



COP26 and Beyond

The shared mission of climate justice

“The annual UN Climate Change Conference, COP26, ended in Glasgow a few days ago with unsatisfactory gains. Without losing hope, let us continue to walk with the vulnerable and work more vigorously, in advocacy with decision-makers for policy reform in favour of climate justice. Without waiting for political leaders to act, let us do what we must. As responsible citizens of this planet, let us together commit to do our part to care for our Common Home.” (Father General Arturo Sosa SJ, 6 December 2021)

The 26th Conference of the Parties (COP26) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change wrapped up with the release of the [Glasgow Climate Pact](#), outlining the decisions, agreements, and commitments made that are inadequate responses to the gravity of the socioecological crisis and the suffering of those bearing its impacts, with real action, transparency, and accountability falling short. The last-minute change to the pact softening the language of “coal phase-out” to “coal phase-down” is also a major undermining of the process.

Given the present commitments, nothing will change in the next 20 years for the most vulnerable in the margins where communities already experience the brunt of climate impacts and ecological degradation, as they lose their homes, livelihoods, and overall security to the impacts of the climate crisis. The refusal of top emitters to take accountability for loss and damage is a manifestation of climate colonialism in a modern context, rooted in a history of exploitation which is also prevalent at a national level.

Yet, there is genuine hope drawn from the commitment shown by the youth, the indigenous, and faith groups, to share a more long-term and inclusive vision of care for humanity and all life that is part of God’s creation. The UN global forum is the only political space we have to negotiate the global responsibility and there are many committed people working in the process. The challenge is to broadly

include all voices in global processes, make more transparent the influences of the corporate political lobby and their more just and needed contribution. While stressing the global dynamic, we must humbly acknowledge that we are part of our own national colonialism, and we face this with a deeper commitment for change through human development where all are recognized.

In a [video statement](#) after COP26 closed, UN Secretary-General António Guterres shared that “the COP26 outcome is a compromise, reflecting the interests, contradictions and state of political will in the world today. It’s an important step, but it’s not enough. It’s time to go into emergency mode.”

In the light of what Father Sosa said to “do what we must,” we strengthen our personal, community and institutional actions for a better world as we listen to the voices in the journey of synodality. Engaging with the seven Laudato Si’ goals of the [Laudato Si’ Action Platform](#) is an obvious path for growing together in the journey to integral ecology. **Ecojesuit working with this has the primary goal of joining the local to the global while the thrust is to advocate for climate justice.** We sustain our involvement in global discussions and platforms **by supporting the work and daily advocacies of Jesuit ministries, ensuring the active and meaningful participation of youth, Indigenous Peoples and all at the margins, and broadening interfaith collaboration**, thus deepening discernment and our commitment in caring for the Common Home.

Father Sosa challenges us to act creatively from where we are and engage globally in these six themes coming from the COP process through the Jesuit Conferences to take up the lead and echo the message of integral ecology and integrity:

- 1. Pushing for political accountability**
- 2. Lobbying for the just transition to clean energy**
- 3. Adapting with agroecology and food systems as a culture-based solution for climate justice**
- 4. Calling for transparency on climate finance and accountability for loss & damage**
- 5. Promoting the contribution of Indigenous Peoples in the protection of biodiversity**
- 6. Seeking greater responsibility for the oceans, highlighted by ocean states poorly represented**

Ecojesuit is strengthened in its collaboration with all faiths, the youth, and the indigenous, drawing from our faith to continue to respond to the call for climate justice, to keep the goal of 1.5°C, and to steadfastly amplify the cry of the Earth and the poor at the climate frontiers. Together we are challenged to respond to Father Sosa's call to take "bold action to address the crisis affecting our common home...and to dismantle structures of injustice...as our contribution to a more fraternal, just, and sustainable world," through our shared mission of climate justice.



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Ecojesuit COP26 Delegate Network Members

1. Brex Arevalo – Ecojesuit
2. Rev. James Shri Bhagwan – Pacific Conference of Churches
3. Rigobert Minani Bihuzo SJ - Centre d'Etude Pour l'Action Sociale
4. Ann Marie Brennan – Christian Life Community
5. Adolfo Canales - Jesuit European Social Centre
6. Mateusz Ciasnocha – European Carbon Farmers
7. Dr. Siji Chacko SJ – Jesuit Conference of South Asia
8. Charles Chilufya SJ – Jesuit Justice and Ecology Network Africa
9. Paul Chitnis – Jesuit Missions, Britain
10. Charles Dhinakaran - Jesuit Conference of South Asia
11. Aaron Durnbaugh – Loyola University Chicago
12. Ngonidzashe Edward SJ – Catholic Youth Network on Environmental Sustainability in Africa
13. Bryan Galligan SJ - Jesuit Justice and Ecology Network Africa
14. Edmond Grace SJ - Jesuit European Social Centre
15. Dr. Mark Hathaway - Jesuit Forum for Social Faith and Justice
16. Xavier Jeyaraj SJ – Social Justice & Ecology Secretariat
17. Lumnesh Swaroop Kumar SJ – Ecojesuit
18. Luiz Felipe Barboza Lacerda – Observatório Nacional de Justiça Socioambiental Luciano Mendes de Almeida
19. Gabriel Lamug-Nañawa SJ - Jesuit Conference of Asia Pacific
20. Mark Mackey SJ - Loyola University Chicago
21. Martina Madden - Jesuit Centre for Faith and Justice and Irish Jesuits International
22. Sue Martin – Jesuit Conference of Asia Pacific
23. Telmo Olascoaga Michel - Jesuit European Social Centre
24. Dr. Ciara Murphy – Jesuit Centre for Faith and Justice
25. Nicholas Napolitano – USA East Province of the Jesuits
26. Fala Valery Ngong SJ - Social Justice & Ecology Secretariat
27. Efa Ravelonantoandro - Centre Arrupe Madagascar
28. Victor Reyes – Canadian Jesuits International
29. Br. Stephen Power SJ – Jesuit Missions, Britain
30. Valeria Méndez de Vigo - Social Justice & Ecology Secretariat
31. Maria Virginia Solis Wahnish – The Economy of Francesco

Ecojesuit Secretariat Team

1. Raiza Javier
2. Maricel de Jesus
3. Gel Malibunas
4. Criselle Mejillano
5. Sylvia Miclat
6. Rowena Soriaga
7. Pedro Walpole SJ



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Annex A: Developing and strengthening ecology mission in the Conferences

Conference programs that are developing already contribute to forming the six themes above, and as we continue to network, the hope is that different Conferences will be taking up the lead for different actions while participating in others to bring together our effort with others locally and regionally for greater global impact.

The Jesuit Justice and Ecology Network Africa (JENA) in the Jesuit Conference of Africa and Madagascar is focusing on [six change goals](#), and can share and invite people from a global perspective to connect, such as on climate justice and food security.

The Integral Ecology Group of the Social Centers Network in the Jesuit Conference of Latin America and the Caribbean (Grupo de Ecología Integral de la Red de Centros Sociales-Conferencia de Provinciales en América Latina y Caribe) also have their [programs of action](#) that can connect more.

The Office of Justice and Ecology in the Jesuit Conference of Canada and the US strengthens the Ignatian advocacy in their integrated work for justice in seven areas: criminal justice, economic justice, environmental justice, indigenous truth and healing, Latin American human rights, migration, and shareholder advocacy.

At the Jesuit Conference of Asia Pacific, the Reconciliation with Creation group, with other Conference ministries, joined the effort of the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS)-Asia Pacific in marking their 40th anniversary through the 40-4-40 Growing Canopies, Strengthening Communities, a program for the next three years where partner communities grow 40,000 trees to strengthen social and ecological systems. The Conference is also advancing agroecology as a culture-based solution for climate justice in Asia Pacific that is also going global.

The Jesuit European Social Centre in the Jesuit Conference of European Provincials supports the advocacy work on integral ecology of Jesuits and partners through their ecology newsletter, Eco-bites, linking with the European Laudato Si' Alliance, re-connecting with the youth through eco-camps and interfaith youth conventions, and engaging with business as a response to the call of Laudato Si' to dialogue, [key insights of which are shared](#) in the recently launched publication Business and the Earth: A Reflection on Laudato Si'.

At the Jesuit Conference of South Asia, individual Jesuits and Provinces formed the Jesuit Ecological Network (Ecojesuits) to take action on their "eco-mission" to promote collective responsibility to care, nurture, and sustain the Earth and its resources, especially for those in the margins, and manifested in lifestyle and action. Active engagements are in these areas of work: biodiversity, sustainable management, sustainable agriculture, renewable energy, eco-education, eco-spirituality, climate justice, eco-research, and policy engagement.