

Faith Communities Have No Faith in Fossil Fuels

and Call for a Phase-out of Fossil Fuels Now

Statement from the Faith-Based Organisations

To the High-Level Ministerial Segment of the

28th Session of the Conference of the Parties – COP28 to the UNFCCC

Dubai, United Arab Emirates

10 December 2023

Mr President, His Excellency Sultan Al Jaber,

Distinguished Participants,

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The world's faith communities are alarmed over the accelerating climate emergency that poses an existential threat to life. In our diversity of traditions, we share a common calling to heed the cries of the most vulnerable, coming generations, and Mother Earth.

2023 is set to be the hottest year on record. Human economic activity, founded on the burning of fossil fuels and driven by the relentless quest for profit and growth, is behind the crisis. Humanity holds the future in her hands. May we act accordingly, in line with science, responsibly, and with urgency.

If the world is to stay under 1.5 degrees Celsius, fossil fuels must be phased out *now*. A just transition must be pursued such that no community and no worker is left behind. There is absolutely no room for new extraction of fossil fuels. We urge nations to rise above business and national interests, differences and conflicts, and commit to a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty.

The transition to an economy based on renewables must respect and protect the rights of Indigenous Peoples who are key to shifting narratives, worldviews, economic models and practices for a more sustainable Earth.

We welcome the decision at COP28 to operationalize the Loss and Damage Fund. However, the initial pledges are a pittance and non-economic losses and damages such as the erosion of cultures must be acknowledged and addressed.

We underline that rich and industrialized nations have a moral responsibility to pay for mitigation and adaptation. It is about paying a fair share based on Common but Differentiated Responsibility and the Polluter Pays Principle.

Even if climate finance is pivotal for climate action, the ambitions for mitigation of emissions cannot be put on hold. To decolonize the mitigation agenda, nations that have historically benefited from and contributed the larger share of emissions must radically ramp up their Nationally Determined Contributions.

As faith communities, we cannot talk about Mother Earth and ignore the gender dimensions of climate change. Women's particular experiences can contribute to effective climate actions.

Today we stand in front of the biggest challenge humanity has ever faced. We cannot and must not sell away our children's future for financial gain and in the name of development. There is no time to lose: it is our moral obligation to act now and with greater aspiration to protect the gift of life on Earth.

Therefore, we, faith communities, call on COP28 to:

- Deliver a plan to phase out fossil fuels rapidly; implement a just transition; endorse the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty.
- Secure new and increased funding for adaptation and loss and damage in the form of grants; Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery and commit to rapid mitigation led by historically polluting nations; and recognize ecocide as a crime under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.
- Take into account Indigenous knowledge and practices for climate mitigation and adaptation Recognize, strengthen, and support, the representation and participation of Indigenous Peoples, women, and young people in all COP processes.