

Statement by Catholic leaders in G20 Countries on Consigning Fossil Fuels to History

“Investments in fossil fuels continue to rise, even though scientists tell us that fossil fuels should remain underground...We continue along old paths because we are trapped by our faulty accounting and by the corruption of vested interests. We still reckon as profit what threatens our very survival.”¹ (Pope Francis)

The voices from the communities we work with are ringing out. Climate change is a present reality that is affecting our brothers and sisters around the world, particularly those in poor and climate vulnerable communities who have contributed to this issue the least. We see increasingly severe and frequent droughts and floods, loss of crops, and destruction of land.

We cannot and must not be quiet in the face of such suffering and injustice.

The science is clear. The world needs to keep fossil fuels in the ground if we are to limit global warming to a below 1.5 degrees temperature rise by the end of 2030.

We therefore call on our governments to use the G20 meetings in October to consign fossil fuels to history by:

1. Stopping any new developments of coal, oil and gas within our own countries.
2. Immediately ending all funding of fossil fuels – including coal, oil and gas – abroad.
3. Massively scaling up investments in clean and safe forms of energy such as wind and solar power, that prioritise energy access for the poorest communities.
4. Making good on promises to provide climate finance to support communities already affected by the impacts of climate change.

Our moral duty is unquestionable. Advanced economies must act first to tackle climate change and must act quickly to protect current and future generations and our common home. We must face our historic responsibility and act with justice, standing in solidarity with our sisters and brothers in our own countries and around the world.

We need to act now. We do not have the luxury of time on our side.

Signed (Bishops and Heads of Religious Communities in G20 countries)

11th October 2021

¹ Climate Change and New Evidence from Science, Engineering, And Policy”, Meeting with Finance Ministers from Various Nations, 27 May 2019, Rome.

List of signatories

AMERICAS

Archbishop Jorge Lozano Archbishop of San Juan de Cuyo, Argentina; General Secretary of CELAM (Bishops' Conference of Latin America)

Sr. Patricia McDermott, RSM President, Sisters of Mercy of the Americas

ARGENTINA

Archbishop Andrés Stanovnik OFMCap. Archbishop of Corrientes, Argentina

Bishop Oscar V. Ojea Bishop of San Isidro; President, Bishops' Conference of Argentina

Bishop Carlos H. Malfa Bishop of Chascomús, General Secretary, Bishops' Conference of Argentina

Bishop Gabriel Bernardo Barba Bishop of San Luis, Argentina

Bishop Oscar Sarlinga Bishop Emeritus of Zárate-Campana, Argentina

Bishop Carlos José Tissera Bishop of Quilmes, President, Caritas Argentina

Bishop José María Baliña Auxiliar Bishop of Buenos Aires, Argentina

Bishop Jorge Lugones SJ Bishop of Lomas de Zamora; President, Social Pastoral Commission, Bishops' Conference of Argentina

Bishop Hugo Norberto Santiago Bishop of San Nicolás de los Arroyos, Buenos Aires

Bishop Fernando C Maletti Bishop of Merlo-Moreno, Argentina

Bishop César Daniel Fernández Bishop of Jujuy, Argentina

BRAZIL

Bishop Dom Erwin Krautler Bishop Emeritus of Xingu, Brazil; President, REPAM (Pan Amazonian Church Network) Brazil

Bishop Sebastião Lima Duarte Bishop of Caxias do Maranhão, Brazil; President, Integral Ecology and Mining Commission, Bishops' Conference of Brazil

Bishop Vicente Ferreira Auxiliary Bishop of Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais, Brazil

Bishop Cleonir Dal Bosco Bishop of Bagé, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil

Bishop Edson Damian Bishop of São Gabriel da Cachoeira, Amazonas, Brazil

Bishop Vital Corbellini Bishop of Marabá, Para, Brazil

MEXICO

Sr. Ana Ma. Pacheco R. Superior General, Guadalupean Missionaries of the Holy Spirit, Mexico

USA

Sr. Brigid Lawlor, RGS Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, US Provinces

Sr. Carol Zinn, SSJ Executive Director, Leadership Conference of Women Religious, US

Sr. Corona Colleary Area Leader, Columban Sisters, US

Sr. Moira Quinn, O.Ss.R. Prioress, Redemptoristine Nuns of New York, US

Fr. Carl J. Markelz, O. Carm. Prior Provincial, Carmelites, Province of the Most Pure Heart of Mary, US

AFRICA

Archbishop Gabriel Justice Anokye
Bishop Sithembele Sipuka

Archbishop of Kumasi, Ghana; President of Caritas Africa
Bishop of Umtata, South Africa; First Vice President, SECAM
(Symposium of Bishops' Conferences of Africa and Madagascar)

SOUTH AFRICA

Archbishop Siegfried Mandla Jwara
CMM
Bishop Kevin Dowling C.Ss.R.
Bishop Jan De Groef, M.Afr.
Bishop Duncan Tsoke
Bishop Edward Risi OMI
Bishop Victor Phalana
Bishop Joseph Kizito

Archbishop of Durban, South Africa
Bishop Emeritus of Rustenburg, South Africa
Bishop of Bethlehem, South Africa
Bishop of Kimberley, South Africa
Bishop of Keimoes-Upington, South Africa
Bishop of Klerksdorp, South Africa
Bishop of Aliwal North, South Africa

ASIA

Fr. Adrianus Suyadi, SJ

Secretary, Social Apostolates of the Jesuit Conference of Asia Pacific

INDONESIA

Fr. Fredy Rante Taruk, Pr
Fr. Benedictus Hari Juliawan SJ

Director, Caritas Indonesia - KARINA
Provincial, Indonesian Province of the Society of Jesus

INDIA

Fr. Paul Moonjely

Executive Director, Caritas India

SOUTH KOREA

Sr. Choi Eunsook

Area Leader, Columban Sisters, South Korea

JAPAN

Archbishop Isao Kikuchi, SVD

Archbishop of Tokyo, Japan

EUROPE

Cardinal Jean-Claude Hollerich

Archbishop of Luxembourg; President of COMECE (Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the European Union)

ITALY

Archbishop Gianpiero Palmieri
Archbishop Luigi Bressan
Bishop Claudio Cipolla
Bishop Francesco Oliva
Bishop Fortunato Morrone
Bishop Francesco Alfano
Bishop Giuseppe Satriano

Archbishop of Idassa, Italy
Archbishop Emeritus of Trento, Italy
Bishop of Padova, Italy
Bishop of Locri-Gerace, Italy
Bishop of Reggio Calabria- Bova, Italy
Bishop of Sorrento-Castellamare di Stabia, Italy
Bishop of Bari-Bitonto, Italy

GERMANY

Archbishop Stephan Burger
Bishop Dr. Bertram Meier

Archbishop of Freiburg, Germany; responsible for MISEREOR
Bishop of Augsburg, Germany; Chair of the German Catholic Bishops' Conference Commission on International Church Affairs

UNITED KINGDOM

Bishop John Arnold

Bishop of Salford; Environment Lead, Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales

Bishop William Nolan

Bishop of Galloway, Scotland

Sr. Catherine Lavery

Provincial, Sisters of the Holy Family of Bordeaux, Britain and Ireland

Fr. Damian Howard SJ

Provincial of the Jesuits in Britain

Sr. Anne Marie Smith

Area Leader, Columban Sisters, UK

Fr. Colm M. McGlynn OSM

Prior Provincial, Servite Friars, Province of the Isles

AUSTRALIA

Bishop Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv

Bishop of Parramatta, Australia; Chair of the Australian Catholic Bishops' Commission for Social Justice, Mission and Service

Sr. Monica Cavanagh RSJ

Congregation Leader, Sisters of Saint Joseph, Australia

Br Peter Carroll FMS

President, Catholic Religious Australia

Anne Walker

National Executive Director, Catholic Religious Australia

Sr. Mary Barbuto NDS

Sisters of Notre Dame de Sion, Australia Regions Leader

Sr. Melissa Dwyer FdCC

Delegation Leader, Canossian Daughters of Charity, Australia

Sr. Brenda Kennedy CHF

Sisters of the Holy Faith, Australia

Sr. Philippa Murphy FDNCS

Provincial Leader, Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Australia

Sr. Margaret Barclay PBVM

Congregation Leader, Presentation Sisters, Wagga Wagga, NSW Australia

Sr. Eveline Crotty RSM

Institute Leader, Institute of Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea

Fr Paul Cahill, O.Carm

Provincial, Carmelites of Australia & Timor-Leste

Sr. Lucy van Kessel

Congregation Leader, Presentation Sisters, Western Australia

Sr. Catherine Lacey SM

Unit Leader, Marist Sisters, Australia

Sr. Catherine McCahill SGS

Council Member, Sisters of the Good Samaritan, Australia, Japan, Philippines and Kiribati

Sr. Mary-Louise Petro RSM

Congregation Leader, Sisters of Mercy, Parramatta, NSW Australia

Sr. Kathleen Cotterill

Region Leader, Little Company of Mary Sisters,

Region of the Southern Cross (Australia, New Zealand and Tonga)

Fr Peter O'Neill

Missionary Society of St Columban, Australia

INTERNATIONAL

Sr. Hyesook Susanna Choi

Congregational Leader, Columban Sisters, International

Bishop Marc Stenger

Bishop Emeritus of Troyes, France; Co-President, Pax Christi International

Sr. Teresia Wamuyu Wachira

Co-President, Pax Christi International

Sr. Catherine O'Connor, CSB

Congregational Leader, Sisters of St. Brigid

Tomas Insua

Executive Director, Laudato Si Movement