



United Nations
Climate Change



COP29
Baku
Azerbaijan

COP29 Side Event: Faith and Justice in Ecological Transition

- Concept Note -

Theme: Integrated and Holistic Approaches

Presentation of alternatives for a genuinely just ecological transition as required by climate justice following Catholic Social Teaching, encompassing clear policy guidelines, technology transfer mechanisms, and capacity building: training, education, and social safeguards to support the transition.

Modality

This is an in-person panel held in the Blue Zone at COP29. Virtual participation is available for registered COP participants. A recording of the event will be available following the session.

When: Thursday, November 21, 16:45 - 18:15 local time

Where: Blue Zone, Side Event Room 6, Baku Stadium

Co-Organizers:

Congregation of Our Lady of Mount Carmel (Carmelite NGO), Laudato Si Movement (LSM), UNANIMA International, Society of Catholic Medical Missionaries (SCMM), VIVAT International, Jeunesse Étudiante Catholique Internationale (JECI-IYCS), Catholic Youth Network for Environmental Sustainability in Africa (CYNESA)

Overview:

The 29th Conference of Parties Summit (COP29) is an important moment for countries to signal their intent to set more ambitious emissions reduction targets next year, strengthen their action on adaptation, demonstrate progress on previous pledges, and commit more financial and other support to countries grappling with loss and damage from climate impacts.

Accelerating the transition to renewable energies is key to achieving these priorities at COP29. Based on science and academic contributions, such as the reports of the Panel of Experts on Climate Change (IPCC) or the International Energy Agency (IEA), the problem of anthropogenic

climate change and its global impacts must be solved by abandoning fossil fuels in all sectors. While COP28 failed to be a turning point in this sense in many ways, COP29 represents another opportunity to drive progress on this pressing issue.

In light of these realities, this side event seeks to assess advances, setbacks, and gaps in climate change mitigation, adaptation, and resilience efforts through the lens of Catholic Social Teaching climate justice concerns. The event also seeks to uplift and share key recommendations in line with Catholic Social Teaching, which would support an accelerated and genuinely just ecological transition. Speakers will highlight alternative, holistic approaches to climate justice through clear policy guidelines, technology transfer mechanisms, and capacity-building initiatives, including training, education, and social safeguards. By committing to a just transition framework on this pivotal occasion of COP29, parties will promote the equitable distribution of resources and responsibilities and ensure that global climate efforts are effective and equitable, aligning with the broader goals of sustainable development and global solidarity.

This side event will aim to respond to all or some of these questions:

1) Catholic Social Teaching illumination on the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) on Climate Finance and related discussions:

- a) What outcomes should be expected under NCQG discussions regarding finance gaps and the debt burden of developing countries?
- b) Why should carbon finance (the carbon market) be kept separate from climate finance (funding for adaptation and mitigation to climate change)?
- c) What is the significance of the estimated trillions in reparations owed to developing countries, considering that 100 billion is merely a symbolic baseline?
- d) Who should receive the reparations for climate change impacts, particularly those on the frontlines suffering the most?
- e) How should progress on NCQG be guided by the principles of just transition, including equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capacities (CBDR-RC)?
- f) What historical responsibility do developed countries bear for causing climate change, as emphasized by the "common but differentiated responsibilities" principle endorsed by the G7 group and other developing countries?
- g) According to Article 2.1c of the Paris Agreement, what should financial flows be consistent with in general, and how does this relate to NCQG negotiations?
- h) What approach should be taken regarding different types of finance and investment in fossil fuels during NCQG negotiations?

2) Catholic Social Teaching illumination on the Mitigation Ambition and Implementation Work Programme (known as Mitigation Working Program—MWP) and NDCs-related discussions:

- a) What is the significance of the Global Stocktake document being a “menu of options” in the context of just ecological transition?
- b) How can we contribute to developing, at all negotiation levels, an acceleration of just ecological/energy transition in four sectors: fossil fuels, energy efficiency, renewable energies, and education on lifestyles less dependent on fossil fuels?
- c) Why should Catholic communities support calls for countries to fulfill their responsibilities and phase out fossil fuels?
- d) How do Faith-based communities encourage Parties to incorporate the best available science when developing their NDCs?
- e) Why should there be a specific emphasis on more ambitious NDCs, particularly related to fossil fuel phase-out, especially in global north oil producer countries?
- f) What role does monitoring historical polluters play in ensuring their acknowledgment of responsibility and commitment to phasing out fossil fuels in their NDCs?
- g) Why should carbon capture, storage technologies, and climate geoengineering initiatives be avoided?
- h) What is the rationale behind avoiding support for initiatives focused on phasing out unabated or inefficient fossil fuel subsidies?

Speakers:

- Renato Rallo, Carmelite NGO (Moderator)
- Teresia Gitau, CYNESA
- Fabian Onyekachi Adindu, VIVAT International
- Liana Almony, UNANIMA International
- Ben Wilson, SCIAF
- Roy Ibrahim, IYCS-JECI

About the Participants

Renato Rallo, Carmelite NGO (Moderator)



Renato Rallo, PhD in Energy and Natural Resources, works in the energy field and is part of Carmelite NGO Climate Change and Sustainability Committee.

Teresia Gitau, CYNESA

Fabian Onyekachi Adindu, VIVAT International



Kachi Adindu C.S.Sp. has for long been active in the movement for integral renewal of the face of the earth through social justice, peace and integrity of creation.

His passion for eco-justice dates back to his days of study of Geo-informatics at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, with his thesis entitled **Ecocide: Quest for Identikit**. He is a member of the Nigerian Environmental Study/Action Team. As a frontline human rights defender, he rose to become the regional leader of Amnesty International, Group 23, Nigeria.

Kachi founded the **United Nations Simulation Society of Nigeria**; an advocacy and peer-driven think tank stimulating thematic discussions on issues of global concerns among young people in Nigeria. A UNICEF Children's Right consultant, he was one of the four experts commissioned by the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development of Nigeria to draft the policy and implementation instruments for the domestication of Child Rights Acts of Nigeria.

For years, he represented the Spiritans of the United Kingdom at the Brussel-based African-European Faith and Justice Network. Before assuming his current role at VIVAT International, he worked among the Syrian refugees quartered in IDP camps and homes around the Turkish border towns of Kylis and Sanliurfa.

Trained as an International Lawyer and Diplomat and certified under Faith, Environment and Climate Change programme of the United Nations Environment Programme, Kachi represents

VIVAT International at United Nations Office in Geneva where he continues to engage in robust advocacy on issues of global concerns. He is currently rounding off his doctorate on International Law and Treaty Law with specialisation on Right to Development

Kachi holds fellowship and membership of various professional bodies including:

- Fellow – Institute of Human and Natural Resources, Nigeria
- Fellow – Institute of Education Management, Nigeria
- Member – Nigeria Institute of International Affairs
- Member – Justice UK (*UK branch of International Commission of Jurists, a global body dedicated to the primacy, coherence and implementation of international law and principles that advance human rights*)

Ben Wilson, SCIAF



Ben is Director of Public Engagement for SCIAF, the Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund, Caritas Scotland. Ben is responsible for SCIAF's fundraising, community engagement, development education, communications and political advocacy. Since 2017, Ben has led SCIAF's climate justice advocacy works, with a particular focus on Loss & Damage. He holds a PhD from the University of Glasgow in development sociology and is a trustee of Scotland's International Development Alliance and Stop Climate Chaos Scotland. He has since 2021 advised the Vatican on the UNFCCC, and was a member of the Holy See delegation to COP28



Liana Almony, UNANIMA International

Liana Almony (USA) is the Deputy Director of UNANIMA International, a nongovernmental organization which educates and influences global policymakers by bringing the voices, concerns, and experiences of their global grassroots network to the floor of the UN.

As a civil society representative to the UN, Liana advocates for holistic global policymaking through a human rights-based approach on behalf of women and girls, migrants, and the environment. She is Chair of the NGO Committee for Social Development, and serves as Secretary on the Executive Committee of the NGO Committee on Migration. Previously, Liana's work with organizations like the Wilson Center and Cause Communications sparked a passion for cause-driven work through impactful storytelling. Liana holds a Master's degree in International Relations and a concentration in International Law from New York University, where she acted as President of the International Relations and Politics Association and Deputy Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Political Inquiry. She also holds a Bachelor's degree in Political Science with a concentration in International Relations, and a double minor in Global Studies and Digital Media Studies, from the University of California Los Angeles.

Roy Ibrahim, IYCS-JECI