

Will to Care Statement

As representatives from different faiths from Africa, Asia and Europe we gathered in Oslo, Norway 17-18 June, 2013. The following is the statement we wish to share with the COP Presidency, and those addressing our human responsibility for climate change.

The vast majority of people on Earth belong to some form of organised religion or spiritual tradition. These traditions bring together the individual with the wider society and a larger framework of reference, the divine, the ancestors, other species and the interconnectedness of life.

As faith traditions of the world we stand united for the stewardship of the Earth. Climate change is driven by *human* activities and behavior, and we must find *human* solutions to halt climate change. We need a robust, multilateral and binding agreement on reduction of greenhouse gas emissions now.

We note that the highest concentration ever of CO₂ in the atmosphere (400 PPM) was measured one month prior to our meeting. This reminds us of the urgency of our challenges and the need to act now for climate justice. There is no way out of climate change without a will to change. This requires both the will to give up something immediate and material for a higher universal good – a good which is intergenerational. This is a challenge that we, the faith-based civil society, will bring further into our own constituencies and we note that taking responsibility begins at the individual level and extends into our communities, nations and our leaders. The will to care for creation and the Earth's integrity has to arise from an individual ethical commitment, a sense of duty and responsibility, and a sense of love and compassion for others. It is the aggregation of those beliefs, those values and those commitments which will bring us not only to a new energy and economic paradigm, but also speak to one of the most profound experiences of human existence - the discovery that generosity and caring are sources of liberation and re-connecting with the whole.

It is an imperative for the faiths gathered in Oslo to engage in the struggle for climate justice. The faith networks recognise that the technologies are available to move to a low carbon path of development and well-being. We see in humanity the possibility of greater compassion, harmony and appreciation for the natural resources that sustain us. What we need is a process that unlocks the potential to change the scale of the thinking, to personalise responsibility and to build a greater global will to do what needs to be done.

We call on the leaders of the world to take responsibility. There is a urgent need for progress in the UN climate talks and a restored trust in the negotiations. All countries must do their fair share and work together towards an equitable result.

We call for the developed countries to deliver the climate finance they have promised to provide. It is necessary in order to put in place adaptation and mitigation measures in developing countries.

We call upon the COP President, HE Marcin Korolec, Minister of the Environment for the Republic of Poland, to reflect on his own role and duty in facilitating this arising of human will. As a Catholic intellectual, Minister Korolec is well placed to draw on Poland's rich heritage and ethical value system to

host the world and create a platform of engagement and action. We hope that the negotiations should be guided by common sense, science and faith in God's mercy and willingness to support humanity in its shortcomings and confusion – awakening to the truth of the inter-relatedness of life and the benefits of turning our hearts and minds to the greater good.

We invite the COP President to join with the international multifaith movements to make Warsaw's COP19 an inspirational time and place to bring change for the better. We send you our prayers, our blessings and our congregational support from across the planet and pray that the appliance of science is in coherence with ethics, which needs to be the core of the negotiations.

We believe that when the countries meet, they will come together in good faith and agree on an outcome that will enable future generations to live a good life on this very planet.

Oslo 18th of June 2013

Sheikh Ibrahim Saïdy, Member of the Committee of Imams, Islamic Council of Norway

Rev Knut Refsdal, General Secretary, Christian Council of Norway

Rev Einar Tjelle, Deputy Secretary General, Council on Ecumenical and International Relations, Church of Norway

Mr Abraham Chikasa, Council of Churches in Zambia /We Have Faith secretariat in Southern Africa

Somboon Chungprampree, Executive Secretary, International Network of Engaged Buddhists

Valeriane Bernard, UN Representative for Brahma Kumaris and Inter faith forum of Geneva

Nigel Crawhall, Dr Nigel Crawhall, Co-Chair IUCN Theme on Indigenous Peoples, Local Communities, Equity and Protected Areas (TILCEPA) and IUCN focal point on cooperation with faith-based organisations and networks.