

## **2025 Interfaith Liaison Committee (ILC): Interfaith Call to Action to COP30**

*(Updated 25 September 2025)*

### **Opening**

As the planet faces an existential emergency, we as people of faith are deeply concerned with the insufficient action and backsliding shown by the international community in addressing the existential rates of global temperature rise, the dangerous consequences of climate change driven by human activities. Such consequences include widespread loss of life, livelihoods, species extinction, altered weather patterns, biodiversity collapse and more. While climate action and finance are insufficient, global increase in military spending is unprecedented since the Cold War, approximately 2.8 trillion dollars in 2024 and driving genocide, poisoned land and water and greater Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions. Ten years after the Paris Agreement, as climate science is attacked and the multilateral framework is questioned, now is the time to stand up for the planet, the most vulnerable, and future generations of all species of life. This call to action from the Interfaith Liaison Committee (ILC) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is grounded in the moral tenets of our respective religious traditions which collectively inspire our commitment to act for climate justice.

### **Climate Justice**

We support a human rights-based approach to climate action that prioritises listening and responding to the voices of the poor, the marginalised, and those most vulnerable to the disproportionate impacts of climate change. Ten percent of the population is responsible for close to fifty percent of emissions. There is no justice when those least responsible are the first victims. We urge negotiators to listen to and amplify the voices of environmental human rights defenders, Indigenous advocates, youth, children, women, and those from countries and communities that are most at risk.

We assert that those with greater responsibility for climate change - governments and companies in the Global North - should take greater responsibility. We uphold the principles that polluters should pay and that countries have common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

A human rights-based approach should form the basis of national and international approaches to addressing climate change and prompt reform of the global financial and economic system. This means rethinking and changing prevailing norms and assumptions that depend on extractive economic growth and consumption as key priorities for humanity's success and shifting to a more reciprocal and sustainable structure that encompasses emissions reduction targets. Furthermore, a just transition must be provided for workers, efforts to restore nature should be undertaken, and commitments must be made to support restitution for climate induced loss and damage. Effective global governance is key for all of these efforts, reinforcing the value of multilateralism at a time when it faces profound threats.

We remain critical on just transition discourses that often hide false solutions. Energy, digital, and even military transitions are being built upon armed mining, new dependencies, and zones of sacrifice. Minerals like lithium, cobalt, and rare earths are taken from Indigenous and rural territories in Africa, Latin America, and Asia—while profits flow North and communities face displacement, violence, and militarization. What is presented as green and clean is in fact a new cycle of exploitation, a colonialism in green disguise. More than transition, we need transformation. A transformation that is socio-ecological, spiritual, and civilizational. That breaks with the idolatry of capital and with a false multilateralism captured by corporations and geopolitical interests. That

defends the rights of peoples and of nature, and that builds democracy and sovereignty from the ground up.

Congruent with this human right-based approach, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) is unequivocal in providing a legal framework to our ethical and moral considerations. The ICJ Advisory Opinion states that alongside the climate legal framework, human rights law, environmental law, and customary international law govern countries' obligations regarding climate change. These apply to all UN member states. It declares that climate change constitutes an "urgent and existential threat" requiring robust legal responses, and affirms that a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment is a fundamental human right. Under this ruling, states bear both conventional and customary legal obligations to limit greenhouse gas emissions, regulate private actors under their jurisdiction, and protect present and future generations—especially vulnerable groups. The court emphasises that failing to meet these duties—including through inaction or weak regulation—constitutes an internationally wrongful act, which can trigger international responsibility, including the duty to cease harmful conduct, guarantee non-repetition, and provide full reparation via restitution and compensation.

### **Advancing Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) goals**

Climate justice necessitates a rapid and equitable phase out of fossil fuels, clearly delineated in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). The NDC pledges we see today are insufficient for the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius as collectively approved in the Paris Agreement. Achieving a better future requires ambitiously addressing the root causes of climate change and responding to the outcome of the global stocktake. We as faith communities support economic and societal changes in solidarity with the bold political decisions necessary to build a just and sustainable path forward.

Faith communities call collectively on our moral and ethical foundation to guide, urge, and support governments in committing to strong NDCs and ensuring their successful implementation. Governments must exercise political will, leadership, and moral courage to raise ambition and create firm and transparent timetables to ensure targets are met.

NDCs must include, at the very minimum:

- Clear and measurable emission reduction targets.
- Outcomes aligned with International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) scientific findings and UNFCCC mandates.
- Strong monitoring, and reporting mechanisms with clear implementation strategies.
- Built in safeguards for transparency during creation and consultation processes to ensure representation of impacted groups.
- Policy targets tied to consequences if countries fail to achieve promised targets.

### **Climate Finance**

Fulfilling their obligations under the Paris Agreement and the Baku to Belém Roadmap, developed countries must provide support to developing countries and define how parties will provide the more than \$1.3 trillion in climate finance needed by 2035 and respond to the negative effects of foreign debt obligations. After years of failure, parties must recommit to just models of financing which ensure public grants, not loans, are available, predictable, needs-based, rights-and-gender responsive. They must be accessible so countries can pay for adaptation, mitigation, and loss and damage.

### ***Closing: Faith communities – our contribution and responsibilities***

Global and local action moving forward together in solidarity to address the climate emergency is critical now more than ever. Faith groups reach across the world and are among the biggest networks in local communities, with places of worship such as churches, temples, mosques, synagogues and holy places, serving as bridges to connect NDC policy aims with local populations.

Faith communities have a moral responsibility to protect our planet and should:

- Drive NDC implementation by promoting climate education and supporting initiatives and climate finance commitments that align with national goals.
- Leverage the power of spiritual ethics and storytelling to drive change and encourage accountability.
- Offer our spiritual practices of prayer and meditation.
- Anchor protest and resistance to the dismantling of climate commitments.
- Speak from a moral and ethical perspective on economic and political issues.
- Address how climate justice affects all social challenges: injustice, equity, hunger, poverty, and stewardship.

In summary, we would like to explore the offering of Faith Determined Contributions as a complement to achieve NDCs. As faith groups, we recognise that we must also build up our own capacities, invest in education and awareness-building, and help our communities connect their moral and spiritual beliefs with the need for ambitious climate action, ethical responsibility, and equitable resource use. In light of the Global Ethical Stocktake, faith communities could open a new horizon for ethical action, prioritising global community and long-term vision while uniting people with a shared ethical foundation.

As communities of faith, we acknowledge we live on one Earth, and that our planet consists of an interconnected whole of myriad forms of life, including - but not limited to - the human. We continue to defend the rights of peoples and nature. In terms of our human presence, each country and individual is a valued member of our collective planetary whole, responsible for their part in addressing the climate emergency.