



United Nations
Climate Change



COP29
Baku
Azerbaijan

COP29 Side Event: Faith and Justice in Ecological Transition

- Concept Note -

Theme: Integrated and Holistic Approaches

Presentation of alternatives for a genuinely just ecological transition as required by climate justice following Catholic Social Teaching, encompassing clear policy guidelines, technology transfer mechanisms, and capacity building: training, education, and social safeguards to support the transition.

Modality

In-person panel held in the Blue Zone at COP29. Virtual participation is available for registered COP participants, a recording of the event will be available following the session.

When: Thursday, November 21, 16:45 - 18:15 local time

Where: Blue Zone, Side Event Room 6, Baku Stadium

Co-Organizers:

Congregation of Our Lady of Mount Carmel (Carmelite NGO), Laudato Si Movement (LSM), UNANIMA International, Society of Catholic Medical Missionaries (SCMM), VIVAT International, Jeunesse Étudiante Catholique Internationale (JECI-IYCS), Catholic Youth Network for Environmental Sustainability in Africa (CYNESA)

Overview:

The 29th Conference of Parties Summit (COP29) is an important moment for countries to signal their intent to set more ambitious emissions reduction targets next year, strengthen their action on adaptation, demonstrate progress on previous pledges and commit more financial and other support to countries grappling with loss and damage from climate impacts.

Accelerating the transition to renewable energies is a key component of achieving these priorities at COP29. Based on science and academic contributions, such as the reports of the Panel of Experts on Climate Change (IPCC) or the International Energy Agency (IEA), the problem of

anthropogenic climate change and its global impacts must be solved by abandoning fossil fuels in all sectors. While in many ways COP28 failed to be a turning point in this sense, COP29 represents another opportunity to drive progress on this pressing issue.

In light of these realities, this side event seeks to provide an assessment of advances, setbacks, and gaps in climate change mitigation, adaptation, and resilience efforts through the lens of Catholic Social Teaching climate justice concerns. The event also seeks to uplift and share key recommendations in-line with Catholic Social Teaching which would support an accelerated and genuinely just ecological transition. Speakers will highlight alternative, holistic approaches to climate justice through clear policy guidelines, technology transfer mechanisms, and capacity building initiatives including training, education, and social safeguards. By committing to a just transition framework on this pivotal occasion of COP29, parties will promote the equitable distribution of resources and responsibilities and ensure that global climate efforts are effective and equitable, aligning with the broader goals of sustainable development and global solidarity.

This side event will aim to respond to all or some of these questions:

1) Catholic Social Teaching illumination on the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) on Climate Finance and related discussions:

- a) What outcomes should be expected under NCQG discussions regarding finance gaps and the debt burden of developing countries?
- b) Why should carbon finance (the carbon market) be kept separate from climate finance (funding for adaptation and mitigation to climate change)?
- c) What is the significance of the estimated trillions in reparations owed to developing countries, considering that 100 billion is merely a symbolic baseline?
- d) Who should receive the reparations for climate change impacts, particularly those on the frontlines suffering the most?
- e) How should progress on NCQG be guided by the principles of just transition, including equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capacities (CBDR-RC)?
- f) What historical responsibility do developed countries bear for causing climate change, as emphasized by the "common but differentiated responsibilities" principle endorsed by the G7 group and other developing countries?
- g) According to Article 2.1c of the Paris Agreement, what should financial flows be consistent with in general, and how does this relate to NCQG negotiations?
- h) What approach should be taken regarding different types of finance and investment in fossil fuels during NCQG negotiations?

2) Catholic Social Teaching illumination on the Mitigation Ambition and Implementation Work Programme (known as Mitigation Working Program—MWP) and NDCs-related discussions:

- a) What is the significance of the Global Stocktake document being a “menu of options” in the context of just ecological transition?
- b) How can we contribute to developing, at all negotiation levels, an acceleration of just ecological/energy transition in four sectors: fossil fuels, energy efficiency, renewable energies, and education on lifestyles less dependent on fossil fuels?
- c) Why should Catholic communities support calls for countries to fulfill their responsibilities and phase out fossil fuels?
- d) How do Faith-based communities encourage Parties to incorporate the best available science when developing their NDCs?
- e) Why should there be a specific emphasis on more ambitious NDCs, particularly related to fossil fuel phase-out, especially in global north oil producer countries?
- f) What role does monitoring historical polluters play in ensuring their acknowledgment of responsibility and commitment to phasing out fossil fuels in their NDCs?
- g) Why should carbon capture and storage technologies, and climate geoengineering initiatives be avoided?
- h) What is the rationale behind avoiding support for initiatives focused on phasing out unabated or inefficient fossil fuel subsidies?

Speakers:

- Renato Rallo, Carmelite NGO (Moderator)
- Teresia Gitau, CYNESA
- Fabian Onyekachi Adindu, VIVAT International
- Liana Almony, UNANIMA International
- Ben Wilson, SCIAF
- Roy Ibrahim, IYCS-JECI