Statement by Catholic leaders in G20 Countries on Consigning Fossil Fuels to History

“Investments in fossil fuels continue to rise, even though scientists tell us that fossil fuels should remain underground...We continue along old paths because we are trapped by our faulty accounting and by the corruption of vested interests. We still reckon as profit what threatens our very survival.”¹ (Pope Francis)

The voices from the communities we work with are ringing out. Climate change is a present reality that is affecting our brothers and sisters around the world, particularly those in poor and climate vulnerable communities who have contributed to this issue the least. We see increasingly severe and frequent droughts and floods, loss of crops, and destruction of land.

We cannot and must not be quiet in the face of such suffering and injustice.

The science is clear. The world needs to keep fossil fuels in the ground if we are to limit global warming to a below 1.5 degrees temperature rise by the end of 2030.

We therefore call on our governments to use the G20 meetings in October to consign fossil fuels to history by:

1. Stopping any new developments of coal, oil and gas within our own countries.
2. Immediately ending all funding of fossil fuels – including coal, oil and gas – abroad.
3. Massively scaling up investments in clean and safe forms of energy such as wind and solar power, that prioritise energy access for the poorest communities.
4. Making good on promises to provide climate finance to support communities already affected by the impacts of climate change.

Our moral duty is unquestionable. Advanced economies must act first to tackle climate change and must act quickly to protect current and future generations and our common home. We must face our historic responsibility and act with justice, standing in solidarity with our sisters and brothers in our own countries and around the world.

We need to act now. We do not have the luxury of time on our side.

Signed (Bishops and Heads of Religious Communities in G20 countries)

¹ Climate Change and New Evidence from Science, Engineering, And Policy*, Meeting with Finance Ministers from Various Nations, 27 May 2019, Rome.
## List of signatories

### AMERICAS

- **Archbishop Jorge Lozano**
  Archbishop of San Juan de Cuyo, Argentina; General Secretary of CELAM (Bishops' Conference of Latin America)

- **Sr. Patricia McDermott, RSM**
  President, Sisters of Mercy of the Americas

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- **Archbishop Andrés Stanovnik OFMCap.**
  Archbishop of Corrientes, Argentina

- **Bishop Oscar V. Ojea**
  Bishop of San Isidro; President, Bishops' Conference of Argentina

- **Bishop Carlos H. Malfa**
  Bishop of Chascomús, General Secretary, Bishops' Conference of Argentina

- **Bishop Gabriel Bernardo Barba**
  Bishop of San Luis, Argentina

- **Bishop Oscar Sarlinga**
  Bishop Emeritus of Zárate-Campana, Argentina

- **Bishop Carlos José Tissera**
  Bishop of Quilmes, President, Caritas Argentina

- **Bishop José María Baliña**
  Auxiliar Bishop of Buenos Aires, Argentina

- **Bishop Jorge Lugones SJ**
  Bishop of Lomas de Zamora; President, Social Pastoral Commission, Bishops' Conference of Argentina

- **Bishop Hugo Norberto Santiago**
  Bishop of San Nicolás de los Arroyos, Buenos Aires

- **Bishop Fernando C Maletti**
  Bishop of Merlo-Moreno, Argentina

- **Bishop César Daniel Fernández**
  Bishop of Jujuy, Argentina

### BRAZIL

- **Bishop Dom Erwin Krautler**
  Bishop Emeritus of Xingu, Brazil; President, REPAM (Pan Amazonian Church Network) Brazil

- **Bishop Sebastião Lima Duarte**
  Bishop of Caxias do Maranhão, Brazil; President, Integral Ecology and Mining Commission, Bishops' Conference of Brazil

- **Bishop Vicente Ferreira**
  Auxiliary Bishop of Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais, Brazil

- **Bishop Cleonir Dal Bosco**
  Bishop of Bagé, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil

- **Bishop Edson Damian**
  Bishop of São Gabriel da Cachoeira, Amazonas, Brazil

- **Bishop Vital Corbellini**
  Bishop of Marabá, Pará, Brazil

### MEXICO

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  Superior General, Guadalupan Missionaries of the Holy Spirit, Mexico

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  Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, US Provinces

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  Executive Director, Leadership Conference of Women Religious, US

- **Sr. Corona Colleary**
  Area Leader, Columban Sisters, US

- **Sr. Moira Quinn, O.Ss.R.**
  Priorress, Redemptoristine Nuns of New York, US

- **Fr. Carl J. Markelz, O. Carm.**
  Prior Provincial, Carmelites, Province of the Most Pure Heart of Mary, US
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<th>Region</th>
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<td>Archbishop Gabriel Justice Anokye</td>
<td>Archbishop of Kumasi, Ghana; President of Caritas Africa</td>
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<td>Bishop Sithembele Siguka</td>
<td>Bishop of Umtata, South Africa; First Vice President, SECAM (Symposium of Bishops' Conferences of Africa and Madagascar)</td>
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<td>Fr. Benedictus Hari Juliawan SJ</td>
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<td>GERMANY</td>
<td>Archbishop Stephan Burger</td>
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<td>Bishop Dr. Bertram Meier</td>
<td>Bishop of Augsburg, Germany; Chair of the German Catholic Bishops' Conference Commission on International Church Affairs</td>
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**Bishop Dr. Heiner Wilmer SCJ**  
Bishop of Hildesheim; Chair of Justitia et Pax Commission, Germany

**UNITED KINGDOM**

- **Bishop John Arnold**  
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- **Bishop William Nolan**  
  Bishop of Galloway, Scotland
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