

COP27 WHAT IS IT? AND WHY DOES IT MATTER?

WHEN AND WHERE IS COP27?

Negotiations will take place in Sham El-Sheik, Egypt from 7-18 November 2022.

WHAT IS COP27?

COP27 is the 27th **Conference of Parties** to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. Under the **Paris Agreement** (2015) 193 parties or countries agreed to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and boost funding for climate action. Representatives will **agree on the next steps to address the global climate crisis**.



ACT Alliance (Action by Churches Together) of which CWS is a member is campaigning for Climate Justice at COP27.

WHAT IS THE AMBITION OF COP27?

Only 23 out of 193 countries have submitted plans as agreed at COP26. COP27 will take stock, review the Paris Rulebook, technical issues and climate finance. Discussions will consider **mitigation** (efforts to reduce or prevent emissions), **adaptation** (how countries will adapt and help others to do the same), and new on the agenda is **Loss and Damage** which is compensation for countries affected by climate change - e.g. more intense disasters.

WORDS ARE NOT ENOUGH.

Existing government pledges would result in a 2.5-degree Celsius temperature rise according to an announcement by UN Climate Change ahead of the summit. Many people are looking for greater ambition and more decisive action by governments along with a strong commitment to climate justice.



FIND OUT ABOUT THE DIFFERENT RESPONSES

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HOW IS LOSS AND DAMAGE DIFFERENT FROM MITIGATION, AND ADAPTATION?

1. LOSS AND DAMAGE

Many countries are experiencing loss and damage due to extreme weather events and rising sea levels associated with climate change. Developing countries, that did not produce the bulk of the emissions, are pressing for compensation so they can deal with the consequences.

CLIMATE ADAPTION BY GROWING GOOD GARDENS

In the Philippines, farmers have raised their gardens so they can grow food without losing their plants to the salty water caused by rising sea levels. People in the *barangay* or village on the coast of Aklan province have devised a variety of planting methods to cope. Worried about increasingly frequent and severe typhoons along with a shrinking fish supply, these communities are planting tens of thousands of trees and root crops under the leadership of CWS partner, Developers Foundation.



2. MITIGATION

Mitigation is about the ways to cut global emissions. This may be through the use of new technologies or by using renewable resources. Changing human behaviour and management practices can reduce emissions.

3. ADAPTATION

Adaptation is about finding ways to live with climate change and helping other countries to do the same.

LOSS AND DAMAGE IN PAKISTAN:

This year Pakistan has paid a high cost for global warming. As a low emitter of less than 1% of global carbon emissions, Pakistan has contributed the least to the floods that covered one-third of the country at its peak. Enormous, climate-induced flooding has claimed lives and livelihoods. It has damaged and destroyed homes and infrastructure.

Waterborne diseases have spread. Thanks to generous donors, CWS's partner Community World Service Asia has assisted some of these families with emergency relief.

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WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO ADDRESS LOSS AND DAMAGE AT COP27?



Nearly half of the world's population are living on the frontline of climate change. The people who have done the least to cause climate change have already lost homes and gardens to rising seas and severe drought. The combination of climate change, Covid-19 and increasing conflict is contributing to further hardship and hunger. Too many people face a future without adequate shelter, livelihoods and the loss of cultural sites and traditions. The risk of natural disasters is rising but developing countries cannot protect all of their people or assist all those affected. Countries in the global south are pushing for loss and damage reparations so they can improve infrastructure and respond to people facing severe drought or floods. Scotland was the first country to contribute financially to a loss and damage fund.

WE CALL ON OUR GOVERNMENT TO PUSH FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE AT COP27 INCLUDING:

- Greater climate ambition is urgently required to keep global temperature rise below 1.5 degrees Celsius.
- Advocating for an international fund for Loss and Damage.
- Developing a clear plan to double global support for adaptation funding as promised at COP26.
- Finding additional climate finance funding for mitigation, adaptation and loss and damage. This should be new money and additional to existing Official Development Aid (ODA).
- Recognising and upholding the self-determination of indigenous peoples in protecting the land and sea where they live.
- Supporting women and girls' leadership and lived experiences in climate action. Climate justice depends on the equal participation of women and girls in all their diversity, in all decision-making processes through rights-based approaches.
- Addressing discriminatory Disaster Risk Reduction policies and practices, which exclude marginalised people, including LGBTQI+ persons.

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FROM THE WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES' ASSEMBLY 2022

"...Together we call the world to urgently respond to the following demands for climate and environmental justice, and for governments to join in practical actions – and not only commitments – to meet the pressing need to avert ecological disaster..."

The Living Planet Seeking a Just and Sustainable Global Community

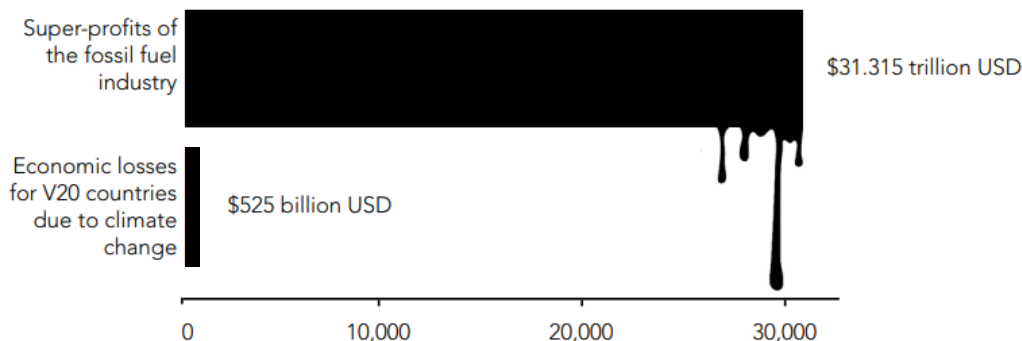


“ The polluters should pay. In the context of climate justice, we have the global climate fund [established in 2010 at COP16]. There is supposed to be \$100 billion put into this fund each year by polluters and governments of polluting countries, but we are still not even getting the pledges of this much, let alone access to any of the money.

Reverend James Bhagwan

”

COMPARING SUPER-PROFITS OF THE FOSSIL FUEL INDUSTRY WITH THE 20 MOST VULNERABLE COUNTRIES' (V20) ECONOMIC LOSSES DUE TO CLIMATE CHANGE, 2000–2019



"Based on estimates by one analysis, fossil fuel companies could have paid for climate-induced economic losses suffered by V20 countries between 2000 and 2019 and still had almost \$30 trillion left over in profits."(1)

The fossil fuel and other carbon emitting and extractive industries are responsible for the majority of global greenhouse gas emissions. These companies are both disproportionately responsible for the increase in climate impacts, and also generating enormous profits off this exercise. They need to pay reparations, and cease carbon emitting actions. At COP26 small island developing nations (SIDs) lobbied for commitments to phase out fossil fuels, but the wording of the final declaration produced was diluted to "phasing down" fossil fuel production and use. This is not strong enough to reach the important goal of a maximum 1.5 degree increase to global temperatures.

(1) Source: The Cost of Delay, <https://www.lossanddamagecollaboration.org/>

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THERE ARE HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERNS ABOUT COP27 IN EGYPT

The climate crisis is growing and contributing to rising inequality. People do not have enough food, cannot afford energy and are denied a say in the management of shared resources. Life will get much harder for indigenous people, older people, people living with disabilities, women, children and LGBTQ+ people as well as people living with poverty and without climate justice.

A number of organisations including Human Rights Watch have drawn attention to the 'severe restrictions imposed by Egyptian authorities in recent years' that could hinder 'the full and meaningful participation of journalists, activists, human rights defenders, civil society, youth groups and indigenous people's representatives at COP 27.' Read more from Naomi Klein.

PRAYER OF THE MOANA, BY ARCHBISHOP WINSTON HALAPUA

Loving and Embracing God,
You are God of the Universe and all
creation
You create and give life and see that
your creation is good.
We praise you for your gift of the
Moana which covers most of the
surface of your planet earth.
We thank you for the Oceans of the
world.
We thank you for the flowing of the
Oceans into one another and around
the continents and islands.
We thank you for the life giving of the
Oceans,
for the oxygen, food and resources they
continually provide.
We thank you that the Ocean is home
for most species, small and great....

Find the full prayer here in [video format](#), or as [text](#).



Drought resistant Taro plant

**"Toku fenua se tifa samasama kae ko se ile nei
ne te tuigala. Fakalaga ake la."**

**"My island is a mother of pearl that now no
longer glows from the rays of the sun. We seek
its restoration."**

A quote from civil society representatives from
across the Pacific who prepared the [Kioa Climate
Emergency Declaration](#) from October 19, 2022.

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THE POWER OF FAITH COMMUNITIES

“ The church plays a very important role [in reweaving the strands of justice] because it is able to be flexible and participate at all levels. It is able to be present in the negotiations in the political space. Our accompaniment and our processes with the [affected] communities continues and it doesn't end when the project timeline ends [...] churches journey with the community over years ... ”

Frances Namoumou, 2022



WHAT CAN YOU DO TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?



By reading this summary you have already taken a great step in supporting climate justice. You are equipped with the vital knowledge of what needs to happen at COP27! Follow the negotiations and talk about some of the issues raised at COP27 with your family, friends, and wider community.



Write a letter or meet with your MP, asking for a fairer deal for people and governments that cannot meet the costs of adaptation and for international Loss and Damage funding. You can use the points we have outlined in this document.



Invest your savings in the *right* places. Check that your personal Kiwisaver or investments, business or church finances are not supporting the fossil fuel industry! Information about ethical investment options is available online.



Keep yourself, friends, whanau, church, and work colleagues accountable. Try buying local, walking and wheeling, or volunteering with a local planting drive. Respect the place of tangata whenua in protecting their resources



Make submissions and vote in elections to support good policies. Support local communities to prepare for and respond to disaster with your donations.