



Justice
Coalition of
Religious



COP28
UAE

28TH CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE UN FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON **CLIMATE CHANGE**

Bringing governments, civil society, and other stakeholders together to discuss climate change and its impacts, agree on how to address it, and accelerate climate action

30 November - 12 December 2023





Justice Coalition of Religious

This guide was produced by the [Justice Coalition of Religious](#) (JCoR), a coalition of 22 non-governmental organizations that are accredited to collectively represent over 200 congregations of Roman Catholic women and men Religious at the United Nations (UN). For centuries, congregations of Religious have served people who have been rendered poor, vulnerable, oppressed, and marginalized by existing global systems. Through our membership in JCoR, we have united with our sister and brother organizations to enhance collaboration among our members – at UN Headquarters and around the world – in our common mission: to improve quality of life for people who are living in poverty and to enhance our stewardship of the natural environment.

The primary aim of our collaboration is to strengthen the capacity of Catholic Religious and their partners to address the root causes of human and environmental suffering.

We work toward this goal by coordinating national, regional, and global efforts of Religious to call on political leaders to take action for a just, equitable, and rights-based implementation of the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs), the United Nations' Agenda for 2015-2030.

We hope these pages will help empower you join us in this mission!



COP28

WHAT IS IT?

COP28 refers to the 28th Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). At the annual climate COP, delegates from UN Member States come together to negotiate global goals to address climate change, such as limiting global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius, helping vulnerable countries adapt to the effects of climate change, and achieving net-zero emissions by 2050. Governments' representatives also present their national plans for contributing to the accomplishment of these goals and report on challenges, best practices, and progress.

In addition to delegates from UN Member States, COP28 also gathers climate-concerned leaders from civil society, indigenous groups, academia, younger generations, and the private sector to accelerate our collective response to the climate crisis. At COP28, all of these groups will collaboratively take stock of progress on the Paris Agreement and work toward actionable solutions.

Why is COP28 important?

Today, our planet suffers from the unprecedented impacts of climate change including extreme heat, devastating wildfires, catastrophic floods, and the drastic rising of sea levels. As a global community, we are falling behind in our climate ambitions, and as a result, we are rapidly approaching a dangerous precipice. We need to catalyze urgent action to preserve a livable climate, for all forms of life on Earth, and we must do it now!



Key Terminology

The following terms provide an important foundation for understanding the global-policy conversation on climate change. You will want to be familiar with them if you plan on participating in or following the discussions at COP28

UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

The UNFCCC outlines the legal framework and principles for international climate change cooperation. Its overarching goal is to reduce atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases and to desist from dangerous human interference with the global climate system. Click [here](#) to learn more.

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

The IPCC is the United Nations body tasked with assessing the science related to climate change. It collects scientific, technical, and socio-economic data on the risks and impacts of climate change and produces reports to guide governments in an effective response to the crisis. Click [here](#) to learn more.

Paris Agreement

The Paris Agreement is an international treaty, adopted in 2015, to address climate change. It marks a significant achievement in the global discourse as the first legally-binding agreement to unite a multitude of countries in a collective commitment to engage in ambitious efforts to tackle climate change and its impacts. Under the Paris Agreement, individual countries determine how much they will reduce their carbon emissions each year, and these plans are called [nationally determined contributions](#) (NDCs). Click [here](#) to learn more.

Global Stocktake

The Global Stocktake is a process for countries and stakeholders to assess if they are collectively making the necessary progress towards achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement. Participants will evaluate where the world stands on climate action and support, identify the gaps, and collaborate to generate a better plan to accelerate climate action. The Global Stocktake takes place every five years, and the first iteration will conclude at COP28, with the intent to inform the next round of NDCs to be proposed by 2025. Click [here](#) to learn more.

Sustainable Development Goal 13 (SDG13)

SDG13 is a commitment by the global community to combat climate change as an important part of the of the UN's overall Sustainable Development Agenda. It sets specific targets and indicators for measuring our progress in addressing climate change. Its placement in the Sustainable Development Agenda signals a recognition that environmental conservation is a pillar of progress for the international community and should be monitored and promoted alongside other measures of development. Click [here](#) to learn more.



COP28 UAE Priorities

Transitioning to clean energy

The world must urgently accelerate the energy transition (a drastic reduction of carbon emissions by phasing out the demand for, and supply of, all fossil fuels) in order to limit global warming to 1.5° Celsius above pre-industrial levels. COP28 will emphasize fast tracking the energy transition, in an orderly, just and equitable manner.

Delivering on climate finance

Finance is a critical component of climate action. COP28 needs to deliver on previous promises to fund climate action (such as the Green Climate Fund). It must also establish new mechanisms for the sharing of funds, knowledge, and technology between countries in order to make ambitious climate action affordable, available, and accessible for the most vulnerable.

Centering nature, people, lives, and livelihoods

COP28 negotiations will strive to put nature, people, lives, and livelihoods at the heart of climate action, including by prioritizing the needs of the most vulnerable communities to adapt to the change that is already occurring. More specifically, this COP must move governments beyond commitments to practical support and recompense for the losses and damages suffered to the lives, property, and livelihoods as a result of climate change.

Mobilizing for the most inclusive COP

The United Arab Emirates (UAE), the government acting as the host and president of COP28, identified inclusion as a foundational principle of this conference. It described inclusion as a “tool that will enable us to collectively achieve ambitious outcomes at COP28.” Accordingly, the Presidency of COP28 aims to mobilize the most inclusive COP, ensuring that decisions and discussions, and how the solutions are implemented, are conducted in collaboration with Indigenous Peoples, youth, and climate-vulnerable communities.

To learn more about the emphases on these paradigm shifts by the COP28 presidency, read the [Letter to Parties](#).





COP28 ESSENTIAL DETAILS

WHEN

30 November - 12 December 2023

WHERE

ONLINE: Follow the proceedings of COP28 at <https://www.youtube.com/@UNClimateChangeEvents/featured>

IN-PERSON: Dubai, United Arab Emirates

- **Blue Zone:** This is the official plenary space of COP28. It is open to accredited government and observer delegates (individuals registered for COP28 who have an official COP28 access badge). The Blue Zone hosts the formal negotiations, the World Climate Action Summit, Pavilions, and hundreds of side events including panel discussions, round tables, and cultural events throughout the conference.
- **Green Zone:** This space is managed by the COP28 UAE Presidency. It provides a platform for non-accredited delegates, including global youth, civil society, indigenous groups, academics, and representatives from the private sector to engage in dialogue and promote awareness about climate action. Click [here](#) to register to participate in the Green Zone.

COP28 WEBSITES

UNFCCC: www.unfccc.int/cop28

COP28 UAE Presidency: <https://www.cop28.com/>

Faith-Based Engagement at COP28:

<https://www.unep.org/events/conference/faith-based-engagement-cop28>



COP28 ESSENTIAL DETAILS

PROGRAMME

Click on the following links to access the [daily programme](#) and the [thematic calendar](#)

- Click [here](#) to search the COP28 schedule by zone, theme, and date

30 November: Opening Day

1-2 December: World Climate Action Summit

- The Summit will welcome world leaders to present their progress and ambitions across all pillars of the Paris Agreement, providing momentum and guidance for the remainder of the COP

3 December: Health / Relief, Recovery and Peace

4 December: Finance / Trade / Gender Equality / Accountability

5 December: Energy and Industry / Just Energy Transition / Indigenous Peoples

6 December: Multilevel Action, Urbanization and Built Environment / Transport

8 December: Youth, Children, Education and Skills

9 December: Nature, Land Use, and Oceans

10 December: Food, Agriculture and Water

10-11 December: Final Negotiations

SIDE EVENTS

Click on the following link to access the full list of COP28 [side events](#) and exhibits



Recommended Events



INTERFAITH GATHERING IN THE SPIRIT OF TALANOA DIALOGUE @COP28

30 November, 15:30 (GST)

This event, organized by the Interfaith Liaison Committee to the UNFCCC, will be a powerful interfaith gathering, bringing together climate justice actors from all over the world to reflect on COP28. It will offer an opportunity to create an Interfaith Talanoa Call from the voices present expressing concerns, demands and hopes to be delivered to the UNFCCC Executive Secretariat. The event agenda will include an opening panel, small-group discussions, an interfaith service, and a shared meal.

Opening panel and interfaith service (streamed live): lutheranworld.org/live

Register:

- In-person: <https://bit.ly/47wACYX>
- Online: bit.ly/talanoagroups

Flyer: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PdB-aW_Smz5vbBCurnr3BalzY-BcWdui/view

THE GLOBAL CATHOLIC LETTER ON CLIMATE CHANGE TO THE COP28 PRESIDENCY

5 December, 18:30-20:00 (GST)

Catholic Social Teaching calls us to “accelerate the just energy transition” in the key of Integral Ecology, changing international policies. This event is part of a series of Catholic advocacy actions on governments to make bold decisions about climate change mitigation, just energy transition, and integral human development. Under Pope Francis’ leadership and previous global grassroots manifestos, we will deliver a [joint letter](#) to the COP28 Presidency.

Programme & speaker bios: <https://jcor2030.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/COP28-Side-Event-Program.pdf>

In Person: Blue Zone, Room 5

Online: Watch via livestream at <https://www.youtube.com/live/ehlOKd8aeuA?si=ICftxyIEYzSxXDdF>



Recommended Events

PAVILIONS

The Pavilions are spaces in the Blue Zone which are separate from the formal intergovernmental processes and negotiations of COP28. These spaces provide opportunities for organizations to host events, showcase research and expertise, and facilitate informal discussions with COP28 participants who visit the Pavilion.

FAITH PAVILION

30 November - 12 December

This Pavilion will serve as a dedicated space for different faiths, traditions, and perspectives to come together to achieve a better future for planet Earth and humanity. It will provide an opportunity to connect with religious representatives and activists dedicated to environmental protection and climate justice, which engaging new audiences on innovative solutions to the climate crisis. Tune into select Faith Pavilion events via [livestream here](#). For additional information, background, and programme of events, visit the official website below.

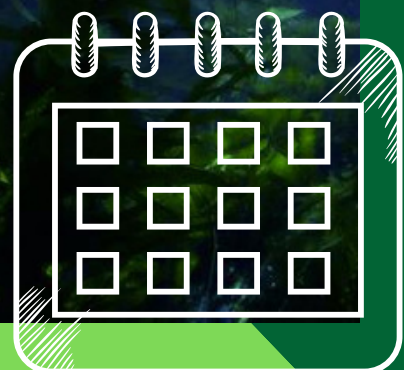
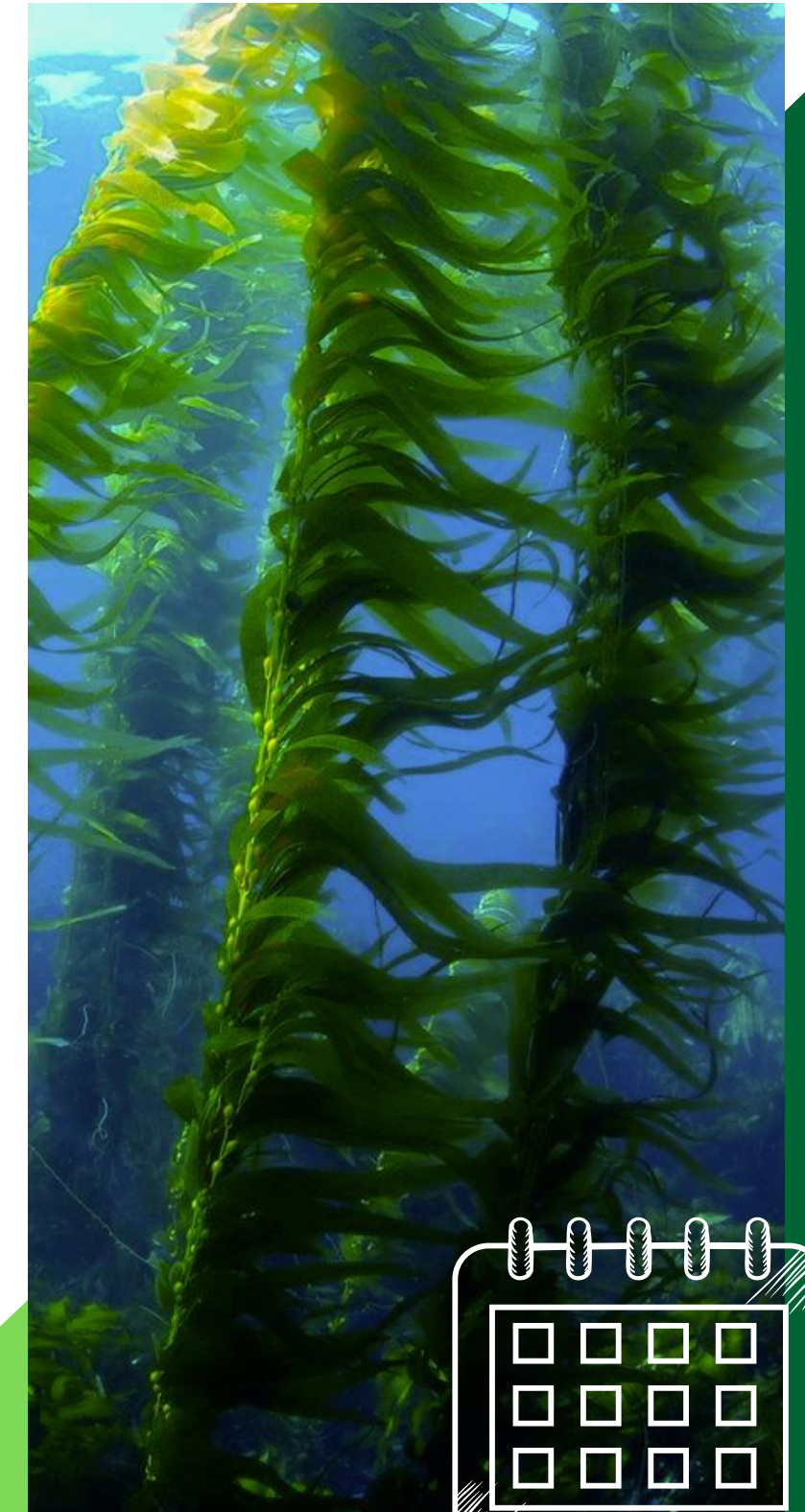
Website: www.faithatcop28.com

CLIMATE MOBILITY PAVILION

1-10 December

This Pavilion is organized by the Global Center for Climate Mobility (GCCM) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). It will serve as a dedicated space for attendees to discuss and advance solutions for mitigating and addressing the impacts of the climate crisis on human mobility. It aims to center efforts on the adaptation journeys of climate vulnerable communities, as well as advance people-centered climate action.

Website: www.climate-mobility.org/event/cop28/



Social Media

WHO TO FOLLOW & TAG

Justice Coalition of Religious (JCoR)

Twitter: [@JCoR2030](https://twitter.com/JCoR2030) Facebook: [@JCoR2030](https://www.facebook.com/JCoR2030)

JCoR Members

Click [here](#) to access a Twitter list of JCoR members

Your congregation's NGO at the UN

Need help? Find many congregations' NGO's social media details [here](#)

Your government's Permanent Mission to the United Nations

COP28

Twitter: [@COP28UAE](https://twitter.com/COP28UAE) Instagram: [@cop28uaeofficial](https://www.instagram.com/cop28uaeofficial) LinkedIn: [COP28 UAE](https://www.linkedin.com/company/COP28_UAE)

United Nations Climate Change

Twitter: [@UNFCCC](https://twitter.com/UNFCCC) Facebook: [@UNclimatechange](https://www.facebook.com/UNclimatechange) Instagram: [@unclimatechange](https://www.instagram.com/unclimatechange)
YouTube: [@UNClimateChange](https://www.youtube.com/@UNClimateChange) TikTok: [@unclimatechange](https://www.tiktok.com/@unclimatechange) LinkedIn: [UN Climate Change](https://www.linkedin.com/company/UN-Climate-Change)

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

Twitter: [@IPCC_CH](https://twitter.com/IPCC_CH) Facebook: [@IPCC](https://www.facebook.com/IPCC)

#COP28
#FaithAtCOP28



Sample Messaging



#COP28 (30 Nov - 12 Dec) will gather @UN Member States to negotiate global goals to address #ClimateChange. Learn more about #COP28UAE & how to participate: <https://jcor2030.org/communications-guides/>
We need to urgent action to preserve all forms of life on Earth & we need it NOW! #FaithAtCOP28

World leaders, including @Pontifex, will gather at #COP28 to make key decisions for the future of our planet. Answer the Pope's call in Laudate Deum - sign the petition & send a message to the president of COP28 for #ClimateActionNOW: <https://laudatosimovement.org/cop28/>
#CareForOurCommonHome

At #COP28UAE we call on world leaders & @UN Member States to [...]

As the #ClimateCrisis escalates, #Displacement and involuntary #HumanMobility will become increasingly frequent. This brief from @lossanddamage and @RID_networks explains why displacement must be central to efforts to address #LossAndDamage at #COP28. <https://www.lossanddamagecollaboration.org/stories/loss-and-damage-and-displacement-key-messages-for-the-road-to-cop-28>

Despite overwhelming scientific evidence & a prominent increase in climate disasters & ecological emergencies, world leaders have yet to ACT with the requisite scientific & moral urgency. We stand with @LaudatoSiMvmt & call for #ClimateActionNOW at #COP28: <https://laudatosimovement.org/cop28/>

Resources

For more information and opportunities to act, please refer to the following resources



Daily COP28 updates from Claretian Missionaries

JCoR member, Father Rohan Dominic of Proclade Internationale Onlus (the Claretian presence at the United Nations), and his colleague, Brother Robert Omond, are attending COP28. They will closely monitor the proceedings inside the conference hall and provide daily updates via this [webpage](#).



VIVAT International letter to COP28 President

This [letter](#) highlights four critical issues that will be discussed at COP28, referring to Pope Francis's exhortations of *Laudato Deum* and *Querida Amazonia*. To sign on, please contact Paul Rahmat at paul@vivatinternational.org



UNANIMA Policy Statement and Position Paper

The [position paper](#) reviews the key focuses of COP28 as outlined by the COP Presidency, and makes recommendations based upon UNANIMA International's research and advocacy. The [policy statement](#) focuses more specifically on the needs and experiences of women, children, and girls in relation to climate change and the need for a just transition to a more sustainable future.



Resources CONTINUED

For more information and opportunities to act, please refer to the following resources



UN Climate Change App

If you are participating in-person or virtually, the [UN Climate Change App](#) (available for both Android and IOS) offers the latest news about the process, access to live webcasts of sessions and press conferences, and access to official documents, agendas and schedule of meetings and side events.



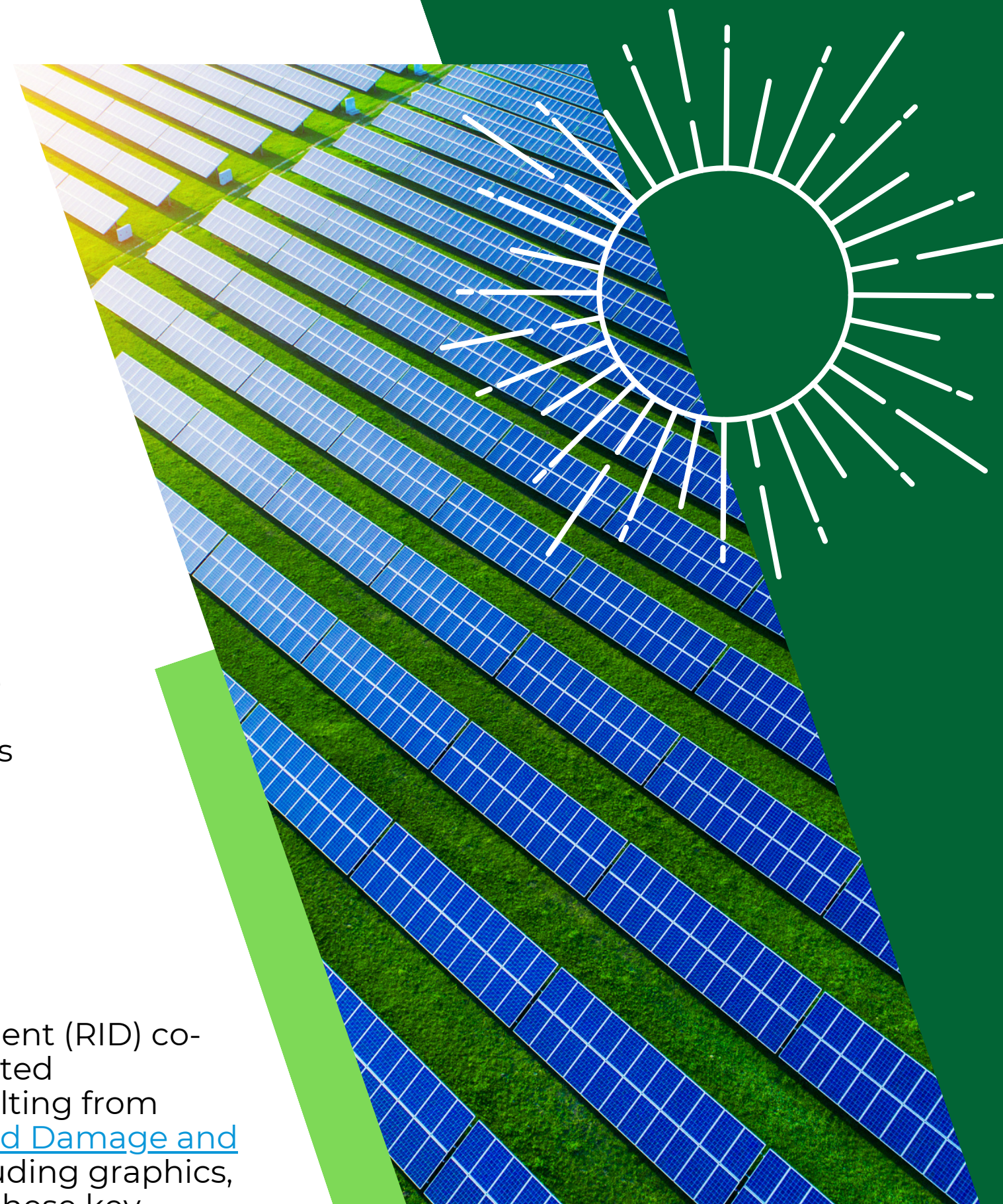
Faith for Earth Thematic Discussion Series

The Faith for Earth Coalition hosted a Thematic Discussion Series to enhance the understanding of faith actors on the COP 28 and climate-related priorities. The series aims to build the capacity to introduce faith perspectives in the discussions at COP28 and influence decision-makers towards more ambitious and effective climate action. Click on the following link to access [recordings of thematic discussions](#) about COP28 priorities, understanding loss and damage, climate finance, and more.



Key messages on loss and damage and displacement

The Loss and Damage Collaboration (L&DC) and Researching Internal Displacement (RID) co-published a set of key messages on the importance of ensuring that climate-related displacement is central to efforts to assess and address losses and damages resulting from climate change. Click on the following links to access the advocacy brief "[Loss and Damage and Displacement: Key Messages for the Road to COP28](#)" and a [social media kit](#) (including graphics, suggested posts, hashtags, and social media handles) that you can use to share these key messages



CALL TO ACTION

FROM POPE FRANCIS

“WE MUST MOVE BEYOND THE MENTALITY OF APPEARING TO BE CONCERNED BUT NOT HAVING THE COURAGE NEEDED TO PRODUCE SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES.” - *LAUDATE DEUM*

SIGN PETITION INSPIRED BY LAUDATE DEUM



[Empowering Change](#) is a petition directed at the UAE President of COP28 and inspired by *Laudate Deum* and *Laudato Si'*. It aims to gather signatures from concerned citizens of our common home to collectively call for a commitment to concrete agreements at COP28 and decisive action to protect the future of our world. Click the link above to learn more about the content of the petition and add your signature.



For more information on JCoR
and our work, visit our website:
www.JCoR2030.org

