



Joint Statement of Ecojesuit and Partners supporting Urgent Climate Action

Climate change “represents one of the principal challenges facing humanity in our day” ([Laudato Si’](#) 25) and poses a great threat to the dignity and rights of future generations. In June 2019, Pope Francis declared a [climate emergency](#) in front of chief executive officers and representatives of major energy and investment companies. He stressed the urgency of action, saying, “Dear friends, time is running out! Deliberations must go beyond mere exploration of what *can* be done, and concentrate on what *needs* to be done, starting today.”

Time is certainly running out. In 2018, the [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#) released a [Special Report](#) indicating the need for broader and more urgent action, as climate change was found to be accelerating at a faster pace than previously expected. This could severely affect our Common Home’s capacity to support life systems by 2030. As such, Ecojesuit and partners strongly support the [Global Climate Strike](#) activities, 20-27 September 2019, and encourages all to take urgent and sustained climate action.

The Global Climate Strike is a strategic and opportune time to encourage local and global leaders to embark in greater efforts to address the climate emergency. Millions around the world will engage in climate action at the same time as leaders and representatives of communities, civil society, governments, and businesses convene for the [UN General Assembly](#) on 17-30 September, which includes events the [Youth Climate Summit](#), 21 September, the [Climate Action Summit](#), 23 September, and the [SDG Summit](#), 24-25 September. [Regional Climate Weeks](#) were also held in preparation: [Africa Climate Week](#) in Accra, Ghana, 18-22 March, [Latin America and Caribbean Climate Week](#) in Salvador, Brazil, 19-23 August, [Asia-Pacific Climate Week](#) in Bangkok, Thailand, 2-6 September.

Ecojesuit and partners are engaging in several dimensions. First, we continue to engage in climate strike activities through our education institutes. Institutes that joined previous climate strikes include [St Aloysius College](#) in Australia, [Gonzaga College and Belvedere College](#) in Ireland, [Universidad Pontificia Comillas](#) in Spain, and [Apu Palamguwan Cultural Education Center](#) in the Philippines. We encourage schools, universities, and all places of learning to hold dialogues, discussions, and other educational activities that support the strike. Action need not always begin on the streets; it can be in the classroom and at home.

Second, through media channels and networks, we are sharing news and materials on the climate emergency and the different actions our institutes and partners are undertaking. This is being done by [Ecojesuit](#), [Ignatian Solidarity Network](#), [Global Catholic Climate Movement](#), and many more. We invite others to join, together we can communicate a message of hope.

Third, we are collaborating with others in solidarity for the youth and future generations. For example, a Jesuit /Ignatian delegation participated in the [UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development](#) in New York in July, where they reviewed the progress on the [SDGs](#) with partners and discussed possible action points. This included [SDG 13](#) on Climate Action. In October, together with the Church, we will hear from Indigenous Peoples around the world in the [Synod for the Pan-Amazon Region](#). This is of primary importance as they are the ones who watch over the tropical rainforests and waters in the Amazon, Congo Basin, Asia-Pacific, and other areas that protect us from the worsening impact of climate change. In December, we will continue to engage in the annual [UN Climate Change Conference \(COP\)](#), where Jesuits have been involved since the [1992 Rio Earth Summit](#).

We welcome more people and institutions to join us in implementing processes of change for our climate and Common Home. The [Universal Apostolic Preferences](#) identifies joint actions as essential, and we would deeply appreciate learning about how others are engaging and discerning how we can work together. Those interested may support this statement and inform us of their climate strike activity/ies by visiting [this link](#). “May our struggles and our concern for this planet never take away the joy of our hope.” (Laudato Si’ 244)