



Call from young Christians to Governments gathered in the Pre COP 26 Milan, 30 September - 2 October

As young members of the Christian family in Italy, it is our hope that COP26 will be a crucial element in addressing the climate crisis. Together, we ask world leaders to take this opportunity of this session to define with determination and ambition measurable goals of climate justice for all.

COP26 is of great importance, as it is the first time that the commitments made in the Paris Agreement will be reviewed, to verify to what extent the promised carbon reductions have been met, given that six years later the results achieved are largely disappointing.

The stages of approach to this event will be held in Italy, Milan, between 28 September and 2 October. Youth4Climate and Pre-COP are called upon to make recommendations and define the key issues for the following month's negotiations.

In recent decades, the intensification of the climate crisis has altered the environment of our Earth. As young Christians we recognize that the dangers of these climate impacts are an expression of a crisis as much a spiritual one as an existential crisis. We have failed to discern an intrinsic interconnection with our ecology.

We have allowed a culture of greed to permeate the core values that are integral to our commitment to responsibly use the Earth's resources without alternating its vital balances, reflecting God's care for his creation. The crisis generated by the pandemics reinforces the urgency to act to stop the degradation of the ecosystem.

Since 2019, after Greta Thunberg's declaration at COP 24 at the end of 2018, there have been countless demonstrations that have stirred consciences all over the world, because in those squares millions of young people have asked for more democracy, gender equality, social justice and intergenerational environment and respect for human rights, siding peacefully against all forms of racism and against the ugliness of political language.

By climate justice we mean that social, economic, and political change aimed at halting and reversing the effects of climate change and equitably redistributing resources and well-being on a global level, through a strong role of states and the centrality of real democracy and participation.

For this reason, it is essential to take a voice at COP26 coming November, in Milan and Glasgow in Scotland where the nations from all over the world that join the UN will meet to decide on the future of all the inhabitants of the planet.

That is why in the framework of the institutional event of the Youth Summit we are addressing the representatives of the nations gathered in Milan who will move to Glasgow in November where the Conference will be held.

We ask them to:

- ✓ Reduce CO2 emissions from industry, waste management, transport and energy production
- ✓ Transfer public funding from fossil fuels to renewable sources excluding waste biomass
- ✓ Intensify public and shared transport to discourage the use of private cars
- ✓ Plant trees, prohibit deforestation, protect green areas, educate people to respect the environment

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- ✓ Make the existing building heritage sustainable (such as city life) and design the new one avoiding the consumption of soil
- ✓ Invest in the reduction and recycling of waste towards its elimination

We strongly urge our leaders at COP26 to strengthen their commitments for a just recovery of the climate crisis.

May they use this opportunity to seek equity and prioritize the need to equip those at the forefront of the crisis so that no one is left behind on this journey towards achieving

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Milan, September 2021

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