

COP30 SIDE EVENT | Tuesday, Nov. 11, 16:45 – 18:15

Responding to the Global South Catholic Bishops Conferences' Call for Climate Justice

Summary

On June 12, the Catholic Bishops Conferences of Asia, Africa, and Latin America and the Caribbean released a [joint statement](#) ahead of COP30 entitled *A Call for Climate Justice and the Common Home*. The statement calls for addressing the ecological debt of the Global North, phasing out fossil fuels, and resisting false solutions to the climate crisis. Inviting a “historic coalition” between the Global North and South, the statement also urges people and decision-makers to face today’s “crises of solidarity.” This side event will explore the statement in order to raise awareness about its urgent message, activate its calls during the COP30 negotiations, and build momentum beyond COP30.

The event will feature two panels. The first panel will invite bishops and ecclesial leaders from Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean to speak to the concerns raised in the document from their respective regions. The second panel will invite representatives of civil society from these three continents to highlight aspects of the document they find especially important and helpful as it relates to their own ongoing work for climate justice and their engagement in shaping COP30 negotiations on critical issues. Representatives from the Global North will offer a brief response to what they have heard, emphasizing the need for authentic cooperation and solidarity that go beyond rhetoric and bring about systemic change. The audience will then be invited to participate in a dialogue with the presenters and each other.

Outcomes

- Raise awareness among COP30 negotiators, faith-based actors, and civil society participants about this timely and compelling Global South Bishops Statement
- Equip COP30 participants with tools to engage negotiators and other organizations on key issues articulated by the Catholic Church in the Global South
- Connect the concerns of the document with global initiatives, like the Jubilee campaign
- Prompt discussions about how the Global North can authentically respond to the calls of the document, avoiding false solutions to the climate crisis
- Foster dialogue between ecclesial voices and policymakers on implementing commitments through moral courage and policy coherence

Hosting Organizations

Development and Peace - Caritas Canada
Proclade International
Maryknoll Sisters

KAIROS Canada
VIVAT International
Medical Mission Sisters