



NCCEAs' COP29 JOINT KEY MESSAGE TO THE HOLY SEE

November 2024

Executive Summary

From 11 November to 22 November 2024, over 140 Heads of State and almost 70,000 delegates will gather for the 29th Conference of the Parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Baku, Azerbaijan. COP29 is being called the Finance COP as a key issue will be deciding on a new climate finance goal (NCQG). Additionally, COP29 must build trust and bring us a step forward in concretizing and implementing the decisions of the UAE consensus (GST outcome decision) to implement the fossil fuel phase out and renewable energy ramp-up in an ambitious, fair and socially just manner. Based on discussions with members, the Network of Catholic Climate and Environment Actors (NCCEA) has the following key messages for this COP29 for the Holy See.

1. New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance

The New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) will be the make-or-break issue for the success of COP29. There is a close relationship between the success of the NCQG negotiations and the ambition of the national climate action plans known as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). Research shows that developing countries will need trillions of dollars a year to combat climate change and deal with the effects of climate change. One report found that the financial requirements spelled out in countries' NDCs add up to around \$5.8-\$5.9 trillion cumulatively by 2030. Other estimates put this cost at \$7.8-\$13.6 trillion for the same time period. These cumulative estimates — which include all financial sources, both national and international — work out to at least a trillion dollars¹ a year in need. If developing countries get assurance of financial support from the outcome of this COP29, many of them could raise the ambition-level of their NDCs which are due in February 2025. If the NCQG outcome doesn't reflect the needs of developing countries, trust will further deteriorate and make it impossible to deliver on the Paris Agreement. A poor outcome on the NCQG fails to protect the most vulnerable people and our common home. The Holy See can play an active role in supporting bridge-building between Northern and Southern countries to find common ground for the NCQG.

Key messages and recommendations

- a. The New Collective Quantified Goal **needs to be based on the growing needs of the most vulnerable and poor countries** living with worsening impacts of climate change.

¹ World Resource Institute. (2024). What Could the New Climate Finance Goal Look Like? 7 Elements Under Negotiation. <https://www.wri.org/insights/ncqg-key-elements>



- b. Governments need to urgently reform global climate finance by establishing a new collective quantified goal (NCQG) that **prioritizes human rights, emphasizes grant-based support for developing nations, and ensures direct access for local communities and Indigenous Peoples**. This goal must be based on the needs of developing countries, promote gender responsiveness, and significantly increase public funding through sub-goals for mitigation, adaptation, and addressing loss and damage.
- c. Climate finance must be **predictable and accessible, with ethical considerations and principles of justice, equity, transparency, and accountability across all financial flows and accounting for economic and social externalities**. These principles need to be reflected in the NCQG to be decided at COP29. A robust accountability and transparency framework is essential to ensure that commitments are actually met.
- d. COP29 should include **a strong statement on how to reform the global finance architecture and mobilize new sources of funding** (e.g., redirecting fossil fuel subsidies, new solidarity levies on wealth or high-emission activities, etc.)
- e. The NCQG must **distinguish between true climate finance and false solutions**. Funds should be allocated for transformative, long-term, and equitable climate action. Public funding ensures accountability, transparency, and inclusivity, delivering resources where they're most needed in the Global South.
- f. This funding should prioritize supporting youth-led initiatives which promote sustainable development, environmental education, and green innovation projects, empowering young leaders to implement solutions at the local and global levels.

2. Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage

Loss and Damage is integral to climate justice. The principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities (CBDR-RC) and "polluter pays" must guide funding, ensuring that those most responsible for emissions contribute the most.

The Fund for Responding Loss and Damage was established in COP27 in Sharm El-Sheik and operationalized in COP28 Dubai. The mandate of the Fund is to assist developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change in responding to economic and non-economic loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including extreme weather events and slow onset events. The Fund can correct the prevailing injustice of climate change, and the expectations for this fund to succeed are high.

The Fund encourages voluntary contributions from developed countries, but invites developing countries to contribute to it too. The amount of USD 100 billion is needed annually by 2030. However, the pledges given by 23 countries as of September 2024 are merely US\$ 702 million, equivalent to 0.7% of the needed amount.



Key messages and recommendations

- a. The success of the Loss and Damage Fund depends on transparent and accountable governance. COP 29 must **establish governance structures that ensure equitable decision-making, transparency in fund management, and accountability to affected communities.**
- b. As of September 2024, only approximately US\$ 700 million has been pledged to the Fund. It's important that **these pledges increase and are turned into actual contributions so the Fund can start disbursing finance in 2025.** At COP29, Governments have the opportunity to show their support by pledging to the Fund.
- c. There is a need to **ensure the adequate coordination and coherence between the different entities to address the loss and damage, namely the Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM), Santiago Network and Fund for Responding Loss and Damage, and issue guidance for the production of an annual loss and damage gap report.**
- d. Both **economic and non-economic loss and damage must be addressed** by prioritizing grant-based finance for vulnerable communities and acknowledging losses such as the erosion of indigenous ways of life and the need to safeguard the interests of Indigenous Peoples, migrants, women, children, disabled and other groups living in vulnerable situations.

3. The Global Stocktake

While the next round of NDCs implement the Global Stocktake, there is also a need for a continuous follow-up on the political level. In the negotiations around the modalities of the UAE Dialogue, parties should decide on a suitable process. This follow-up has to include, but shall not be limited to finance provisions under the Global Stocktake and must include equally other dimensions such as commitments in respect to mitigation (including the fossil fuel phase out), adaptation and loss & damage. In particular the mitigation outcomes of the first Global Stocktake under Article 28 require a concrete follow-up to ensure their implementation, such as through a substantive outcome under the Sharm-el-Sheik Mitigation Ambition and Implementation Work Programme.

Key messages and recommendations

- a. The Global Stocktake **should provide a clear roadmap for enhancing ambition.** It is essential that all countries, especially major emitters, revisit and strengthen their NDCs before 2030, in line with the latest scientific findings and the urgency of the climate crisis.
- b. The **outcomes of the first Global Stocktake need to inform the way forward.** This means that there needs to be a clear focus on these outcomes, including finance as well as mitigation, adaptation and loss and damage, in the UAE dialogues. The mitigation



outcomes should furthermore be tied to concrete implementation steps under the Mitigation Work Programme and be reflected in updated NDCs.

4. Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)

The foundation for tackling climate change rests with national commitments which are known as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). NDCs are the cornerstone of the Paris Agreement and must be presented every five years to reflect the highest possible level of ambition. All countries are expected to submit their NDCs early in 2025 before COP30. In this round of NDCs, global GHG emissions must reduce 43% by 2030 and 60% by 2035 for the world to stay below 1.5 degrees global warming, with developed countries taking the lead with higher ambition and stronger targets. This anticipated renewed commitment along with the necessary finance to achieve those goals will ideally motivate other nations to follow suit.

Key messages and recommendations

- Developed and G20 countries should **lead the way with ambitious NDCs that will deliver on mitigation, adaptation and loss and damage targets.**
- NDCs should **be informed by the Global Stocktake outcomes.**
- NDCs **should establish sector specific targets** (e.g., energy, transportation, agriculture) in this critical decade, by 2030.
- NDCs must **become a key tool to foster systemic changes** that would lead us towards a just and equitable phasing out of fossil fuels and transitioning to socially just renewable energy and food systems.

5. Fossil Fuel Phase out and Just Energy Transition

COP28 included a historic commitment to transition away from fossil fuels and move to a socially just renewable energy system. Parties agreed on commitments to triple renewable energy production capacity and double energy efficiency by 2030. At COP29, countries will now need to specify exactly how they will reduce their reliance on fossil fuels and transition to renewable energy sources. According to the Pope's apostolic exhortation *Laudate Deum*, "*one can only hope for binding forms of energy transition that meet three conditions: that they be efficient, obligatory and readily monitored. This, in order to achieve the beginning of a new process marked by three requirements: that it be drastic, intense and count on the commitment of all*" (LS, 59) and can "*(...) allow for a decisive acceleration of energy transition, with effective commitments subject to ongoing monitoring*". (LD, 54). The urgency for a just and equitable energy transition also requires key considerations including reducing the energy demand equitably; protecting people and the planet, supporting equitable development and tax policies, promoting equitable international trade and investment, and ensuring strong action on transition minerals. At the same time, the "clean" energy technologies, such as wind turbines, solar panels, and electric vehicle batteries, require significant amounts of minerals and metals, making them far from environmentally benign. The extraction of these critical minerals for energy transition is causing severe environmental



and social impacts in various regions. Understanding these implications is essential to avoid endorsing or promoting false solutions.

The recent (2023) "II Symposium for the Care of the Common Home of Latin America and the Caribbean," organized by CELAM, CLAR, Caritas, REPAM, the Churches and Mining Network, the Laudato Si' Movement, among others, emphasizes that true change, to be comprehensive, must reach the roots of the technocratic paradigm. It warns against being deceived by "false solutions that idolize capital and appear to promote change without altering the underlying mercantilist logic, such as the carbon market and its financial speculation (cf. LS, 171), or the new electric cars promoted by the extractivist logic to justify and maintain the consumption, production, and monopoly of the global economy."

Key messages and recommendations

- a. Governments need to **boldly commit to stringent measures, accelerating the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, transitioning to renewable energy, and embracing sustainable practices aligned with 1.5°C-aligned pathways.**
- b. Governments need to **prioritize the urgent phase-out of fossil fuels**, which are the primary source of greenhouse gas emissions—by eliminating subsidies; support a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty; and reject compromises or geoengineering solutions that prolong fossil fuel use.
- c. Governments **must take into account the UN Guiding Principles on Critical Energy Transition Minerals** proposed by the UN Secretary-General's Panel on Critical Energy Transition Minerals in exploring and accelerating the use of critical energy transition minerals.

6. Adaptation (Global Goal on Adaptation, National Adaptation Plans, and Adaptation finance)

Parties adopted the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience at COP28. The framework emphasizes human well-being, livelihood protection, and nature preservation. For climate resilience, it prioritizes food and agriculture, water, cities and infrastructure, ecosystems, nature, health, livelihoods, poverty reduction, capacity building, financial resources, and cultural heritage.

A cornerstone of the UAE Framework is the two-year UAE-Belem Work Program which will develop indicators to monitor, report, and enhance national adaptation work, an area that has often been given lower priority relative to mitigation. Adaptation can no longer be an afterthought, as the impacts of climate change are getting worse every year. We also need to move from planning to implementation.

Key messages and recommendations.

- a. UAE Framework must **include language on means of implementation (MoI)**, (finance, technology transfer, capacity building, etc.), **accountability and transparency**. This will emphasize actionable, context-sensitive indicators, ensuring



that regional adaptation needs are met and that adaptation finance goals are realistic and mobilizable.

- b. **At COP29, this global NAP assessment process will be concluded,** and parties will agree on resulting requirements for providing sources of finance to implement these plans. COP29 is also an important opportunity for governments to signal the importance of participatory planning including consultation with communities and civil society organizations that are most impacted by climate change, to ensure that the needs of the most vulnerable populations are prioritized, and to incorporate nature-based solutions (both investable and non-investable) in adaptation actions. There should be inclusion of climate education in the curricular of countries as part of their NAPs.
- c. **Need for Complementarity and Coherence** to underscore the collaborative alignment of climate funds and other philanthropic funds aimed at boosting the efficiency and impact of global climate actions that will avoid project duplication and enable countries to maximize outcomes through streamlined, cooperative investments into investable adaptation initiatives.
- d. **Implement a Global Youth Participation Mechanism:** Formal inclusion of youth representatives at all levels of UNFCCC negotiations, particularly in adaptation since the decisions arrived on now will be binding on them and they will be the recipients of the decisions years to come hence the need to be at the decision making table.

8. Carbon Markets, Article 6

A primary concern is the way wealthy nations are framing climate finance solutions. Many have been reluctant to fully meet their financial commitments through direct public finance, turning instead to market-based mechanisms and private sector involvement to meet financing gaps. Carbon markets, in particular, have been touted as a way to fund climate action. However, there are significant limitations and potential harms associated with an over-reliance on carbon markets and private finance.

Key messages and recommendations

- a. Carbon markets should not be treated as a solution for achieving emissions reductions or financing climate action, especially since their track record shows a tendency to favor wealthier regions while marginalizing vulnerable communities.
- b. COP29 should prohibit the use of carbon markets as a means to promote speculative or unproven technologies like carbon capture and storage (CCS) or bioenergy with carbon capture and by storage (BECCS) as offsets.
- c. Prevent countries from using carbon offsets to fulfill their NDC commitments under the Paris Agreement. Instead, NDCs should require direct domestic emissions reductions.

8. Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE)



With negotiations on this workstream being inconclusive at SB60 and given its commitment to advancing ecological education, it is vital for the Holy See to ensure that ACE would be formally regarded as part of the new finance goal, aligned with how the ACE Dialogues in Bonn focused on challenges for tools and support for workstream-relevant programs and activities. Consistent with the Holy See’s reiteration “in the field of integral ecology, education and in raising awareness of the environmental as a human and social problem on any number of levels”², we submit the following:

Key messages and recommendations:

- a. **Champion the inclusion of ACE in the NCQG**, if not the establishment of a dedicated funding mechanism for the workstream.
- b. **Push for a capacity-building session on enabling National ACE Focal Points and other stakeholders** to monitor and track ACE-related finance across different levels of governance to better address the needs for tools and support. The Holy See, therefore, must designate a National ACE Focal Point.
- c. **Encourage the development of a measurable criteria for assessing global progress on ACE implementation.**

9. Wayforward on preparations for COP30

- a) The Holy See together with catholic actors to **coordinate with the Brazilian Conference of Catholic Bishops and with the Latin American Conference of Bishops (CELAM)**, in order to avoid duplication of the work that has already been done by different actors in the region, with the goal also to have position paper documents ready in advance of Bonn meetings.

Additional information

CIDSE. (2024). *Press release: What Is at Stake for CIDSE at COP29?*
<https://www.cidse.org/2024/11/07/what-is-at-stake-for-cidse-at-cop29/>

Living Laudato Si’ Philippines. (2024). *Official position on negotiating deliberated during the Framework Convention on Climate Change.*
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/16wILbVEEkSwxH5czXWEieWqlgThc1Djw/view>

Living Laudato Si’ Philippines. (2024). *Analysis of The Interlinkages Between Action For Climate Empowerment (Ace) And Ecological Education Under The Laudato Si’.*
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1bYPgJilk6zxiYD22YX6VPMKD-WDYu9mT/view?usp=sharing>

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<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/vatican-city/news/2024-11/parolin-to-cop29-indifference-is-an-accomplce-to-injustice.html>