

**Statement
of Faith and Spiritual Leaders**
on the upcoming
United Nations Climate Change Conference, COP21
in Paris in December 2015



We raise our voices to the governments represented at COP21 in Paris to utilize the special momentum given on this highly significant occasion: COP21 provides a critical opportunity to benefit the whole of the human community. For the first time in over 20 years of UN negotiations, a global and comprehensive agreement on climate justice and climate protection – supported from all the nations of the world – can be reached.

We as religious leaders: “stand together to express deep concern for the consequences of climate change on the earth and its people, all entrusted, as our faiths reveal, to our common care. Climate change is indeed a threat to life. Life is a precious gift we have received and that we need to care for”¹.

Together we confirm:

Our religious convictions and cosmological narratives tell us that this earth and the whole universe are gifts that we have received from the spring of life, from God. It is our obligation to respect, protect and sustain these gifts by all means.

Therefore:

- **COP21 is the right moment to translate ecological stewardship into concrete climate action.**

Our religious convictions and traditions tell us of the ethical rule of reciprocity: to treat others as we would like them to treat us. This includes future generations. It is our duty to leave this earth behind to our children and grandchildren to ensure sustainable and acceptable living conditions in future for all.

Therefore:

- **COP21 is the right moment for showing inter-generational responsibility.**

Our religious convictions, social codes and customs tell us about concern for the vulnerable: climate change is leading to unprecedented ecological degradation, affecting in particular the lives and livelihoods of the most vulnerable populations. It is an irrefutable moral duty for all governments to agree on concrete and measurable steps towards global climate justice and partnerships for climate resilience.

Therefore:

- **COP21 is the right time for ensuring climate justice.**

¹ See Statement from the Interfaith Summit in New York, 21-22 September 2014, by the World Council of Churches Geneva and Religions for Peace, New York: <http://interfaithclimate.org/the-statement>

Our religious convictions and ancestral sources tell us human life is open to the possibility of change and renewal: we are convinced that human life is not doomed to self-destruction, but can exist in respect and harmony with nature. By forging good relationships with each other and with nature, we enhance our capacity for peace and transformation. Avoiding dangerous climate change is still possible if we accept the required fundamental shift away from a carbon-centered economy, unsustainable consumption and infinite economic growth and if we promote the phasing-out of fossil fuels by the middle of the century.

Therefore:

- **COP21 is the right time to initiate an unprecedented individual and structural transformation.**

Our religious convictions and traditions point to the relevance of theology for informing new models of development with social and ecological justice. Aware that governments and political agreements alone are not sufficient for the immense challenges ahead – our faith communities can provide solid grounding, moral support, ethical education and value-based sustainable development models which are needed for the global transformation process. As representatives of the majority of the global population who live with religious affiliations and values, we will not only hold leaders to account, but will also support politicians working towards an ambitious global climate agreement in Paris and beyond.

Therefore:

- **COP21 is the right moment for real and visionary leadership.**

**We call for a fair, ambitious and binding global deal
applicable to all countries:**

- A long-term goal to phase out greenhouse gas emissions and phase in 100% renewable energy by the middle of the century in order to stay below 1.5/2°C of warming above pre-industrial levels.
- The firm commitment of all states to constantly improve their nationally determined climate action, in accordance with the Rio principles.
- A rules based system, applicable to all, ensuring transparency, accountability, and a strong review and scaling up of climate action at least every five years.
- A climate resilience goal to ensure adequate support to those countries and people being threatened by climate risks and losses. This would strengthen their resilience and adaptive capacity to the impact of climate change (accompanying the extension and intensification of the work of the Warsaw International Mechanism).
- The provision of necessary financial support, technology transfer and capacity building, with a reliable pathway ensuring the mobilization of at least \$100 billion of international climate finance. This must be provided every year to developing countries, in particular the most vulnerable countries like small developing island states and least developed countries to support low carbon and climate resilient development.

We call on all governments, and in particular the G20, all OECD members, high income countries and other major emitters:

- to commit to nationally binding, ambitious short term emission reduction targets.
- to commit to national climate risk management measures.
- to commit to the provision of bold support to those countries and people who have less resources and capacity, starting with the most vulnerable.

Climate action must not be limited to governments alone.

It is the responsibility of all of us to share the efforts.

We as faith and spiritual leaders commit to:

- Follow the example set by faith based communities who are joining the global pilgrimage for climate justice² and those participating in regular acts of fasting for climate justice.³
- Be responsible for the Earth, our common home, in our lives as individuals and in our faith communities.
- Look at our consumption patterns and move towards sustainable practices and lifestyles, assessing the carbon footprints of our organizations and institutions as well as means to reduce them, explore and implement zero carbon strategies, and where appropriate, divest from fossil fuels.
- Assess climate risks affecting our communities, prepare for the prevention and reduction of these risks, encouraging the communities to set climate resilience targets by 2025 and take the actions needed to adapt to the impact of climate change.
- Undertake a constant effort to raise climate awareness within our communities, as an expression of our care for the Earth, deepening our understanding of the interconnectedness of human beings and nature, building capacity, and advocating for climate justice with our governments.

² https://www.oikoumene.org/en/press-centre/news/pilgrims-for-climate-justice-plan-to-impact-cop-21-in-paris?set_language=en

³ <http://fastfortheclimate.org/>

| Name/Surname | Organisation | Title/Role | Country/Continent |
|----------------------------|---|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Pedro Barreto Jimeno, S.J. | Red Eclesial Panamazónica | Archbishop Diocese Huancayo | International |
| Rev Dr Olav Fykse Tveit | World Council of Churches | General Secretary | International |
| Nduna John | ACT Alliance | Secretary General | International |
| Rev Dr Martin Junge | Lutheran World Federation | General Secretary | International |
| Bernd Nilles | Coopération Internationale pour le Développement et la Solidarité (CIDSE) | Secretary General | International |
| Mattias Söderberg | Avisory Group on Climate Change Advocacy (ACT Alliance) | Co-Chair | International |
| Mary Ann Swenson | United Methodist Church | Bishop | International |
| Dr William Vendley | Religions for Peace | Secretary General | International |
| Rev Gloria Ulloa | World Council of Churches | President for Latin America | Latin America |
| Dr Agnes Abuom | World Council of Churches | Moderator of Central Committee | Africa |
| Archbishop Gabriel Anoyke | Symposium of the Episcopal Conferences of Africa and Madagascar (SECAM) | Vice-President | Africa |
| Floris Faber | ACT Alliance Europe | Director | Europe |
| Martyn | Goss European Christian Environmental Network | Chairperson | Europe |
| Sister Jayanti Karplani | Brahma Kumaris | Representative for Europe | Europe |
| Luis María Alman Bornes | Iglesia Anabautista Menonita de Buenos Aires | Moderador | Argentina |
| Frank de Nully Brown | Iglesia Evangélica Metodista Argentina | Obispo | Argentina |
| Carlos A. Duarte Voelker | Iglesia Evangélica del Río de la Plata | Pastor Presidente | Argentina |
| Daniel Favaro | Vida y Misión Iglesia Evangélica Metodista Argentina | Secretario General | Argentina |
| Luis Macchi | Iglesia Discípulos de Cristo | Presidente | Argentina |
| Néstor Miguez | Federación Argentina de Iglesias Evangélicas | Presidente | Argentina |
| Héctor Petrecca | Iglesia Cristiana Bíblica | Presidente | Argentina |
| Dr. Nazaryan Karen | WCC Armenia Inter-Church | Executive Director | Armenia |
| Stuart McMillan | Charitable Round Table Foundation Uniting Church in Australia | President | Australia |
| Joyanta Adhikari | Christian Commission for Development Bangladesh (CCDB) | Secretary General | Bangladesh |
| Rev Baroi Ashin | Bangladesh Baptist Church Sangha | General Secretary | Bangladesh |
| Rev Das David | National Council of Churches in Bangladesh | General Secretary | Bangladesh |
| Theotonius Gomes | Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus of Dhaka | Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus | Bangladesh |
| Sarker Paul | National Council of Churches in Bangladesh | President | Bangladesh |
| Bakul Santoshita Chakma | Chittagong Hill Tracts Jumma Refugees welfare Association | General Secretary | Bangladesh |

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|-----------------------------|--|--|--------------------------|
| Guy Liagre | Conference of European Churches | General Secretary | Belgium |
| Rob van Drimmelen | United Protstant Church Belgium | | Belgium |
| Emilio Aslla Flores | Iglesia Evangélica Luterana Bolivia | Presidente | Bolivia |
| Augusto Mamani | Iglesia Presbiteriana Independiente de Bolivia | Presidente | Bolivia |
| Miguel Mendoza Mamani | Iglesia Bautistas Aymara de Bolivia | Presidente | Bolivia |
| Avelino Vargas Mamani | Iglesia Metodista Pentecostal de Bolivia | Obispo | Bolivia |
| Joana D. Arc Meirales | Iglesia Metodista do Brasil | Secretriá Ejecutiva | Brasil |
| Arthur D. Cavalcante | Iglesia Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil | Secretario General | Brasil |
| Francisco de Asis Silva | Iglesia Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil | Obispo primado | Brasil |
| Mauro Mohnschmidt | Igreja Evangelica Congregacional de Brasil | Pastor Presidente | Brasil |
| Rev. Dr Karin Achtelstetter | World Association for Christian Communication | | Canada |
| Susan Johnson | Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada | National Bishop | Canada |
| Anthony Krotki | Roman Catholic Diocese of Churchill Hudson Bay | Bishop | Canada |
| Mark MacDonald | WCC President for North America | Bishop | Canada |
| Arianne Van Andel | Centro Ecuménico Diego de Medellín | Theologian | Chile |
| Juan Alberto Cardona Gómez | Iglesia Colombiana Metodista | Obispo | Colombia |
| Milton Mejia | Latin American Council of Churches | General Secretary | Colombia |
| Jairo Suarez | Iglesia Evangelica Luterna de Colombia | Coordinador de Programa y proyectos de Diaconia | Colombia |
| Gilberto Quezada | Lutheran Church in Costa Rica | President | Costa Rica |
| Dopico Joel Ortega | Comisión de Iglesias en Cuba | President | Cuba |
| Peter Fischer Møller | Bishop of Roskilde | | Denmark |
| Rev. Erik Gadegaard | Danish Council of Churches | Chairman | Denmark |
| AgnesHaugaard | National Council of Churches in Denmark | | Denmark |
| Henrik Stubkjær | Bishop of Viborg | | Denmark |
| Birgitte Qvist-Sørensen | DanChurch Aid | General Secretary | Denmark |
| David Alvarado | Anglican Church in El Salvador | Bishop | El Salvador |
| Medardo Gomez | Lutheran Church in El Salvador | Bishop | El Salvador |
| François Pihaatae | Pacific Conference of Churches | General Secretary | Fiji |
| Rev .Fr. Heikki Huttunen | Finnish Ecumenical Council | Secretary | |
| Björn Vikstrom | Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland | Bishop | Finland |
| Mgr Yves Boivineau | Bishop of Annecy | Ecclesiastical Assistant of Justice and Peace France | France |
| Mgr Jean Luc Brunin | French Bishops Conference | Bishop in charge of the COP 21 coordination | France |
| François Clavairolly | French Protestant Federation | President | France |

| Name/Surname | Organisation | Title/Role | Country/Continent |
|---|--|--|--------------------------|
| Mgr Stanislas Marie Georges Jude Lalanne | Bishop of Pontoise | Ecclesiastical Assistant of CIDSE | France |
| Mgr Marc Stenger | Bishop of Troyes | President of Pax Christi France | France |
| Dr. Omar Jah | Climate Justice and Green Jihad | | Gambia |
| Heinrich Bedford-Strohm | Evangelical Church Germany | Bishop Evangelical Church of Bavaria & Chair of the EKD council of the Council of German Ev. Church | Germany |
| Cornelia Füllkrug-Weitzel | Diakonia Germany & Bread for the World | President | Germany |
| Sr. Agnesita Dobler OSF | Conference of Religious Orders Germany (DOK) | General Secretary | Germany |
| Antje Heider-Rottwilm | Church and Peace | President | Germany |
| Dr. Frank O. July | Evangelical-Lutheran Church in Württemberg | Presiding Bishop | Germany |
| Prelate Bernd Klaschka | Adveniat | Director | Germany |
| Karin Kortmann | Zentralkomitee der deutschen Katholiken (Central Committee of German Catholics) | Vice President | Germany |
| Msgr. Dr. Klaus Krämer | Missionary Childhood Association (Die Sternsinger) | President | Germany |
| Annette Kurschus | Evangelica Church of Westphalia | President | Germany |
| Dr. Ludwig Schick | Archbishop of Bamberg | Archbishop | Germany |
| Msgr. Pirmin Spiegel | MISEREOR | Director | Germany |
| Sabine Udodescu | Project Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace EKD | | Germany |
| Gerhard Ulrich | Evangelical-Lutheran Church in Northern Germany | Presiding Bishop | Germany |
| Rosemarie Wenner | Evangelical-Methodist Church of Germany | Bishop | Germany |
| Markus Bottcher | Lutheran Church in Guatemala | President | Guatemala |
| Hector Virgilio Castañeda Juarez | Evangelical Church | President | Guatemala |
| Armando Guerra | Iglesia Episcopal de Guatemala | Obispo | Guatemala |
| René Michael Méndez | Iglesia Evangélica San Juan Apostol | Presbitero | Guatemala |
| Jose Pilar | Lutheran Church in Guatemala | President | Guatemala |
| Alvaro Leonel Ramazzini Imeri | Bishop of Huehuetenango | | Guatemala |
| Bernabé Sagastume Lemus | Bishop Santa Rosa de Lima | | Guatemala |
| Vitalino Similox | Reformed Church in Guatemala | President | Guatemala |
| Martín Girón | Christian Lutheran Church of Honduras | President | Honduras |
| Tamas Beres | Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hungary | | Hungary |
| Siddhartha | Fireflies Ashram | Director | India |
| Bernardini Eurgenio | Waldensian Church | Moderator | Italy |
| Michel Jalakh | Middle East Conference of Churches | General Secretary | Lebanon |
| Fr. George Buleya | Episcopal Conference of Malawi | Bishop | Malawi |

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|-----------------------------------|--|--|--------------------------|
| Marc Reush | Iglesia Evangélica de habla alemana en México | Pastor | México |
| Hans Jurgen Ulrich | Iglesia Evangélica de habla alemana en México | Presidente | México |
| Cora Antonio Matamoros | Iglesia Morova de Nicaragua | Presidente | Nicaragua |
| Roberto Jose Baltodano Leiva | Convenion Bautista de Nicaragua | President | Nicaragua |
| Victoria Cortez | Lutheran Church in Nicaragua | Bishop | Nicaragua |
| Walter Oliver Hodgson | Iglesia Morova de Nicaragua | Obispo | Nicaragua |
| William Webster | Iglesia Morova de Nicaragua | Obispo | Nicaragua |
| Ingeborg Midttømme | Christian Protestant | Bishop | Norway |
| Erling Pettersen | Christian Protestant | Bishop | Norway |
| Imam Ibrahim Saïdy | Islamic Council of Norway | | Norway |
| Imam Mian Tayyib | Islamic Council of Norway | | Norway |
| Miguel Tomás Castro | Iglesia Bautista Emmanuel San Salvador | Senior Minister | San Salvador |
| Medardo Ernesto Gómez Soto | Iglesia Luterana Salvadoreña San Salvador | Obispo | San Salvador |
| Rev Sally Foster Fulton | Church of Scotland | Convenor of the Church and Society Council | Scotland |
| Dr. Sheena Wurthmann | Eco-congregation | Chair | Scotland |
| Merylene Chitharai | Hindou Youth Network of South Africa & KwaZulu Natal Inter-religious Youth Council | Representative | South Africa |
| Most Rev Thabo Makgoba | Anglican Church of South Africa | Archbishop | South Africa |
| Archbishop Emeritus Anders Wejryd | Church of Sweden | | Sweden |
| Antje Jackelén | Church of Sweden | Archbishop | Sweden |
| Pat Gleeson | ECLOF International | Executive Director | Switzerland |
| Somboon Chungprampree | International Network of Engaged Buddhists | | Thailand |
| Sulak Sivaraksa | International Network of Engaged Buddhists | Ajarn | Thailand |
| Msgr. Dr. Gerard de Korte | Bishop of Groningen-Leeuwarden | Dutch Bishops' Conference | The Netherlands |
| Samoil Dogan | Syrian Orthodox Church in the Netherlands | Priest | The Netherlands |
| Wim Hart | Interchurch organization for development cooperation (ICCO) | Member of the Executive Board | The Netherlands |
| Evert Jan Hazeleger | Kerk in Aktie | Program Manager | The Netherlands |
| Davorka Lovrekovic | International Fellowship of Reconciliation | President | The Netherlands |
| Tom Mikkers | Remonstrant Church | General Secretary | The Netherlands |
| Kees Niewerth | Council of Churches in the Netherlands | Vice-President | The Netherlands |
| Jannie Nijwening | Mennonite Church in the Netherlands | Minister | The Netherlands |
| Peter Nissen | Remonstrant Church | Professor of Spirituality Studies & Minister | The Netherlands |
| Awraham Soetendorp | Jacob Soetendorp Institute for Human Values | Rabbi | The Netherlands |

| Name/Surname | Organisation | Title/Role | Country/Continent |
|----------------------------|---|--|--------------------------|
| Henk Stenvers | Mennonite Church in the Netherlands | General Secretary | The Netherlands |
| Karin van den Broeke | General Synod of the Protestant Church in the Netherlands | Moderator | The Netherlands |
| Jeanne van Hal | Salvation Army | Minister | The Netherlands |
| Joris A.O.L. Vercammen | Old Catholic Church Utrecht | Archbishop | The Netherlands |
| Wessel Verdonk | Bond van Vrije Evangelische Gemeenten | Moderator | The Netherlands |
| Marinus Verweij | Interchurch organization for development cooperation (ICCO) | Chair of the Executive Board | The Netherlands |
| Polycarpus | Syrian Orthodox Church in the Netherlands | Archbishop | The Netherlands |
| Tafue Lusama | Ekalesia Kelisiano Tuvalu | General Secretary | Tuvalu |
| Bishop Richard Cheetham | Church of England | Bishop of Kingston | United Kingdom |
| Rev Torbjørn Holt | Norwegian Church in the UK | Rector and Chairman of Lutheran Council of Great Britain | United Kingdom |
| Bishop Nick Holtam | Church of England | Bishop of Salisbury | United Kingdom |
| James Laing | General Secretary, Lutheran Council of Great Britain | General Secretary | United Kingdom |
| Rt Revd Dr Martin Lijd | Lutheran Church in Great Britain | Bishop | United Kingdom |
| David Lin | Lutheran Church in Great Britain and the London Chinese Lutheran Church | Chair | United Kingdom |
| Bishop Graham Usher | Church of England | Bishop of Dudley | United Kingdom |
| Revd Eliza Zikmane | London Latvian Lutheran Church | Reverend | United Kingdom |
| Sundance Bonnie | Our Sacred Earth | Executive Director | United States of America |
| Elizabeth A. Eaton | Evangelical Lutheran Church in America | Presiding Bishop | United States of America |
| Rev John McCullough | Church World Service | President and CEO | United States of America |
| Dr Rajwant Singh | Sikh Council On Religion and Education / EcoSikh | Chairman / President | United States of America |
| Nathanael Symeonides | Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America | Archimandrite and Ecumenical & Interfaith Officer | United States of America |
| Oscar Bolioli | Iglesia Metodista en El Uruguay | Presidente | Uruguay |
| Jorge Fajardo | Iglesia Pentecostal Naciente | Obispo Auxiliar | Uruguay |
| Gustavo Gómez Pascua | Iglesia Evangélica Luterana Unida | Pastor Presidente | Uruguay |
| Diego Higueta | Iglesia Presbiteriana de Colombia | Secretario General | Uruguay |
| Oscar Oudrí | Iglesia Evangélica Valdense del Río de la Plata | Moderador | Uruguay |
| Hugo Armand Pilón | Federación Uruguaya de Iglesias Evangélicas | Presidente | Uruguay |
| Michele Pollesel | Iglesia Anglicana del Uruguay | Obispo | Uruguay |
| Archbishop Serafim Kykotis | Greek Orthodox Archbishopric of Zimbabwe | Archbishop | Zimbabwe |