

Thursday, 17 of November, 2022

Faith leaders urgent call for higher ambition at COP27

As faith leaders we raise our collective voices and call on world leaders and their representatives at COP27 to make the bold decisions necessary and ensure that there are clear and concrete outcomes from this COP. While negotiations stall, people are dying and livelihoods are being lost as a result of the impact of climate change. The COP27 negotiations are slow and lacking in ambition. Time is running out and it is unacceptable if world leaders do not take clear and decisive action within the few remaining days of COP 27. With the COP27 negotiations hanging in the balance, as faith leaders and members of the global faith movement for climate justice, led by our sisters and brothers from the Global South, we call for urgent and ambitious action for the most vulnerable people and communities.

Where the current negotiation texts are failing:

At the start of COP27, we met and issued a [call as a result of the COP27 Talanoa Dialogue](#). Since then, there has been little progress. So far, we have heard a lot of unilateral pledges from parties and positions. Those are encouraging but little is on paper.

In addition, there is lack of progress on climate finance, including adaptation and loss and damage finance. Without this finance, the Global South cannot adapt to the climate emergency, and the [debt situation will get worse](#). Global South leaders are calling the alarm, particularly small island states that are losing their territories, biodiversity, culture and identity. Increasingly climate disasters are costing lives and destroying homes in the Global North which are experiencing severe floods in countries like Germany and Belgium and massive widespread fires in Portugal and the US.

The developing countries negotiating are united in their desire to deliver a loss and damage fund at this COP, the richer countries who have already had the privilege to develop need to show solidarity and political leadership

This should be an implementation COP where finance is at the heart of delivering for those most impacted by climate change. A failure to reach the critical decisions - such as on the loss and damage facility, doubling adaptation finance and tracking where the money is coming from, who is making good on their commitments - will betray the most marginalized. All countries must acknowledge their responsibilities and scale up their ambition and national climate plans, and countries in the global north need to recognize their historic responsibility and mobilise new and additional climate finance!

We call on leaders at COP27 to preserve all of God's Creation by:

- Recognising the urgency of this crisis, including language in the text that requires all countries, but especially major emitters, to come forward in COP27 with new ambition announcements that exceed their current NDC targets and keep within reach the 1.5 degree target.
- Calling for all Parties to establish a new funding facility for loss and damage; set a separate and additional funding stream from finance for mitigation and adaptation and other humanitarian aid within the financial mechanism; make L&D a permanent COP agenda item; include an intersectional gender lens, indigenous knowledge and human

rights into the text; and ensure adequate capacity and resources to support the full operationalization of the Santiago Network.

- Richer governments committing to ratchet up delivery of finance at scale to fulfil their promises and deliver the shortfalls of the \$100 billion per year promised by 2020 and through to 2025. Half of this must be for adaptation in the form of grants and not loans, and address access issues so the finance reaches those who need it most.
- Calling on wealthy countries to cancel the debt, to provide adequate new finance and set up a finance L&D facility. The finance must be grants based, not as loans as it is being done.
- Ensuring gender is no longer siloed and the agreements reached at COP27 have a clear gender transformative climate action lens and clear processes for making that happen. Women and girls, in all their diversities, cannot be treated as victims; they are leading climate solutions and just transitions within and beyond movements and industries.

SIGNATORIES

Archbishop Samy Fawzi Shehata, Primate of the Anglican Province of Alexandria, Diocesan Bishop of Egypt

Bishop Julio Murray, Chairman of Anglican Communion Environmental Network

Archbishop Thomas Schirrmacher, World Evangelical Alliance

Bishop Philip Huggins, Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture

Bishop Andreas Holmberg, Diocese of Stockholm, Church of Sweden

Bishop Ivan M. Abrahams, Secretary General, World Methodist Council

The Right Reverend Marc Andrus, Bishop of California, The Episcopal Church (Head of Presiding Bishop's delegation to COP27)

+Metropolitan Serafim Kykotis

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