



Zambia Episcopal Conference
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CARITAS ZAMBIA PRESS STATEMENT FOLLOWING THE CONCLUSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF PARTIES (COP26) ON CLIMATE CHANGE HELD IN GLASGOW, SCOTLAND FROM 31ST OCTOBER TO 13TH NOVEMBER, 2021

Caritas Zambia participated in the just ended Conference of Parties (COP26) on Climate Change which brought around **200 countries all over the world together**. COP26 was the 5th COP since signing the historic Paris Agreement in 2015, and was seen as the first real test of the effectiveness of that climate treaty in averting a climate catastrophe. COP26 was important as the Paris Agreement states; *every five years countries must revisit their promises and if possible, increase their ambitions*.

Caritas Zambia **APPRECIATES** the decision made by the conference on a **Glasgow Climate Pact** requesting parties to consider formulating and publishing updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) before COP27. This we believe will provide countries with strong basis to start implementing the Agreement through the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). However, there is urgent need for Parties to the agreement to meaningfully and practically increase their efforts to collectively reduce emissions through accelerated action and implementation of domestic mitigation measures in accordance with Article 4 of the Paris Agreement, and makes a particular call on the biggest historical polluters to increase the 2030 targets as soon as possible ahead of COP27

On Adaptation, Caritas Zambia recognises the importance of the global goal on adaptation for the effective implementation of the Paris Agreement, and therefore welcomes the launch of the comprehensive two-year Glasgow–Sharm el-Sheikh working programme. The adoption of the adaptation **programme** will help to bring together different actors for a more open dialogue on climate change problems and solutions. However, the outcomes and how they can lead to change anything for the poorest on the ground was unclear.

Caritas Zambia appreciates Parties' call to accelerate the **phasing-down of coal**. **Although there was no clear date line set**, It must be noted that this was the first time such a commitment has been made since the Paris Agreement.



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Further, Caritas Zambia commends the Scottish Government's symbolic leadership for breaking the taboo of financing Loss & Damage caused by human actions that cause climate change. We call upon other developed nations to do the same and recognise their historical responsibility for the climate crisis the world is facing. This finance should be in the form of reparative climate finance.

It is also worth noting that the Zambian Government is showing commitment to responding to Climate Change challenges and their leading role for the Zambian delegation that attended the COP26, allowing wide stakeholder participation is commended.

Caritas Zambia **WELCOMES** the establishment of the Glasgow Dialogue between Parties, relevant organizations and stakeholders to discuss the arrangements for the funding of activities to avert, minimize and address loss and damage associated with the adverse impacts of climate change. This will take place in the first sessional period of each year of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation and will conclude at its sixtieth session in June, 2024.

However our CONCERNS begin with the fact that COP26 failed to deliver climate finance to guarantee justice for the most vulnerable people in the world. The lack of focus on finance for loss and damage of the environment leaves people living in poverty even more vulnerable and without hope. Climate finance needed a much more ambitious push to move the world and countries beyond the commitments that have already been made and to help meet the goal of capping global temperature rise at 1.5C. *“Rich countries have a moral and a legal responsibility to provide money and sustainable technology to developing countries to make their economies greener and tackle the impacts of climate change, and addressing loss and damage, which in the first place was largely caused by them”.*

We went into COP26 on a trajectory towards a devastating **2.7C of warming**, and called for world leaders to get on track for the safer level and agreed target of 1.5C. We cannot reach 1.5C without phasing out coal, oil and gas. The final outcome of COP26 saw relatively weak language on fossil fuels, calling for 'efforts towards' phase-down of unabated coal power, with no mention of oil or gas. In



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fact the rich countries have not gone anywhere near far enough on specific commitments to reduce emissions to limit temperature rise to 1.5 degrees.

We are also disappointed that the \$100 billion pledge that was made at the cop25, remains outstanding. The leaders of wealthy nations have fallen short of their responsibilities to the communities already suffering from this crisis, and only 12 nations signing up to an alliance to turn off the taps to new oil and gas drilling.

Caritas Zambia regrets that the Glasgow Loss & Damage Facility, proposed by the G77 and China and other groupings, was not established by the COP26 outcomes. There is need to galvanize and build political will throughout 2022 to help parties sign up to finance for Loss & Damage, ahead of COP27

While there were promises to shift the balance of funding by 2025 by doubling the level of support to the least developed countries to adapt, long-standing climate finance promises were not met. Therefore we explore the new deal government to constantly urge the developed countries to double their climate finance for **adaptation** to developing countries by 2025.

The **messages** from faith-based organizations, especially from climate vulnerable countries were consistent and clear in the run up to and throughout the COP26 session. Wealthy countries must simply step up to their responsibilities and deliver the support and finance that low-income countries need to meet their own climate targets. This will help them adjust to the impacts of climate change, as well as to pay for the suffering already being experienced by many communities in the world.

In the context of Zambia, we would like to urge the government to strengthen policies, plans and programmes in order to address irreversible and inadaptable climate change impact currently taking place. There is need for additional finance for Loss & Damage to be urgently raised to support affected communities. Loss and Damage should be treated as a key standing item as the nation develops programmes to enhance community response to Climate Change alongside mitigation and adaptation.

There is urgent need to seek knowledge & evidence required to help understand the extent of Loss & Damage being experienced by communities due to climate



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change damage in Zambia, and how this affects vulnerable communities. The Zambian Government therefore should support initiatives which help gather evidence and develop knowledge of how Loss & Damage is impacting Zambians. This will make working together with international institutions to develop the best way of addressing the Loss & Damage, due to climate change.

The final COP26 communiqué requested nations to return next year with stronger climate plans, so as to keep closing the gap of temperature rise to 1.5. As such we call on the government to engage with relevant stakeholders in this process and ensure that the national plans address local climate justice issues and give hope to the communities greatly affected from Loss and Damage. This should include addressing gender and human rights dimensions.

Looking ahead to COP27, which will be the African COP, It will be important for the most vulnerable people who are affected in Zambia to be represented at this meeting. This will help to bring their stories to the world.

Furthermore, there is need to enhance local actions and to learn from some of the failures of COP26. As a country we should emphasize that every failure to deliver compensation for irreversible climate-related loss and damage is a betrayal of communities suffering now. As such, we need a robust new climate action that will mark a key milestone of the talks for COP27-the African COP.

Government has a moral obligation to ensure that climate adaptation projects centre on human rights, inclusive participation, and environmental integrity. Failure to do so could undercut ambitions and effectiveness thus potentially defeating the purpose of the Paris Agreement.

More countries, especially high emitting ones, should commit to end expansion of new coal, oil and gas exploration and commit to a complete phase out. The science is clear: **there is no room for new fossil fuels in a safer and fairer future.**

From this COP26, we needed concrete action to deliver the promised \$100 billion a year from 2020 onwards, including any shortfalls, so that the most vulnerable are not short-changed. And despite it being a key priority for vulnerable nations, Scotland remains the only country to make a financial pledge for countries suffering loss and damage due to the climate crisis.



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CONCLUSION

In view of what has been stated, Caritas Zambia calls on faith-based groups in Zambia, civil society organisations and all non-governmental organisations to increase their ambition to combat climate change, and to keep the needs of the most vulnerable at the forefront of all actions. In this situation, where devastating effects of Climate Change and access to finance is of national concern, Caritas Zambia commends the national commitments so far and notes that it is important not to lose hope and but to continue the struggle for climate justice, for all people and for the planet. **Despite Glasgow Global Pact Still searching for Climate Justice**-we draw hope from the fact that COP26 was far more than just the negotiations: it's was about movements of people coming together to create change. We saw more people speaking up for climate justice than ever before, within and beyond the churches.

Caritas Zambia draws **courage** to continue this fight, so long as our brothers and sisters around the world, the Indigenous communities, the human rights defenders, the climate vulnerable, keep fighting because we are defending the **common good** and it is a matter of **justice**. Our attention is now towards enhancing national efforts and COP27 in Africa. We hope that this will be an important opportunity to bring about the real transformation that is deeply needed in Zambia.

Given to the Press on 18th November, 2021.

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