. The seminar was a follow-up activity from the 2018 Thematic Social Forum on mining and the extractivist economy.

CIDSE attended the General Assembly of Iglesias y Minería in Argentina. Read the [open letter](#) to affected communities from the meeting. CIDSE staff also visited Brumadinho to witness first-hand the impacts and hear the testimonies of the community.

COMECE hosted a [dialogue](#) between CIDSE, our Brazilian partners, and Church and EU representatives. The meeting analysed ways to support Indigenous communities to access

land and protect the Amazonian cultural and natural heritage in the context of the ongoing negotiations on the EU-Mercosur Association Agreement, the review of the EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy and the UN binding treaty on business and human rights.

### RESOURCES

In the first days following the collapse of the dam in Brumadinho, we released a statement to gather the resources and [investigation](#) of our partners and members, and to illustrate this case of injustice from what we knew so far.

Following the visit of the Secretary of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, Msgr. Bruno-Marie Duffé, to the community of Brumadinho, we wrote an [article](#) on his reflections and the meaning of his visit for the community. We also supported Iglesias y Minería in the translations of the [video](#) they made to capture the spiritual meaning of the visit.

### STORIES

We commissioned two blogs that made the connection between extractivism, [gender equality](#), and the [oppression of the indigenous](#).



© Friends of the Earth Europe - Lode Saidane

# CAMPAIGN AGAINST INVESTOR-STATE DISPUTE SETTLEMENT

Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) is a private court that allows corporations to sue countries for enacting social and environmental legislation that can hurt a corporation's profits, essentially bullying countries from passing progressive legislation, and protecting corporations that abuse of human rights and natural resources. This year a civil society coalition including CIDSE ran an exciting campaign with actions, media and a petition signed by citizens.

**EVENTS**  
In January, for the launch of the ISDS campaign, [campaigners dressed as corporate wolves](#) invaded the streets of Davos on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum (WEF).

We held a [symbolic race between corporations and citizens](#) for justice, and handed our petition to Frans Timmermans, vice president of the European Commission

**RESOURCES**  
CIDSE and a coalition advertised the campaign in the Financial Times raising awareness of the success of the petition: [847,000 citizens](#) speaking out again ISDS.

This advertisement was placed to target an elite readership of decision-makers and corporate actors. The petition was also used throughout the year in meetings with EU politicians.

**STORIES**  
We created [animated videos](#) in 6 languages about the link between ISDS and the UN binding treaty on business and human rights.



© AEFJN

## LAND RIGHTS

Following the development of innovative advocacy and partnership methodology over the past few years, our working group on land rights has used this year for reflection, internal meetings and next propositions. Our activities focused on strategic discussions, and producing statements and videos to reflect and document the previous work.

### EVENTS

Our Land is Our Life platform - a coalition of different social and church actors to mobilise for land rights in Africa - met in Addis Adaba from January 7 to 11. The English-speaking actors of the platform met in Uganda from May 20 to 21.

Some members of the platform also met in November in Abidjan, Ivory Coast to confront land grabbing, and to review case studies of land grabbing related to the group of agroindustrial companies known as Siat.

### RESOURCES

Under engagement with the Our Land is Our Life platform, [African Catholic Bishops](#) wrote a statement to decry the environmental impacts of the extraction by corporations of mineral resources, and the unequal distribution of the wealth created by these activities.

This statement was [presented to political representatives](#) at the 5th negotiation session of the UN binding treaty on business and human rights by Secretary General of the Regional Episcopal Conference of West Africa (RECOWA), Fr. Joseph Aka.

### STORIES

The West African Caravan - a journey across West Africa of activists working on land rights to meet with allies with support from church actors - has been a pioneering project for CIDSE. It has demonstrated the value of accompanying movements as they make significant connections across countries, with the Church and with decision makers. We commissioned a [documentary](#) filmmaker to capture the experience of our partners and their appreciation of CIDSE's connector role in bringing together diverse actors for political convergence.

In his [blog](#), José Batista Afonso, a lawyer working for the Land Pastoral Commission in Brazil, details the history, origin, and ongoing struggle of land grabbing in the Amazonian region of Pará.



© Beate Schneiderwinde

## ISRAEL – OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY

The desperate situation for communities on the ground in Israel-occupied Palestinian territory risks stagnating in ongoing hopelessness. We visited civil society initiatives to witness their work, and ensure our support. We also continued to observe the international developments of the peace process, and brought attention to the UN and the EU of their duty to protect the right to self-determination and the prohibition of occupation by force.

### EVENTS

The members of the working group visited many initiatives of civil society that serve the impacted communities, and which observe the political process. This underlined the importance to continue to support these initiatives.

In November, CIDSE, Broederlijk Delen, Trócaire and CCFD-Terre Solidaire organised a European lobby tour with Ilan Baruch, former Israeli ambassador, and Ashraf Ajrami, former Palestinian Authority

Minister, for advocacy meetings on the political situation, the peace process and shrinking space for civil society.

### RESOURCES

CIDSE, together with 32 international, Israeli and Palestinian civil society organisations, sent a [joint letter](#) to Federica Mogherini and the EU Ministers of Foreign Affairs to ask the EU to reject the US-Middle East peace plan on the grounds of international law, including the human right to self-determination and the absolute prohibition of acquisition of a territory by force.

CIDSE and over 100 other signatories addressed a [letter](#) to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, asking for the release of a database of all businesses engaged in listed activities related to Israel's settlement enterprise.

The Arab Human Rights Centre in Golan Heights, in coalition with 15 organisations including CIDSE submitted an [emergency appeal](#) to the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights and

various UN experts demanding they intervene to protect human rights in the occupied Syrian Golan and protect Al-Marsad and its employees from attacks in relation to the construction of a large energy project in the Golan.

### STORIES

The photo exhibition “Breaking the Silence: the occupation through the eyes of Israeli soldiers” was organised by Broederlijk Delen and Spanish MEP Javi Lopez from 25-28 February at the European Parliament.

Breaking the Silence is an Israeli nonprofit organisation of veterans and reservists from the Israel Defense Forces which collects and publishes testimonies of soldiers who served in the occupied Palestinian territory. This way, Breaking the Silence aims to boost awareness and stimulate public discourse on the reality of everyday life in the West Bank, East Jerusalem and Gaza, ultimately striving to end the policy of occupation and create a better future for Israelis and Palestinians alike.



© Ana Palacios

## RESILIENT FOOD SYSTEMS

Following the publication in 2018 of our landmark work, *The Principles of Agroecology*, and in preparation for substantial publications and events in 2020, this year we conducted internal assessment on next steps, supported the work of our allies, and maintained our presence in ongoing policy processes.

We also further developed a major topic for 2020: the engagement of women in food struggles and agroecology.

### EVENTS

We coordinated with several of our members at the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) in Rome. The key topic of the plenary discussion was the High-Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) report on agroecology. It was agreed that recommendations would be negotiated, the process ending with the adoption of those recommendations in October 2020. The HLPE report used our publication *The Principles of Agroecology (2018)* as one of three main references to build its own understanding of agroecology through a list of 13 principles. CIDSE thus contributed greatly to the civil society mechanism on agroecology.

At the Bonn intersessional on climate and agriculture, we participated in a workshop on soil and adaptation as a part of the Koronivia Joint Work Program on agriculture.

### RESOURCES

After the release of the HLPE report on “Agroecological approaches and other innovations for sustainable agriculture and food systems that enhance food security and nutrition”, we shared [our first reaction](#). This report was crucial as it was discussed at the October CFS plenary session and should lead to the adoption of recommendations in October 2020.

CIDSE is a member of the Global Network for the Right to Food and Nutrition which comprises nearly 50 civil society organisations and social movements from all corners of the globe. On the occasion of World Food Day, the Network launched “[Women’s Power in Food Struggles](#)”. This edition of the Right to Food and Nutrition Watch addresses key issues of power, and exposes the structural violence that degrades both women and the environment.

### STORIES

Our member Fastenopfer shared in a [blog](#) their Ecumenical campaign on women food producers.

Tiempo De Actua  
Time For Action

WE CAN NOT HAVE A FUTURE WITHOUT  
WORKING TOGETHER

POWER IS ADDED TO LEGISLATION WHEN  
SHARED VISION IS CREATED.

STRENGTHEN  
AN AMBITIOUS GOAL OF 1.  
ULTIMATELY FOR PEOPLE



## CLIMATE AND ENERGY

© CAFOD - Liam Finn

We were energised and inspired by the scale of grassroots climate mobilisation this year. The public pressure and the disappointing response at COP25 reinforced the vitality of action that is happening now from the ground up. We took advantage of major moments, including the Pan-Amazonian Synod and COP25, to call for justice and bring attention to people-centered solutions that need to be scaled up by national and international policy.

### EVENTS

Our key priority at COP25 was to echo the messages of the Church and our partners: to keep present the moral duty and the grassroots solutions that are integral responses to the climate crisis. We were present at [several strategic and spiritual meetings](#), as well as in the mobilizations.

Our [side event](#) focused on the community experience of different

energy sources, from the impacts of corporate-owned megaprojects, to their own implementation of democratic renewable energy.

[Watch here the video recording.](#)

CIDSE and Justice and Peace Commission Europe co-hosted the Global Catholic Climate Movement [webinar](#) which discussed major developments in Catholic Fossil Fuel Divestment in 2018.

### RESOURCES

The CIDSE directors released a [statement](#) ahead of the UN Climate Action Summit, noting that hosting a summit is not a significant action; real action is setting targets for carbon emissions reductions and achieving them with structural implementation.

Cardinals who were gathered at the Pan-Amazonian Synod issued a [strong call](#) for climate ambition, which observes the climate injustice suffered in the Amazon and the profound moral duty to act for climate.

Our [final assessment of the COP25](#) focussed on the proceedings on

carbon trading, climate finance, a rights-based approach and overall ambition.

In a [new briefing](#), CIDSE, together with CAFOD, Geres and Hivos, gathered policy recommendations on EU institutional support for energy in developing countries.

CIDSE joined a civil society [statement](#) on loss and damage on the Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM) a finance mechanism to aid countries hit with climate impacts currently at a stalemate.

### STORIES

Our member, KOO, contributed a [blog](#) on the significance of the Austrian Bishops Conference's decision to divest within five years from all businesses that extract or produce fossil fuels.

As the climate marches reached their peak, our Campaigns Project Officer wrote a [blog](#) about the need to continue to encourage young people in their big and small actions.



## CHANGE FOR THE PLANET – CARE FOR THE PEOPLE

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We focused on creating multimedia to spread the word of sustainable lifestyles, engaging the CIDSE network of volunteers around the Fridays for future marches for climate change. The documentary *Energy to Change* was screened in four countries. We collected the expertise of professional communicators in our *Journalists' Toolkit on Sustainable Lifestyles*, and shared them in a panel. We kept our heart-warming face-to-face appointment at the camp *Our Common Home*.

### EVENTS

Our member FEC held a screening of our latest documentary "*Energy to Change*" in Portugal as part of the three-day *ACORDA! Program*. Other screenings were held by Manos Unidas and Broederlijk Delen. We also organised a *screening and panel discussion* during the Pan-Amazonian Synod.

Our *Common Home youth residential*, organised by CAFOD, brought our volunteers together in a castle in the UK for a series of workshops and spiritual reflections.

To launch the *Journalists' Toolkit on Sustainable Lifestyles*, we held a *panel discussion with media* and experts during the Pan-Amazonian Synod in Rome.

### RESOURCES

The *Journalists Toolkit on Sustainable Lifestyles* collects professional advice on how to talk to the public about sustainable lifestyles. Journalists and communicators share their experience on visuals, storytelling and angles to get an audience engaged on the joys of living sustainably. The document is available in 5 languages.

Following the *Our Common Home* youth residential, we produced a *video* to give our volunteers a souvenir of their experience, and for our members to use to recruit new volunteers for upcoming camps.

### STORIES

2019 swept the world in youth protests to demand climate action. We asked our volunteers to film short messages about why they were participating in the strikes and marches, and we compiled these into a successful *video* for social media.

We sent out a call, for volunteers to hold up placards, a series of words that connect into a piece of a poem written by one of our volunteers. The call was answered with spectacular *photos of placards* from marches, sharing the beautiful line "We need to protect our common home. Let's respect our earth. It's the only home we've known. But this doesn't mean it's ours to own."

Our volunteers were deeply moved by *Our Common Home* youth residential. They shared their memories and reflections in *blogs* after the gathering. The *volunteers' blog* also continued this year with other reflections.

## COMING UP

2020

JANUARY

Briefing on  
Business and human rights

MAY

*Laudato Si'* 5th anniversary  
week of action

SEPTEMBER

Research paper and briefing on  
finance and agroecology

OCTOBER

Farming Matters magazine:  
special issue on agroecology and gender

DECEMBER

Climate and energy briefing



**GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES  
& FINANCE**

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS



The Board of Directors is composed of the directors of the 18 Member Organisations. The Board meets twice a year and is responsible for the governance and strategic vision of CIDSE, particularly for reviewing current activities and formulating policies for the future.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



The Executive Committee is the implementing and supervising arm of the Board of Directors.

- President: Lieve Herijgers (Broederlijk Delen)
- Members: Patrick Godar (partage.lu), Msgr. Pirmin Spiegel (MISEREOR), Alistair Dutton (SCIAF), Caoimhe de Barra (Trócaire)
- Ecclesiastical Assistant: Mgr. A. Tesfaselassie Medhin (Eparchy of Adigrat/Ethiopia)
- Treasurer: Femke Dekkers (Cordaid)
- Secretary General: Josianne Gauthier

The Ecclesiastical Assistant, the Treasurer Secretary and the General are non-voting members.

## WORKING GROUPS

CIDSE member agencies work together in working groups, platforms and fora on the issues defined in the strategic plan. The CIDSE Secretariat facilitates the working groups and ensures communication between the member agencies and the overall coherence of CIDSE's work.

CIDSE is funded by membership fees and additional resources from its members for special projects. In 2019, CIDSE received extra funding from:

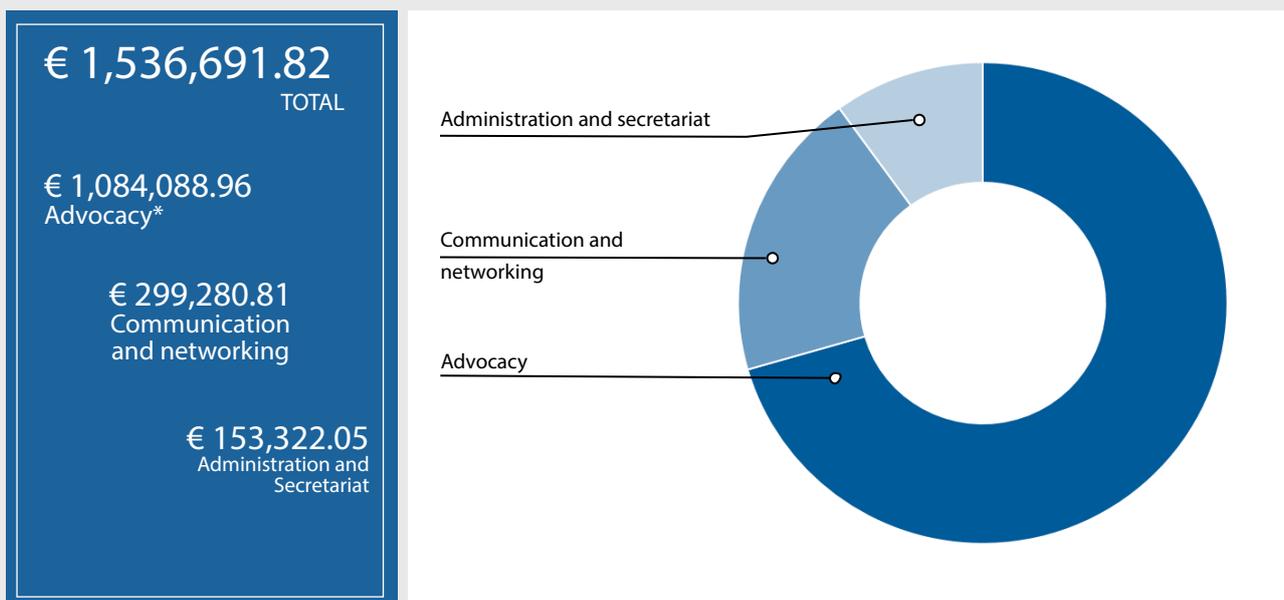
- The European Commission, Directorate General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO), as part of a Framework Partnership Agreement (2019-2023).
- The KR Foundation, as part of a two-year grant in favour of the 'Change for the Planet – Care for the People' initiative (2018-2019).

## CIDSE Income 2019

- Membership fees: € 1,140,000.00
  - Misereor's grant for the project "Enhancing capacities for coordinated advocacy for sustainable development": € 28,502.49
  - European Commission Framework Partnership Agreement: € 453,337.46
  - KR Foundation: € 123,515.95
- TOTAL INCOME: € 1,745,355.90

CIDSE is grateful to all its network members as well as to the European Commission and the KR Foundation who have made it possible to carry the work presented in this report.

## CIDSE core expenditure 2019



\* CIDSE's advocacy work covers the following thematic areas: Systemic change, Communities regaining control over the commons, Facing climate change: Just and sustainable models for food and energy, sustainable lifestyles.

The CIDSE Secretariat also coordinates the following project:

**Israel-occupied Palestinian territory: € 73,270.36**

CIDSE's financial year begins on 1 January and ends on 31 December. The 2019 financial statements were audited by an external auditor, Clybouw Achiel, Andre & Co bvba, Belgium, in accordance with the financial reporting framework applicable in Belgium.

ABOUT CIDSE



## WHO WE ARE

We are an international family of Catholic social justice organisations working for transformational change to end poverty and inequalities, challenging systemic injustice, inequity, destruction of nature and promoting just and environmentally sustainable alternatives.

Watch our [institutional video](#).

We work for a society based on social, economic and gender equality and solidarity, where the economy is at the service of society and functions within planetary boundaries. We aim at a fairer share of and limits in the use of global resources, and democratized governance where people regain control over their choices in economies based on the commons.

We work for reforms with transformative potential: to move away from fossil fuels and extractivism, to limit global temperature rise below 1.5 degrees,

to promote the right to food and agroecology, to regulate business to enforce human rights, to secure sustainable finance and fair wealth distribution, to support local communities to speak for themselves, to confront gender inequalities, and to enable sustainable ways of living.

To make this happen we contribute to global movements and alliances of change, promote peoples' solutions and alternatives and advocate at the international level.

# OUR MEMBERS

CIDSE brings together 18 member organisations from Europe and North America.



Austria



Belgium



Belgium



Canada



England and Wales



France



Germany



Ireland



Italy



Luxembourg



the Netherlands



the Netherlands



Portugal



Scotland



Slovakia



Spain



FASTENOPFER

Switzerland



USA

## COLLABORATORS

CIDSE works closely with diverse local and international alliances and organisations. It is a member of [Concord](#), the European NGO confederation for Relief and Development, [Climate Action Network-Europe](#) and the [Global Catholic Climate Movement \(GCCM\)](#).

During 2019, the Secretariat also strengthened its collaboration with other networks and alliances such as: Pan-Amazon Ecclesial network ([REPAM](#)) in the run up to the Synod on the Amazon and at the event itself; Commission of Bishops' Conferences of the European Community ([COMECE](#)) and Jesuit European Social Centre ([JESC](#)) for which we hosted two interns through their [European Leadership Programme](#).

CIDSE is a co-founding member of the European Laudato Si' Alliance ([ELSiA](#)), a group of Catholic organisations joining forces in Europe to promote climate and social justice, highly inspired by the Encyclical Letter Laudato Si' of Pope Francis. Besides CIDSE, this alliance brings together COMECE; JESC; GCCM; Justice and Peace Europe and CCEE – Council of Bishops' Conferences of Europe (observer member).

We are also a leading member of the Treaty Alliance movement and Treaty Alliance Europe.

## SECRETARIAT STAFF (June 2020)

The CIDSE Secretariat facilitates and coordinates the common efforts of its members, represents CIDSE at the EU and international levels and undertakes advocacy activities and other initiatives in collaboration with its members to contribute towards systemic change and global justice. The Secretariat is [organised into teams](#) that coordinate various working groups in order to achieve its objectives:

1. Societal and ecological transformation
2. Communities regaining control over the commons
3. Facing climate change: just and sustainable food and energy models
4. Change starts with us

### EXTERNAL SUPPORT

Wim Hendrix, Finance Consultant

Bea Lambrecht, Human Resources Consultant

During 2019, Marta Isabel González Álvarez (Manos Unidas/Spain), Martin Krenn (KOO/Austria) and Martin De Jong (Caritas New Zealand) were seconded from their respective organisations to support the CIDSE team in Brussels for a period of time. CIDSE thanks them for their valuable contributions to our work. The same is true for Giulia Bondi, Jean Saldanha, Magdalena Smenda and Frederick Swinnen who left for new professional challenges.

# CIDSE MANAGEMENT TEAM



**Josianne Gauthier**  
Secretary General



**Chiara Martinelli**  
Senior Advisor



**Valentina Pavarotti**  
Communications Manager

# CIDSE STAFF



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Finance and  
Administrative  
Assistant



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Intern



**Nicky Broeckhoven**  
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Officer



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Corporate Regulation and  
Extractives Officer



**Marie-Paule Ogereau**  
Communications and  
Administrative Assistant



**Yvette Pierret**  
Office Administration and  
Logistics Assistant



**Stefan Reinhold**  
Corporate Regulation and  
Extractives Team Member



**Saïd Ben Seddik**  
Technician, Programmer,  
Office Maintenance



**Hannah Twomey**  
External Funding  
Officer



**Dorien Vanden Boer**  
Policy Officer Israel -  
Occupied Palestinian Territory



**Anya Frances Verkamp**  
Digital Communications  
Officer



**Manny Yap**  
Land Rights Officer



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[www.cidse.org/newsletter](http://www.cidse.org/newsletter)

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