



# Justice Coalition of Religious

## **Joint written statement on SDGs 13 and 10 for the ECOSOC High-Level Segment of the 2019 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development**

As members of the Justice Coalition of Religious, a coalition of Catholic women and men Religious, we profess the sanctity and interdependence of every human person and the natural environment. Our grassroots communities bear witness to the mutually reinforcing ravages of global shortcomings on SDGs 13 and 10:

- inequality within and among nations breeding toxic cultures of competitive consumerism by erroneously crowning economic isolation (i.e. excessive wealth), rather than equitable community, as the key to security;
- human addiction to fossil fuels, plastics, and profit; and
- reckless, unsustainable resource consumption by the powerful few exacerbating every form of inequality and condemning vulnerable billions to lives defined by unmet need.

We respond to this devastation by:

- Supporting transitions from fossil fuels to renewable energy: Supreme Court Filing Against Atlantic Sunrise Pipeline (Partnership for Global Justice) <https://adorers.org/pipeline/>; Africa Photovoltaic Project (Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur) <https://www.sndden.org/news-and-events/photovoltaic-project/>;
- Creating centers for public education in the skills and benefits of environmental conservation: Garden of Oneness (International Presentation Association) <http://internationalpresentationassociation.org/about/global-presence/union/>; Global Citizens Program (Society of the Sacred Heart) <https://rscjinternational.org/news/sacred-heart-forms-global-citizens>; Genesis Farm (Dominican Leadership Conference) <http://www.genesisfarm.org/about.taf>; La Vista Ecological Learning Center (Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate) <https://www.lavistaelc.org/>; Mendipathar Multipurpose Cooperative Society (Society of Catholic Medical Missionaries) <http://www.mmcs.org.in/activities.html>

- Building bioregion-based networks of environmentally concerned individuals: “Religious Organizations Along the River” (Sisters of Charity Federation, Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary, UNANIMA International, International Presentation Association, Dominican Leadership Conference) <https://www.scny.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/ROAR-Brochure.pdf>
- Preparing human rights- and spirituality-based resources on environmental stewardship: “People’s Guide to SDG 6” and “Reflections on Water” (NGO Mining Working Group/JPIC-Roma) <https://miningwg.com/resources-2/water-justice-guide/>; “Sowing Hope for the Planet” Campaign (UISG/JPIC-Roma) <https://www.sowinghopefortheplanet.org/>

These efforts alone cannot overcome the powerful interests stripping developing societies of their natural wealth and human potential on a scale that dwarfs the development aid they receive. We therefore call upon political leaders, especially those representing nations of the highest per-capita consumption, to:

- Replace the Gross Domestic Product as a measure of progress with development indices that integrate social, environmental, and governance-related elements of well-being;
- Reform trade agreements with state-investor dispute settlement clauses that obstruct states’ implementation of measures to safeguard their environment from transnational corporations (TNCs);
- Support redress mechanisms for communities suffering from corporate destruction of the environment (e.g. emerging treaty on TNCs);
- Increase Green Climate Fund commitments and ODA to climate-vulnerable nations
- Integrate environmental impact assessments into all areas of national development planning;
- Consult local communities to better understand their experiences of environmental degradation;
- Deny privatization of water resources and establish strict water quality standards;
- Integrate environmental care curricula into public education systems; and
- Create systems for identification, regular migration, and protection of persons displaced by environmental factors.

All human rights are predicated on an environment healthy enough to provide sufficient, safe drinking water and nutritious food for all people. We must take the steps above, and

many more, to sustain this “environmental protection floor” or we guarantee the rapid crumbling of the human rights framework built upon it.

**Co-signing NGOs:**

Casa Generalizia della Societa del Sacro Cuore  
Company of the Daughters of Charity  
Congregation of the Mission  
Congregation of Notre Dame de Montreal\*  
Congregations of St. Joseph  
Dominican Leadership Conference  
Fondazione Proclade Internazionale – Onlus  
Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary – Loreto Generalate  
International Presentation Association  
Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate\*  
Partnership for Global Justice  
Passionists International  
Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary  
School Sisters of Notre Dame  
Sisters of Charity Federation  
Society of Catholic Medical Missionaries  
Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur  
UNANIMA International

\*affiliated with Department of Global Communications only (not included in official ECOSOC submission)