

## COP28 Position Paper

### Introduction

In the fall of 2023, the United Arab Emirates will host the 28th Conference of the Parties. From November 30th to December 13th, this conference is the United Nations Convention on climate change. Every year, COP is an opportunity for world leaders (alongside scientific experts, climate activists and lobbyists) to come together and agree on transnational policies to address the climate crisis.

The last Intergovernmental Panel of Climate Change (IPCC) report, published in March, argued that international cooperation is essential. The report states that “climate resilient development integrates adaptation and mitigation to advance sustainable development for all, and is enabled by increased international cooperation.”

Inspired by Laudato Si’ and its message to listen and respond to the ‘cry of the earth and cry of the poor’ COP28@Home is the campaign of the European Jesuits, in connection with the global EcoJesuit network, which seeks to inform and advocate on important climate issues up to and during the upcoming COP28.

Our campaign will focus on three areas of change which this COP must consider. Firstly we must stand by our friends in the Global South by pressing for progress on **Loss and Damage**. Secondly, it is important that both **policy-level and consumer-level change** must be considered so that important issues of food systems can be addressed. Finally this conference must prepare **for the future** as global warming becomes more of a reality.

### **1. Loss and Damage**

The climate crisis affects everyone on the planet, but the poorest are hit hardest. “Regions and people with considerable development constraints have high vulnerability to climatic hazards”, which has “exposed millions of people to acute food insecurity and reduced water security”, reported the IPCC.

At COP27, in Egypt, a group of nations from the poorest countries affected by climate change won an agreement to form a new fund which will pay to repair the damage already caused to their environments and preserve their heritage before it disappears. Despite this agreement, the details were left to be decided at COP28. Therefore, it is vital that:

- A Loss and Damage Finance Facility is established and is generously funded. This fund must be accessible to all vulnerable countries, regardless of their mitigation efforts and levels of development.
- A Loss and Damage Mechanism be developed. This will provide transparent technical support and recommendations in the implementation of adaptation.
- Loss and Damage are predominantly given in grants rather than loans.
- Deliver climate finance already promised.
- Adopt a financial facility which is at least endowed to \$100 billion.

It is essential that Loss and Damage is recognised as a distinct form of climate action, and that will ensure that this issue will be given its own funding and support mechanisms.

### **2. Ensuring that our food system is a priority:**

Food systems are an integral part of bringing about climate justice. Food systems generate around 20% of global greenhouse gas emissions, and we believe that it is time that this issue took centre stage in the

COP process. COP28 has been referred to as “the Food COP”<sup>1</sup>, and it is for this reason that we want to add our voices to this vital climate topic.

COP28 can play a vital role in addressing food insecurity, caused by the climate crisis, by promoting sustainable agricultural practices, and plant-based diets.

To achieve this, COP28 should press for:

- Significant subsidies for biodiversity-positive agricultural practices, such as increased credit available to farmers.<sup>2</sup>
- A carbon tax on agricultural emissions, which would make producing emissions more expensive for farmers and encourage the adoption of practices that reduce emissions, such as cover cropping and no-till farming.
- Increased investment in habitat restoration, targeting projects that restore degraded habitats which in turn can provide benefits to local people and nature.
- A radical reduction in the use of biofuels, which take up a huge amount of land which could be used for environmental restoration and sustainable agriculture.

By taking these steps, COP28 can help to create a more sustainable and equitable food system by:

- Creating a global fund to support farmers in developing countries’ transition to sustainable agriculture.
- Working with governments to develop policies that promote plant-based diets and sustainable food products. That could include subsidies for plant-based foods and taxes on sugary drinks.
- Launching a public awareness campaign to educate people about the importance of sustainable food systems and how they can make a difference in their own lives.

By taking these steps, COP28 can help to make a real difference in the fight against climate change and hunger.

### 3. Preparing for the future

As the latest IPCC report warns us, with each increase in temperature the climate changes are “irreversible on centennial to millennial time scales” and will only “become larger with increasing global warming.” We need to argue for the following to safeguard our survival mechanisms:

- Commit to a just transition to renewable energy, slashing fossil fuel emissions – while holding top polluters accountable without backing down.
- Support the development of landscape-level resilience plans, which will involve governments holistically addressing the risks posed by climate change to agriculture. These plans can involve monitoring key resources (water and soil primarily) in agricultural areas.
- Set ambitious targets for reducing water stress, which can halve the number of people without access to safe drinking water by 2030, whilst also investing in water infrastructure and means to avoid water waste.
- Improve access to finance for developing countries and achieve the \$100 billion a year promised in climate finance.

It is essential at COP28 that the planet is safeguarded for future generations.

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<sup>1</sup> A term popularised by The Rockefeller Foundation, see endnotes

<sup>2</sup> Finance for biodiversity-positive practices is part of the global biodiversity framework which was adopted at the [UN Biodiversity Conference \(COP15\) in 2022](#). The adoption of this framework is vital in limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees and protecting global biodiversity. This needs to be a priority at COP28.

Campaign co-organised by:



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