



Policy Priorities at the 24th Conference of Parties UN Framework Convention on Climate Change

From the drought-scarred Artibonite Valley in Haiti to the drowning island of Kivalina in Alaska, Episcopalians are, like many others around the world, suffering from the impacts of climate change. This phenomenon touches every sector and region, but its harshest effects disproportionately fall on low-income populations and communities of color. Significant constituencies of the Episcopal Church, including Dominicans, Haitians, and U.S. coastal communities are struggling to adapt to drastic weather and environmental changes that threaten their livelihoods. Others, such as the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe in North Dakota and the Gwich'in Nation in Alaska in the United States, are striving to protect their sacred land and water from greenhouse gas-emitting fossil fuel extraction, even as they adapt to our changing climate.

We are members of the delegation of the Episcopal Church representing our Presiding Bishop, the Most Reverend Michael Bruce Curry, and led by our head of delegation, the Right Reverend Marc Andrus. We return to the Conference of Parties for the fourth year in a row, bearing witness to the extraordinary challenges facing our communities on the frontlines of climate change. We acknowledge the moral urgency of galvanizing ambitious greenhouse gas emission reduction, strengthening the adaptive resilience of climate-impacted peoples, and supporting vulnerable populations coping with irreparable loss and damage.

We also recognize the need for a just economic transition toward a renewable energy economy, and we are committed to partnering with representatives of member states, United Nations entities and civil society to precipitate this sustainable shift. To this end, we look forward to supporting the 24th Conference of Parties in implementing the following priorities:

- **AMBITION.** Acknowledging the imperative for stronger ambition to limit global temperature rise to 1.5° Celsius, we call on negotiators to complete the Paris Agreement Work Programme and include a viable and inclusive plan for engaging multi-stakeholder engagement and feedback in its implementation, paying particular attention to upholding the human rights of the most vulnerable and their communities. We encourage member states to boost and accelerate ambition in their national climate action commitments.
- **ADAPTATION.** We congratulate member states who have committed to national adaptation programs and encourage swift action by all member states for ongoing adaptation that complements increased ambition. We urge member states to support multi-national and multi-sectoral adaptation initiatives and to increase global and national climate finance commitments for adaptation, with a particular emphasis on those most vulnerable to climate change, including populations in least developed countries and small island developing states, climate refugees, indigenous peoples and women and children.
- **MITIGATION.** We commend those member states that have progressed significantly in meeting their Paris Agreement commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and create carbon sinks; we ask all countries to take similar concrete steps. We further urge all member states to take into consideration the social, economic, and environmental impacts of mitigation efforts on developing nations in order to minimize their negative impacts.
- **FINANCE.** We applaud the increase in global climate finance flows and urge member states to fulfill their financial pledges to support the global climate finance regime. We request member states to enhance the reporting capacities of their nationally based statistical offices in order to improve the transparency and accountability of the Green Climate Fund and other critical climate finance mechanisms.
- **LOSS AND DAMAGE.** We urge member states to uphold the principle of 'leaving no one behind' at the heart of *Agenda 2030* and the Sustainable Development Goals, by sustaining their multilateral commitment to supporting those most vulnerable to climate change, including populations in least developed countries and small island developing states, climate refugees, indigenous peoples and women and children. To this end, we urge member states to pursue more robust political and financial support of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage.

Join the Episcopal delegation and our faith-based partners for prayer and meditation throughout COP24.

Follow the delegation at COP24 on Instagram, Twitter and Facebook using #EpiscopalClimate.

Scan this QR code to access Episcopal climate action resources including this fact sheet, a PowerPoint overview of the Episcopal Church's engagement with climate change, a video message from Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, our Church's latest policy resolutions on climate change, interfaith prayer booklets by the Episcopal Diocese of California and more!





The Episcopal Church and Climate Change

- The Episcopal Church is a Christian denomination with 2 million members in more than 15 countries in North America, Central and South America, Europe and Asia and the Pacific. It is known at the United Nations (UN) by its legal corporate name, the “Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America” and is associated with the UN via ECOSOC special consultative status and DPI association.
- The Episcopal Church is an observer organization to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Since COP21 in 2015, the Episcopal Church’s Presiding Bishop has sent Episcopal delegations to the annual UN Climate Change Conferences to advocate for strong and just climate policies. The Church provides church-wide education about the COP negotiations and advocacy opportunities for Episcopalians’ engagement from their home communities and parishes.
- As a member province of the worldwide Anglican Communion (the third largest Christian communion with tens of millions of members in 165 countries), the Episcopal Church joins with Anglican partners in advocating on behalf of climate-impacted Anglicans worldwide and for robust climate mitigation policies and the Green Climate Fund.
- The Episcopal Church’s governing bodies affirmed support for the Paris Agreement and Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals in 2016. We encourage swift implementation of the Agreement and the Goals, especially Goal 13 on Climate Action.
- The Episcopal Public Policy Network (EPPN) organizes grassroots advocacy in support of the Green Climate Fund, the critical financial mechanism within the UNFCCC structure that funds climate mitigation and adaptation strategies in developing states.
- The Episcopal Church chairs the Faith for the Arctic Network, a diverse coalition of religious organizations committed to permanently safeguarding the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and supporting the Gwich’in people, an indigenous Alaskan population heavily impacted by climate change. To date, the Network has mobilized 110,000 persons of faith to advocate for Arctic protection.
- The Episcopal Church funds projects to advance education, advocacy and adaptation to climate change. It awards grants to dioceses in which innovative environmental work is taking place and is investing in creative ecumenical partnerships for ecological advocacy. From 2012-2015, the Episcopal Church allocated \$150,000 USD in grants for ecojustice work in 3 geographic areas (Alaska and Louisiana in the U.S.A. and Dominican Republic) and \$335,000 USD in small grants to support environmental work across the U.S.-based Episcopal Church who are pioneering networks, educational initiatives, and programmatic engagement around environmental stewardship.

For more information during COP24, contact our delegates:

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