

**Message to governments and citizens ahead of the UN climate summit in Belém,
Brazil (COP 30)**

***To world leaders gathered in Belém: Climate justice is a moral imperative, not an
option***

In the year that marks the 10th anniversary of the Paris Agreement and the 10th anniversary of the encyclical *Laudato Si'*, reality hits us hard: we have not done enough. Climate change is no longer a future threat; it is a present crisis that hits the poorest and most vulnerable people hardest and, if we do not act more decisively, will do so even more in the future, deepening the inequality we have decided to combat and mortgaging the future of the next generations.

For Catholic organizations, the “integral ecology” contained in the social teaching of the encyclical *Laudato Si'* teaches that the “cry of the earth and the cry of the poor” are one and the same (cf. no. 49). For other civil society actors, who also find inspiration in *Laudato Si'*, and for Catholic actors, the Paris Agreement is the great framework for global consensus and the basis from which we share with citizens the urgency to act and the experience of witnessing this injustice.

From this shared perspective, we demand that governments at COP 30 move from empty promises to concrete action. Our message is based on three legally binding pillars for advancing justice:

1. Justice in action: Abandon what destroys us

The current climate plans (NDCs) of each country or group of countries (such as the EU) are insufficient. They lead us directly to global warming that will cause immense suffering, especially in the Global South.

Our demand is clear:

- Real commitments, not empty goals: Rich countries and the biggest emitters must present drastically more ambitious plans. This is non-negotiable; it is a moral and legal obligation.
- End the fossil fuel era: We need a clear, binding, and fair timetable to phase out all fossil fuels (coal, oil, and gas). Continuing to invest in them is financing our own destruction.
- Protect our lungs: We must halt global deforestation by 2030 and protect indigenous communities, their best guardians.

2. Justice in the transition: Protect people, not just the planet



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The ecological transition cannot be an excuse to create new forms of poverty. The end of fossil fuels must be carefully planned to protect working people, communities that depend on these industries, and the most vulnerable.

Our demand is clear:

- Leave no one behind: the “Just Transition” must guarantee social protection, decent jobs, and direct support for local and indigenous communities.
- Promote and invest in agroecology: we must transform our food systems, which today pollute and cause hunger. This means ending subsidies for polluting industrial agriculture and supporting the women and men who cultivate the land and feed the world sustainably.
- The necessary and urgent energy transition must be democratized and cannot become a new form of colonialism. The demand for minerals must be managed with due diligence, equity, and protection for local communities and their ecosystems from any form of exploitation, as various civil society organizations, as well as the Catholic Church and its dioceses, have been doing on the ground.

3. Justice in finance: financial support and paying the ecological debt

Rich nations built their prosperity on a fossil fuel-based development model, generating a massive “ecological debt” to the Global South, which suffers most from its consequences without having caused the problem.

Our demand is clear:

- Real money, not more debt: countries in the Global South need trillions, not millions, to adapt and develop cleanly. This funding must be new, additional, and delivered in the form of grants (donations), not loans that further burden poor countries.
- Repair the damage: the Loss and Damage Fund (created at COP 27 in 2022 in Egypt) must be urgently filled with hundreds of billions of dollars. This is not charity, it is reparation. This money must go directly to the affected communities, without bureaucracy.
- Justice in finance and taxation: we call for an urgent solution to the debt problem of the most vulnerable nations (a “Climate Jubilee” in the words of church organizations), freeing them to invest in climate action rather than destroying their ecosystems and impoverishing their populations to service their debt. We thus support the call made at the recent Fourth Conference on Financing for Development, held in Seville in June 2025. Likewise, without fair taxation ordered to the common good and global solidarity, there will be no fair finance to find the resources needed worldwide for the necessary climate action.

A final appeal



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We ask global citizens not to be spectators. Raise your voices, demand accountability from your leaders, and live in solidarity with those most affected.

To the governments gathered in the city of Belém at this COP 30, we remind you that history will judge you. You have in your hands the opportunity to be remembered as those who chose life, human dignity, and the common good.

The time for excuses is over. It is time for justice.

Signatory organizations in Spain

- Department of Integral Ecology, Spanish Catholic Bishops Conference
- ECODES
- Enlázate por la Justicia
 - Caritas Spain
 - CONFER
 - Justice and Peace
 - Manos Unidas
 - REDES
- Greenpeace Spain
- Laudato Si' Movement, Spanish Chapter
- Christian Rural Movement
- Integral Ecology-Justice and Peace Group, Seville.

Areas of integral ecology in the social ministry of:

- Archdiocese of Madrid
- Diocese of León
- Diocese of Mérida-Badajoz
- Archdiocese of Pamplona y Tudela
- Diocese of Córdoba
- Archdiocese of Zaragoza
- Archdiocese of Toledo
- Diocese of Vitoria
- Archdiocese of Santiago de Compostela
- Diocese of Albacete
- Archdiocese of Barcelona
- Diocese of Bilbao
- Diocese of Ourense
- Archdiocese of Valencia
- Diocese of Málaga
- Diocese of Mallorca
- Diocese of Vic
- Archdiocese of Burgos
- Diocese of Sant Feliù de Llobregat
- Laudato Si' Network of the Diocese of Jerez
- Diocese of Alicante



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- Diocese of Santander
- Diocese of Salamanca
- Diocese of Gran Canaria
- Diocese of Coria-Cáceres
- Diocese of Alcalá de Henares