



Side Event Program

CATHOLIC PERSPECTIVES AT COP 27

Climate and Biodiversity Justice from the Faith perspective: what's next?

Tutankhamun Room, Blue Zone, COP 27

Nov 17th, 11:30 am to 1:00 pm

[Register now!](#)

[Watch on line on YouTube](#)

[Final Climate Justice Statement](#)

[Endorsement Form of the Statement](#)

Overall Goal

- Progress assessment of COP 27 negotiations or final document.
- Assessment of advances, setbacks and gaps and setting up demands, according to the Catholic Social Teaching climate justice concerns.

Concept

The tools of science show us that the two greatest ecological challenges are Climate Change (CC) and Biodiversity Collapse (BC). These are assumed by the Catholic Social Teaching as is clearly manifested by the new film “*The Letter: A Message for our Earth*”. From this and the moral theological principles gathered in the Pope Francis’ encyclical letter *Laudato Si’*, some related Climate and Biodiversity justice issues stem: loss & damage, just transition, women & gender justice, human rights, mitigation & adaptation, fair financing & just economics, among others. They all are brought together in this round table dialogue to assess the gaps and the weaknesses, the success and strengths that are expected to arise in the COP 27 final document/negotiations. Concerns and hopes are to be stated in a Catholic Climate Justice Statement.

OPENING

11:30

Screening of “The Letter” [trailer](#)

11:33

Innocent Odongo (IYSC), moderator

“Welcoming words, concept and meaning of the side event”

11:36

TO SEE

Fr Eduardo Agosta Scarel, O. Carm. (Carmelite NGO / LSM)

“Climate Change science-based challenges, the Social Teaching of the Church and present concerns”

11:40



**On behalf of the Government of Colombia,
"COLOMBIA'S PROPOSALS FOR COP 27"**

11:44

TO JUDGE

Damian Spruce (Caritas Australia)

"Climate Change Financing, to what extent COP 27 has tackled the issue"

11:48

Ogonna Hilary Nwainya (Boston College)

"Creative dialogue between Laudato Si' and ecofeminism to promote environmental justice"

11:52

Ben Wilson, (SCIAF)

"Climate Change related to Loss & Damage".

11:56

Lara Hicks (UNANIMA International)

"Climate Change related to Women, gender and displacements"

12:00

Prisca Koffi (IYCS)

"Climate Anxiety in the young people"

12:04

TO ACT

Fr Paul Rahmat, SVD (VIVAT International)

"Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience: Innovative Efforts in Response to Water Scarcity and Catastrophe due to Climate Crises – Lessons learned from the Philippines and Indonesia"

12:10

Prince Papa (LSM)

"Catholic Climate Mobilization in Africa"

12:14

Sara Bernard-Hoverstad (Boston College)

"Climate Ethics, Social Movements, and Moral Agency"

12:18

María Amparo Alonso Escobar (Caritas Internationalis)

"Climate changes adaptation related issues"

12:22

Q&A

Q&A from the floor led by Innocent Odongo

12:42

CLIMATE JUSTICE STATEMENT

Presentation of the Catholic Climate Justice Statement (CCJS)

Led by Prince Papa (LSM) & Innocent Odongo (IYCS)

12:52

Endorsement of the CCJS

12:53



Concluding remarks and farewell words:
Led by Fr Eduardo Agosta Scarel (Carmelite NGO / LSM)

12:59



PARTICIPANTS' BIOGRAPHIES (alphabetical order)

Fr Eduardo Agosta Scarel, O. Carm., (Carmelite NGO - LSM)

Fr Eduardo is a friar of the Carmelite Province of Aragon, Castile and Valencia, Spain. He lives in Onda, diocese of Segorbe-Castellón, Spain, where he collaborates with educational, social, and pastoral activities. He is Senior Advisor of the *Laudato Si'* Movement in Spain and Latin America. He is a Doctor of the University of Buenos Aires in Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences; a volunteer member of the coordinating team of the Carmelite NGO, of the International Commission for Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation of the Carmelite Order (Rome); he collaborates with the Dicastery for the Promotion of Integral Human Development and the Argentinean Episcopal Conference, has advised on environmental issues to the Latin American Episcopal Council (CELAM). Eduardo has extensive experience in climate variability and climate change; he is the author of numerous scientific articles in the field of climate science and in integral ecology; he is a university professor and a climate scientist (National Scientific and Technology Research Council, Argentina).



María Amparo Alonso Escobar (Caritas Internationalis)

Since 2020 and currently, Maria Amparo Alonso Escobar is CI Head of Advocacy and Campaigns (NY, Geneva and Rome), previously, Director of Caritas Internationalis Permanent Office to the United Nations, in Geneva, dealing with international relations and multilateral affairs (2016-2020). Out of her 26 years of working experience, she has dedicated 15 years to Africa, at grassroots level, in more than 14 countries in the African continent, with a focus on integral development and agro ecology programs, capacity building, human rights, communication and management. She has collaborated with several Universities, and civil society organizations' training programmes, as Rioja University's UNESCO chair, through OIDEI training programmes to public officials on integral human development and Agenda 2030 (2017-2022).



Sara Bernard-Hoverstad (Boston College)

Sara is a final-year doctoral candidate in Theological Ethics at Boston College (United States). Her dissertation is entitled "From Religious Cosmology to Environmental Praxis: Empowering Agency for Sustainable Social Change," and is focused on the intersection of environmental ethics, moral agency, and social movements. She holds an M.T.S in Theological Studies from Boston College and a B.S. in





Pure Mathematics from Seattle University. For the past four years, Sara has served the global network of theological ethicists, Catholic Theological Ethics in the World Church, as its director of communications.

Ben Wilson (SCIAF)

Ben Wilson is Partner Advocacy Officer at the Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund (SCIAF). His role is focused on supporting SCIAF's partners in Asia, Latin America and Africa in their domestic advocacy & campaigning, and connecting local movements with global efforts to lobby for long-term structural change. Ben's interests & experience relate in particular to climate justice (in particular Loss & Damage), participation, democracy and decolonization. He holds a PhD in Sociology from the University of Glasgow, which took a post-development approach to critically reflect on Scotland's relationship with Malawi.



Lara Hicks (UNANIMA International)

Lara is the Executive Assistant/Assistant UN Representative for UNANIMA International. She completed a Master of Public Administration degree in 2021 and earned a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations in 2020 (graduating as a University Scholar), both from Syracuse University. While completing her graduate coursework at Syracuse, Lara interned with UNANIMA International and contributed to climate-displacement research and advocacy efforts for events such as the UN Permanent Forum for Indigenous Issues. Before her time at UNANIMA, Lara served as the Assistant Manager for Adult and Family Programs for a refugee resettlement nonprofit organization and interned at the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative. In addition to her experiences with civil society, global governance, and displacement, Lara has advocated for survivors of relationship violence and human trafficking in the communities she calls home.



Prisca Koffi (IYCS International)

Prisca works as a Regional Coordinator of the Young Catholic Student in Africa. She works with youth in 34 countries in Africa. Her work consists of fundraising, project writing, capacity building of members and advocacy on all issues that affect youth.





Ogonna Hilary Nwainya (Boston College)

Hilary is a priest and mediator. After studies in Nigeria and Ireland, he is now completing his doctoral studies at Boston College, USA. His interests include environmental and ecological ethics, fundamental moral theology, human rights, inculturation theologies, indigenous peoples, race, social ethics, war, peace, and peacebuilding. Hilary's doctoral research focuses on the centrality of recognition to Catholic social ethics.



Innocent Odongo (IYCS International)

Innocent brings vast Leadership and Management experience. In the IYCS Fraternity, Innocent Odongo is currently the IYCS Secretary General. Mr. Odongo has in the past served in various roles in the Movement including Regional Coordinator for IYCS Africa and National Coordinator in YCS Uganda. Mr. Odongo is also currently an advisor of the Global Youth in Faith Caucus of the Major Group for Children and Youth, a space mandated to amplify the voices of faith-based children, youth and organizations at United Nations Conferences including the United Nations Climate Change Conference. He is also a member of the Steering Committee of Laudato Si Generation. Innocent is a Passion Innovator, Strategist, and Facilitator committed to using his expertise, network, and ingenuity to make a difference among the youth and communities.



Damian Spruce (Caritas Australia)

Dr Damian Spruce is Advocacy Associate Director of Caritas Australia, and a member of the Vaka of Caritas Oceania. The recent focus of his team's work has been on climate finance and debt in Oceania, collaborating with Pacific civil society on the Kioa Climate Emergency Declaration. He has a background as a lawyer, policy adviser and chief of staff, and has been a director of fire and emergency service agencies.



Prince Papa (LSM)

Activist, justice campaigner and co-founder of 350 Kenya Power Shift, (a non-violent justice youth movement in Kenya). He has over 15 years' experience in movements building, coalitions management and campaigning both offline and online. He previously worked with 350.org as Sub Saharan Field organizer, working directly with frontline communities fighting the fossil fuels industry. He is also a commissioner with





the Catholic Justice and Peace Commission-Kenya. He currently serves as the Board Chairperson for deCOALonize Kenya coalition.

Fr Paul Rahmat, SVD (VIVAT International)

Paulus Rahmat SVD (called Paul) is a member of the Society of the Divine Word. He is the main representative of NGO VIVAT International to the United Nations. He was the coordinator of the Commission for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation of the Indonesian SVD Java Province from 2008 to 2017 and director of VIVAT International-Indonesia from 2012 to 2020. From June 2020 up to the present, he has worked at the VIVAT International headquarters office in New York. He graduated in Peacebuilding and Conflict Transformation at the Eastern Mennonite University (EMU) in Virginia, US.





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