



CREATE A CLIMATE FOR JUSTICE

December 2008

A Call for Climate Justice

We, Catholic Bishops from the south and the north, address the world's leaders as they prepare for the United Nations Climate Summits in Poznan and Copenhagen that will be decisive for the lives and livelihoods of all humanity.

We are deeply concerned by the disproportionate impact human-induced climate change is having on poor and vulnerable people living in developing countries. Poor communities in developing countries are subject to the harshest effects of climate change, though they have done least to cause it.

We, and the faithful in our communities, including millions of men, women and children from diverse cultures around the world, stand in profound solidarity with our global sisters and brothers.

It is our moral obligation to take urgent action to tackle climate change and to do so in support of those most affected.

We call on you to achieve a **strong, binding** and **just** global climate agreement to ensure the survival and wellbeing of all God's children.

As a matter of equity and responsibility, those who have created the problem must pay for the solution. Economically developed nations have a moral obligation to tackle climate change because of their disproportionate consumption of natural resources.

Climate change is a reality today, affecting the lives and livelihoods of millions in developing countries by exacerbating storms, droughts and natural disasters. It is imperative that these countries receive the economic and technical assistance they need to adapt to climate change and ensure better lives and livelihoods for their people.

We believe that we have a responsibility to exercise stewardship over the earth and its creatures. We are commanded to love our neighbours and to protect and care for life. Each of us has responsibility to promote and to protect the common good, and to hold our governments to account for their actions in accordance with this.

Climate Change is an issue of social justice, and must be met in solidarity by stretching our collective perspective beyond the limitations of short-term interests, to one that protects and promotes the common good of all. This is why we stand behind the joint CIDSE and Caritas Internationalis campaign for climate justice, which brings together more than 170 Catholic organisations calling for global solidarity in tackling the causes and effects of climate change.

Pope John Paul II reminded us that ‘People are realising that they are linked together by a common destiny, which is to be constructed together, if catastrophe for all is to be avoided’.

Today, more than ever, we must take his words to heart and tackle climate change as one international family, to ensure our and future generations’ wellbeing and survival.

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