



December 2008

**CREATE A
CLIMATE FOR
JUSTICE**

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.

Signatories

Rodolfo Cardinal QUEZADA Toruño
Archbishop of Guatemala

**Joseph Cardinal ZEN Ze-kiun,
S.D.B.**
Bishop of Hong Kong, China

Archbishop John Atcherley DEW
Archbishop of Wellington, New Zealand

**Archbishop Pedro Ricardo
BARRETO Jimeno S.J.**
Archbishop of Huancayo and President of
the Episcopal Commission for Social
Action (CEAS), Peru

**Archbishop Jorge FERREIRA da
Costa Ortiga**
Archbishop of Braga and President of the
Bishops Conference of Portugal

Archbishop Fernand FRANCK
Archbishop of Luxembourg

**Archbishop Damião António
FRANKLIN**
Archbishop of Luanda and President of the
Bishops Conference of Angola- and Sao
Tomé

**Archbishop Roberto Octavio
GONZÁLEZ Nieves, O.F.M.**
Archbishop of San Juan de Puerto Rico

**Archbishop Felix Alaba Adeosin
JOB**
Archbishop of Ibadan, President Catholic
Bishops Conference of Nigeria

**Archbishop Matthew Man-oso
NDAGOSO**
Archbishop of Kaduna, Nigeria

**Archbishop Matthias N'GARTÉRI
Mayadi**

Archbishop of N'Djaména, Chad

Archbishop Antoine NTALOU

Archbishop of Garoua, Cameroun

**Archbishop Berhaneyesus
Demerew SOURAPHIEL C.M.**

Archbishop of Addis Abeba and President of the Catholic Bishops Conference of Ethiopia

**Archbishop Andrés STANOVNIK
O.F.M Cap.**

Archbishop of Corrientes, Argentina

Archbishop Joseph Edra UKPO

Archbishop of Calabar, Chairman, JDP/Caritas Nigeria

**Archbishop Oscar Julio VIAN
Morales, S.D.B.**

Archbishop of Los Altos Quetzaltenango-Totonicapán, Guatemala

**Bishop Darwin Rudy ANDINO
Ramírez, C.R.S.**

Auxiliary Bishop of Tegucigalpa, Titular Bishop of Horta, Honduras

Bishop Abdo ARBACH B.C.

Exarch of Argentina, Faithful of the Oriental Rite (Melkite), Titular Bishop of Palmyra dei Greco-Melkiti, Argentina

Bishop José Luis AZUAJE Ayala,

Bishop of El Vigía-San Carlos de Zulia and President of Caritas Venezuela

Bishop Fernando María BARGALLÓ

Bishop of Merlo-Moreno, Argentina and President of Caritas Latin America and the Caribbean (SELACC)

**Bishop Domenico BERNI Leonardi
O.S.A.**

Prelate of Chuquibambilla, Peru

Bishop Jesús Tirso BLANCO S.D.B.

Bishop of Lwena, Angola

**Bishop Elías Samuel BOLAÑOS
Avelar, S.D.B.**

Bishop of Zacatecoluca, El Salvador

Bishop Julio César BONINO Bonino

Bishop of Tacuarembó and President of

the Social Department of the Bishops Conference, Uruguay

Jean-Claude BOUCHARD O.M.I

Bishop of Pala, President of the Episcopal Conference of Chad

**Bishop Virginio Domingo
BRESSANELLI S.C.I.**

Bishop of Comodoro Rivadavia, Argentina

**Bishop Oscar Mario BROWN
Jiménez**

Bishop of Santiago de Veraguas, Panama

Bishop Denis George BROWNE

Bishop of Hamilton in New Zealand

**Bishop Julio Edgar CABRERA
Ovalle**

Bishop of Jalapa, Guatemala

**Bishop Rodrigo Orlando CABRERA
Cuéllar**

Bishop of Santiago de María, El Salvador

**Bishop Roberto CAMILLERI
Azzopardi, O.F.M.**

Bishop of Comayagua, Honduras

**Bishop Alberto CAMPOS Hernández
O.F.M.**

Vicar Apostolic of San José de Amazonas, Titular Bishop of Vicus Augusti, Peru

**Bishop António José CAVACO
Carrilho**

Bishop of Funchal, Portugal

**Bishop Emiliano Antonio
CISNEROS Martínez, O.A.R.**

Bishop of Chachapoyas, Peru

Bishop Peter James CULLINANE

Bishop of Palmerston North, New Zealand

Bishop George DODO

Bishop of Zaria, Nigeria

Bishop Paul Francis DUFFY O.M.I.

Bishop of Mongu, Zambia

Bishop Ramon Alfredo DUS

Bishop of Reconquista, Argentina

Bishop Joseph Effiong EKUWEM

Bishop of Uyo, Nigeria

**Bishop Rómulo EMILIANI Sánchez,
C.M.F.**

Auxiliary Bishop of San Pedro Sula, Titular
Bishop of Nigrae Maiores, Honduras

**Bishop Oscar Gerardo FERNÁNDEZ
Guillén**

Bishop of Puntarenas, Costa Rica

Bishop Ivo FÜRER

Bishop Emeritus of Sankt Gallen and
President of Fastenopfer, Switzerland

**Bishop Jean-Louis GIASSON,
P.M.E.**

Bishop of Yoro, Honduras

Bishop Theotonius GOMES C.S.C.

Auxiliary Bishop of Dhaka, Titular Bishop
of Zucchabar, Bangladesh

**Bishop Pedro Joaquin HERNÁNDEZ
Cantarero, C.M.F.**

Vicar Apostolic of Darién, Titular Bishop of
Thabraca, Panama

**Bishop Luigi INFANTI della Mora,
O.S.M.**

Bishop of Aysén, Chile

Bishop Miguel IRIZAR Campos C.P.

Bishop of Callao and President of Caritas
Peru

Bishop Barry Philip JONES

Bishop of Christchurch, New Zealand

Bishop Aloysius JOUSTEN

Bishop of Liège, Refendary of Caritas
Belgium, Belgium

Bishop John KIRBY

Bishop of Clonfert, Chairman of Trócaire,
Ireland

Bishop Kurt KOCH

Bishop of Basel and President of the
Swiss Bishops Conference, Switzerland

Father Joseph KOERBER C.S.Sp.

Président of Caritas Gabon, Prefect of
Makokou, Gabon

Bishop Czeslaw KOZON

Bishop of Copenhagen, Denmark

**Bishop Aurelio José KÜHN
Hergenreder, O.F.M.**

Bishop of Deán Funes, Cordoba,
Argentina

Bishop Declan Ronan LANG

Bishop of Clifton, England

Bishop Robin Walsh LEAMY S.M.

Auxiliary Bishop of Auckland, New
Zealand, Emeritus Bishop of Rarotonga,
Cook Islands

Bishop Guillermo LORÍA Garita

Bishop of San Isidro de El General, Costa
Rica

Bishop Jorge Eduardo LOZANO

Bishop of Gualeguaychú, Argentina

**Bishop José Adolfo MOJICA
Morales**

Bishop of Sonsonate, El Salvador

Bishop Nestor Hugo NAVARRO

Bishop of Alto Valle del Rio Negro,
Argentina

Bishop Santiago OLIVERA

Bishop of Cruz del Eje, Argentina

Bishop Marcelino PALENTINI S.C.I.

Bishop of Jujuy, Argentina

**Bishop Lino PANIZZA Richero
O.F.M.**

Cap., Bishop of Carabayllo and General
Secretary of the Episcopal Conference of
Peru

Bishop Maurice PIAT

C.S.Sp., Bishop of Port-Louis, Mauritius

Bishop Juan José PINEDA

Fasquelle, C.M.F.

Auxiliary Bishop of Tegucigalpa, Titular
Bishop of Obori, Honduras

Bishop Guido PLANTE, P.M.E.

Bishop of Choluteca, Honduras

Bishop Jaime PRIETO Amaya,

Bishop of Cúcuta, President of the Social
Department of the Bishops Conference,
Colombia

**Bishop Gaspar QUINTANA Jorquera
C.M.F.**

Bishop of Copiapó, Chile

Bishop Alvaro Leonel RAMAZZINI
Imeri
Bishop of San Marcos, Guatemala

Bishop John RAWSTHORNE
Bishop of Hallam, England

Bishop Guillermo RODRÍGUEZ
Melgarejo
Bishop of San Martín, Argentina

Bishop Juan Carlos ROMANIN
S.D.B.
Bishop of Rio Gallegos, Argentina

Bishop Pedro Luis RONCHINO
S.D.B.
Bishop Emeritus of Comodoro Rivadavia,
Argentina

Bishop Michele RUSSO M.C.C.I.
Bishop of Doba, Chad

Bishop Bernabé de Jesús
SAGASTUME Lemus, O.F.M. Cap.
Bishop of Santa Rosa de Lima, Guatemala

Bishop Rémi Joseph Gustave
SAINTE-MARIE M.Afr.
Bishop of Lilongwe and Chairman of
CADECOM, Malawi

Bishop Luis Alfonso SANTOS
Villeda, S.D.B.
Bishop of Santa Rosa de Copán,
Honduras

Bishop Dr. Ludwig SCHWARZ
S.D.B.
Bishop of Linz, President of the
Coordination office of the Austrian
Episcopal Conference for Development,
and President of Justice and Peace
Austria

Bishop Miguel Angel SEBASTIÁN
Martínez M.C.C.I.
Bishop of Lai, Chad

Bishop Boniface Tshosa
SETLALEKGOSI
Bishop of Gaborone, Botswana

Bishop Jorge SOLÓRZANO Pérez
Bishop of Matagalpa, Nicaragua

Bishop John TONG HON
Coadjutor Bishop of Hong Kong

Bishop Lucius Iwejuru UGORJI
Bishop of Umuahia, Secretary Catholic
Bishops Conference of Nigeria

Bishop Adolfo Armando URIONA
F.D.P.
Bishop of Añatuya, Argentina

Mons. Luiz Demétrio VALENTINI
Bishop of Jales, Sao Paulo and President
of Caritas Brazil

Bishop Rodolfo VALENZUELA
NÚÑEZ
Bishop of Verapaz, Cobán, Guatemala

Bishop Roger Joseph
VANGHELUWE
Bishop of Brugge, referendary of
Broederlijk Delen and Caritas Belgium in
the Belgian Bishops Conference, Belgium

Bishop Pablo VARELA Server
Auxiliary Bishop of Panama and President
of Caritas Panama

Bishop Juan Carlos VERA
Plasencia
M.S.C., Prelate of Caravelí, Peru

Mons. Juan Luis YSERN de Arce
Bishop Emeritus of San Carlos de Ancud
and President of Caritas Chile

Bishop Gabino ZAVALA
Auxiliary Bishop of Los Angeles,
California, Titular Bishop of Tamascani,
President of Pax Christi USA

Bishop Joseph Mukasa ZUZA
Bishop of Mzuzu, Malawi

Fr Hector Fabio HENAO,
Director of the Social Department of the
Bishops Conference, Director of Caritas
Colombia