

Bogota, April 10th, 2026

Contribution of the Latin American Catholic Churches to the COP30 Presidency Roadmaps on Just Energy Transition and Forest Conservation

Welcoming the invitation from the COP30 Presidency to contribute to the Roadmaps on transitioning away from fossil fuels and on halting and reversing deforestation by 2030, we wish to inform you of an ongoing regional process led by the Latin American and Caribbean Episcopal Council (CELAM) through its Commission for Integral Ecology (CEILAC).

This initiative consolidates the expertise and knowledge of a regional network deeply rooted in local territories. Its objective is to inform both agendas by promoting pathways for a Just Energy Transition and addressing the structural drivers of deforestation, while strengthening the conservation of vital biomes such as the Amazon.

A situated perspective on regional Barriers

Drawing upon the extensive territorial presence of the Catholic Church, this process identifies key barriers to climate action, such as a development model dependent on extractive activities and the expansion of land-use intensive production systems.

We observe that governance gaps often exclude local communities, and limited access to equitable finance remains a critical obstacle. These challenges directly impact livelihoods, food systems, and social cohesion, particularly for the most vulnerable populations.

Pathways toward Just Transition and Forest Integrity

In alignment with the outcomes of the Global Stocktake (GST), our contribution emphasizes that technical shifts must be accompanied by social justice:

- **Energy Sufficiency and Equity:** Amidst the global energy transition process, we advocate for "sufficiency"—achieving well-being by reducing excessive demand. We call for shifts in production patterns that prioritize energy access for local needs, avoiding the reproduction of existing inequalities. Also, we advocate for debt relief measures that allow global south countries to redirect resources to vital transformations such as reducing energy poverty and access gaps.

- **Integral Ecology and Forests:** Inspired by the call of *Querida Amazonía*, we emphasize the protection of the Amazon and other forest ecosystems as "living realities." This includes defending the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) as guardians of our common home and effectively integrating them in governance frameworks.
- **Agroecological Transformation:** We highlight agroecology, agroforestry, and the need to integrate a cross-cutting adaptation perspective as bridges between both Roadmaps. These practices can reduce pressure on forests and decrease dependence on fossil-fuel-intensive inputs, thereby enhancing food security and climate resilience.

The role of the Catholic Church

The Catholic Church, alongside other faith-based organizations, plays a distinctive role in facilitating pathways to accelerate a justice-based energy transition and to halt and reverse the deforestation and degradation of key ecosystems. Our sustained presence in remote areas allows us to amplify perspectives that are often absent from formal processes. Furthermore, our capacity to convene diverse stakeholders—communities, authorities, academia, and the private sector—can foster the spaces for dialogue essential for effective implementation.

Commitment toward COP

We look forward to presenting a consolidated compendium of findings, barriers, and enabling conditions in time for the Bonn Climate Change Conference (SB sessions). Our goal is to provide practical insights aligned with the principles of justice, equity, and inclusion to inform the development of the two Roadmaps and contribute to the global discussions culminating at COP31.

We appreciate the opportunity to maintain close contact with the Presidency to translate these priorities into effective implementation pathways rooted in the territories.

In fraternal solidarity,

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