

## 'FAITH AND SCIENCE: TOWARDS COP26', 04 OCTOBER 2021

### MEDIA COVERAGE



#### UK

#### REUTERS

October 3, 2021 4:28 PM CEST

#### [Vatican hopes its pre-COP26 climate event will raise stakes in Glasgow](#)

By Philip Pullella

VATICAN CITY, Oct 3 (Reuters) - The Vatican hopes a meeting where world religious leaders will take a common stand on the environment can "raise ambitions" on what can be achieved at next month's U.N. Climate Change Conference, its foreign minister says.

Monday's day-long event, organised by the Vatican, the United Kingdom and Italy, brings together about 40 faith leaders of the world's major religions and scientists, from about 20 countries.

The leaders, including Pope Francis, will sign a joint appeal and hand it to Italian Foreign Minister Luigi Di Maio and Britain's Alok Sharma, president of the U.N. gathering known as COP26 in Glasgow.

"It is our hope that (the Monday meeting) will give an impact to opinion in general but within our faith groups and faith families and also within the political community to raise ambitions with regards to what can be achieved by COP26," said Archbishop Paul Gallagher.

Speaking in a telephone interview with Reuters on Sunday, Gallagher said the Vatican hoped the direct appeal to COP26 leaders would have the same effect as the pope's landmark 2015 environmental encyclical "Laudato Si" (Praised Be).

It drew massive attention to climate crisis and spurred activism by faith groups.

"Most of the religions represented, whether it's through their sacred scriptures or their traditions or the spirituality that they represent, have the basis for a renewal of our relationship with the environment and with the planet," Gallagher said.

The meeting is called "Faith and Science: Towards

COP26". It brings together Christian leaders, including the pope, Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby and the Orthodox ecumenical patriarch Bartholomew, as well as representatives of Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, Sikhism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, Zoroastrianism and Jainism.

The pope, Welby and Bartholomew issued a [joint appeal](#) to members of their Churches last month to "listen to the cry of the earth"

#### POPE EXPECTED TO ATTEND COP26 OPENING

Scotland's bishops said in July that the pope will attend the opening of COP26, health permitting. A decision is expected in the next few days.

Francis [strongly supports](#) the goals of the 2015 U.N. Paris accord to reduce global warming. Over the weekend, he told young people that theirs was "perhaps the last generation" to save the planet.

Gallagher, who is British, said it was "a sign of great hope" that U.S. President Joe Biden returned the United States to the Paris accords after his predecessor Donald Trump pulled out. Biden and the pope are expected to meet at the Vatican at the end of October.

"Translating commitment into action is the great problem and we all know that our political leaders are very good at promising and very good at talking but the action that we need now is urgent and it is enormous," he said.

He said the Vatican hoped Monday's conference would underscore the need for "an ecological conversion in the way we relate to the planet", and the realisation that lifestyle changes would be necessary but not easy.

"Most aspects of life have a political dimension and if you are going to say that faith should also be part of every part of your life then obviously your faith is going to affect your politics," Gallagher said.

He said organisers did not consider inviting the Dalai Lama, the exiled spiritual leader of Tibet's Buddhists, who is not recognised by China.

"His Holiness the Dalai Lama knows how well he is respected here by the Holy See but he also appreciates that our relations (with China) are complicated and difficult and he has always respected that and we appreciate that very much and so the dialogue goes on with Buddhism on many, many levels," he said.

Reporting by Philip Pullella Editing by Frances Kerry

**BBC**

**BBC News**

**Religious leaders including Pope Francis call for new climate deal – BBC News**

**October 5, 2021Climate Change**

---

Pope Francis and nearly 40 other religious leaders have called for urgent action to combat climate change.

The call comes four weeks before the crucial COP26 UN climate summit in Glasgow.

## **BBC News at One**

**Video link:** <https://twitter.com/i/status/1445017017858338819>

[Mark Lowen on Twitter: "As world leaders prepare to meet in Glasgow, they're hoping faith leaders who met today at the Vatican can persuade their followers to help combat the climate emergency. Our @BBCNews at One piece on the pre-COP26 faith summit, camera @FrancescoTosto6 producer @julianmig https://t.co/E3IHhmuLX" / Twitter](#)

## **BBC Radio 4 – Sunday 3 October 2021**

H.E. Archbishop Paul Gallagher, Secretary for Relations with States.

[Sunday - 03/10/2021 - BBC Sounds](#)

## **Associated Press**

[Pope, faith leaders sign joint climate appeal before summit](#)

by NICOLE WINFIELD, Associated Press 04 October 2021

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope Francis and dozens of religious leaders on Monday signed a joint appeal to governments to commit to ambitious targets at the upcoming U.N. climate conference, while promising to do their own part to lead their faithful into more sustainable behavior.

“We have inherited a garden; we must not leave a desert to our children,” said the appeal, which was signed at a formal ceremony in the Apostolic Palace before being handed over to the head of the COP26 conference, Alok Sharma.

For the religious leaders, care for the environment is a moral imperative to preserve God’s creation for future generations and to support communities most vulnerable to climate change.

It’s an argument Francis has made repeatedly and most comprehensively in a 2015 encyclical, “Praised Be” and was echoed Monday by imams, rabbis, patriarchs and reverends who shared how their faith traditions interpreted the call, many of them insisting that faith and science must listen to each other to save the planet.

“Faith and Science: An Appeal for COP26” is the latest initiative to rally momentum and outrage ahead of the Oct. 31-Nov. 12 summit in Glasgow, Scotland that experts say is a make-or-break chance to curb greenhouse gas emissions. It follows a youth climate summit in Milan last week and an earlier appeal by three Christian leaders: Francis, the archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, and the spiritual leader of the world’s Orthodox Christians, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I.

They were joined Monday by leaders of other major faith groups representing Sunni and Shiite Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, Jainism, Sikhism and more.

Conspicuously absent was the Dalai Lama. The Vatican has excluded the Tibetan spiritual leader from interfaith events for years to not antagonize China, and an appeal seeking to be heard by a top polluter like Beijing is no exception.

The Glasgow summit aims to secure more ambitious commitments to limit global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius with a goal of keeping it to 1.5 degrees Celsius compared to pre-industrial levels. The event also is focused on mobilizing financing and protecting vulnerable communities and natural habitats.

Pope Francis is widely expected to attend, though the Vatican hasn't yet confirmed his presence.

The Vatican event was jointly organized by the Holy See and the two countries leading the push ahead of the Glasgow summit: host Britain and Italy, which currently heads the Group of 20. The appeal was crafted over months of discussions among religious leaders and scientists.

Bishop Frederick Shoo, president of the Lutheran Church of Tanzania, quoted Martin Luther in describing his vocation to plant trees on Mount Kilimanjaro that has earned him the nickname of the "tree bishop."

"Even if I knew I would die tomorrow ... I would plant a tree today," Shoo said, paraphrasing the 16th century Luther who broke away from the Catholic Church.

Francis arrived in the Hall of Blessings with Bartholomew at his side, and then greeted each of the delegates as a string quartet played Vivaldi's "Four Seasons." Usually Francis goes maskless inside the Vatican, but he donned a face mask Monday, as did the other delegates.

He had been scheduled to read a lengthy speech but gave just a brief welcome and then left the floor to others, starting off with Sheikh Ahmad al-Tayyeb, the imam of the Al-Azhar center for Sunni learning in Cairo. Al-Tayyeb urged young Muslims and religious scholars to "carry out their religious duty" by taking responsibility for the crisis.

The event was a global gathering of faith leaders, almost all of them male, including some who rarely are in the same room because of longstanding theological differences. But there was the Istanbul patriarch, Bartholomew, calling for continued dialogue as he signed a joint appeal alongside Patriarch Hilarion of the Russian Orthodox Church, who used his two-minute speech to call for repentance for all the damage already done.

"It shall be remembered that the current ecological situation has been caused, among other factors, by the desire of some to profit at the expense of others as well as by the desire of unjust enrichment," Hilarion said.

In the appeal, the leaders begged political leaders to adopt measures to limit temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius and for countries that are most responsible for greenhouse gas emissions to provide "substantial financial support" to most vulnerable communities.

For their own part, they vowed to promote environmentally aware educational and cultural initiatives and to urge their faithful to lead more sustainable lifestyles.

In his speech, Welby said over the past 100 years, humanity had "declared war" on creation and must now repent by not only to building a green economy but by bringing justice to the global south.

"I have run out of time," Welby said at the end of his speech. "The world has just enough time to get this right."

## **The Times**

### **[Pope and religious leaders call for climate commitment at Cop26](#)**

Tom Kington, Vatican City

Monday October 04 2021, 5.45pm, The Times

Almost 40 religious leaders met Pope Francis at the Vatican to highlight the “grave threat” of climate change

Pope Francis and leaders representing the world’s major religions have pleaded with politicians attending the Cop26 climate conference in Glasgow this month to save the planet from environmental disaster.

Almost 40 religious leaders met Pope Francis at the Vatican yesterday to sign an appeal highlighting the “grave threat” of climate change, which was handed by the pontiff to Alok Sharma, the Cop26 president, and Luigi di Maio, Italy’s foreign minister.

Calling for the world to achieve net-zero carbon emissions as soon as possible and to limit the world’s temperature rise to 1.5C above pre-industrial levels, the appeal “begs” rich nations to fund poorer countries being hit hard by the effects of climate change.

The document was signed by Pope Francis, the Most Rev Justin Welby, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Orthodox Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and representatives of Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, Sikhism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, Zoroastrianism and Jainism.

“We have inherited a garden: we must not leave a desert to our children,” it said.

“We plead with the international community, gathered at Cop26, to take speedy, responsible and shared action to safeguard, restore and heal our wounded humanity and the home entrusted to our stewardship,” the appeal states.

After taking delivery of the appeal at the Vatican, Sharma said: “The message from them has been very clear — this is a critical moment for the world.”

He said he hoped the faith leaders would return home and lobby their local politicians about climate change ahead of the conference, which is being co-hosted by the UK and Italy.

“They have a unique way of being able to talk to world leaders,” Sharma said, adding: “This is about following the science but also the morality of the argument.”

More than 100 global political leaders, including President Biden, will attend the 13-day event starting on October 31 which will seek deals to slow climate change.

Scotland’s bishops have said Pope Francis will attend, and Sharma, who was due to have a private audience with him, said: “I expect his Holiness will come.”

The Pope has made climate change a defining theme of his papacy and in his 2015 encyclical *Laudato Si* condemned environmental damage as a sin, warning that future generations stood to inherit a planet full of “debris, desolation and filth”.

Last month the Pope, Welby and Bartholomew issued a joint appeal to “everyone, whatever their belief or worldview, to endeavour to listen to the cry of the Earth”.

The Pope declined to deliver his prepared speech yesterday, instead handing it out to delegates to give them more time to speak.

In it he wrote: “Each of us has his or her religious beliefs and spiritual traditions, but no cultural, political or social borders or barriers prevent us from standing together.”

The appeal was handed to Alok Sharma, the Cop26 president, and Luigi di Maio, Italy’s foreign minister

The Vatican said the idea for the meeting initially came from the British and Italian embassies to the Holy See. The religious leaders had dined at the residence of the British ambassador to Italy yesterday.

Welby, once a senior oil industry executive, said: "We need a pilgrimage to a clean economy", adding that "dramatic" changes in taxation were needed to promote a greener economy.

"We need a global financial architecture which repents of its past sins," he said. "We have in the last 100 years declared war on the creation. The world has just enough time to get this right."

The appeal contained a promise by leaders to take the message on climate change back to their own congregations, arguing that: "The followers of religious traditions have a crucial part to play in addressing the crisis of our common home. We commit to taking much more serious action."

Sharma told delegates: "Please send the message of this appeal far and wide."

Each leader was given two minutes to speak at the meeting, which was held at the Vatican's Apostolic Palace.

Bartholomew told his fellow leaders a greener planet was needed "to simply be, breath and love one another," while Ahmed el-Tayeb, the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar, called on "all young Muslims" to protect the environment.

One key figure missing was the Dalai Lama, the Tibetan Buddhist leader, who was not invited to avoid antagonising China.

Speaking before the conference, Archbishop Paul Gallagher, the Vatican's foreign minister, said: "His Holiness the Dalai Lama knows how well he is respected here by the Holy See but he also appreciates that our relations [with China] are complicated and difficult."

Gallagher, who is British, added: "He has always respected that and we appreciate that very much and so the dialogue goes on with Buddhism on many, many levels."

### **Faith heads pledge to practise what they preach**

Ben Webster, Environment Editor

Monday October 04 2021, 5.45pm, The Times

If scientists cannot persuade world leaders to act on climate change, perhaps religious leaders can.

That is the hope of the joint appeal by almost 40 faith leaders representing the major religions calling on governments to take "speedy, responsible and shared" action on emissions.

There have been previous statements by faith leaders on the subject, notably before Cop21 in Paris in 2015 when the Pope issued an encyclical calling for action on climate change, but today's appeal is supported by more faith leaders than any before. It is significant in saying governments "must adopt" emissions targets that will limit global warming to 1.5C above pre-industrial levels.

The Paris agreement on climate change commits countries to "pursue efforts" to limit warming to 1.5C but the main target in the text is to keep it "well below" 2C. Many countries have yet to set emissions targets in line with the 1.5C target.

The appeal's greatest impact may lie in what it commits the leaders to do themselves rather than its calls on others. The leaders promise that they will take "much more serious action", which they say is what young people are demanding of them.

They pledge to deepen their efforts to bring about a "change of heart" among members of their own faiths, to persuade them to embrace "simple and sustainable lifestyles" and also to prioritise ecological education in their own educational and cultural institutions.

The faith leaders also say they will strive to ensure their financial investments are environmentally responsible and encourage others to do the same. They don't quite rule out investments in oil, gas and coal but the appeal refers in positive terms to "the tendency to move away from investments in fossil fuels and toward investments in renewable energy".

The appeal is silent, however, on the world's rapid population growth, which makes it much harder to prevent dangerous climate change. Population Matters, which campaigns for lower population growth, said the Pope would help to reduce future emissions if he ended the Roman Catholic church's opposition to contraception.

## Church Times

### [World faith leaders point at richer nations to solve the climate crisis](#)

BY [JOE WARE](#), 04 OCTOBER 2021

[THE Pope](#) and the [Archbishop of Canterbury](#), together with faith leaders and scientists from around the world, have called on wealthier nations to cut emissions and provide more [climate](#) funding to help vulnerable countries to adapt to the impacts of the climate crisis.

Archbishop Welby was among 33 global faith leaders making the call as part of a special meeting at the [Vatican](#) on Monday morning. In addition to representatives from different faiths, those attending included the Ecumenical Patriarch, Bartholomew; the acting general secretary of the [World Council of Churches](#), the Revd Dr Ioan Sauca; and the secretary general of the [Evangelical](#) World Alliance, Bishop Thomas Schirrmacher. The statement was received at the meeting by the COP26 President, Alok Sharma.

Their appeal, formed after several months of dialogue with some of the world's leading scientists, focuses on richer countries, which have done the most to cause climate change. "We beg those nations with the greatest responsibility and present capacity to provide substantial financial support to vulnerable countries and to agree new targets to enable them to become climate resilient, and to adapt to and to address climate change. The rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities must be given special attention."

Nations are urged to take greater action at the COP26 climate summit taking place in Glasgow in November: "Future generations will never forgive us if we miss the opportunity to protect our common home. We have inherited a garden: we must not leave a desert to our children. Scientists have warned us that there might be only one decade left to restore the planet.

"We plead with the international community, gathered at COP26, to take speedy, responsible and shared action to safeguard, restore and heal our wounded humanity and the home entrusted to our stewardship. We appeal to everyone to join us on this common journey."

Besides calling on action from governments, the faith leaders made a commitment to do more to educate and influence people of faith and actively participate in the public debate on environmental issues.

They said: “The followers of religious traditions have a crucial part to play in addressing the crisis of our common home. We commit to taking much more serious action. Young people are demanding that we listen to the scientific insights and that we, their elders, do much more.”

Responding to the announcement, the chief executive of Cafod, Christine Allen, said: “As the host of this year’s COP, the [Prime Minister](#) has a unique responsibility to heed this cry from global faith leaders to safeguard, restore, and heal our wounded humanity and set an example on the international stage. . .

“This is a renewed moral call, joining other voices calling for action, to reset our priorities. They have recognised that the climate crisis crosses all parts of life and society; it’s time our politicians did the same.”

The faith leaders’ intervention puts pressure on the UK Government, which is leading the Glasgow talks, to ensure that the summit delivers more progress than previous meetings have, especially on reducing emissions and delivering climate finance to poorer nations.

Receiving the documents, Mr Sharma said: “I am honoured to receive this historic joint appeal as we press for progress towards limiting global temperature rises to 1.5°C at COP26 in just a few weeks’ time. We must all hear the voices of those most affected by climate change and I hope people of faith will continue to be a key part of this dialogue as we work together to drive forward climate action.”

Coinciding with the call from the Vatican, a new initiative was launched on Monday which will mean that faith groups will commit themselves publicly to using their assets, investments, and influence to mitigate climate change and create a better world.

The programme Faith Plans for People and Planet has been organised by the charity FaithInvest, and WWF’s beliefs-and-values programme.

The chief executive of FaithInvest, Dr Martin Palmer, said: “Faiths are key stakeholders in the planet. Globally, faiths run two-thirds of schools, provide significant health services — the Catholic Church alone runs a quarter of the world’s health care — and manage eight per cent of the habitable land surface of the planet, including five per cent of commercial forests.

“Faith communities are already playing a crucial role in inspiring and undertaking change within and beyond their communities to help ensure a stable future for all. And now those communities, which represent all of the world’s major faith traditions, are committing to scale up their efforts and take practical, yet bold environmental steps for change.

“Given the size of their assets and influence, faiths alone, through their actions, could make the crucial difference to the world’s efforts to halt irreversible climate change and reverse environmental destruction.”

Some of the proposed actions from faith groups include divesting from fossil fuels; establishing community forests; planting millions of trees; improving the energy efficiency of buildings; adopting renewable energies; and encouraging their members to adopt greener lifestyles, including greener transport for pilgrimages.

## **The Tablet**

04 OCTOBER 2021, THE TABLET

[Pope leads call by religious leaders to 'restore the planet'](#)

by [Christopher Lamb](#)



Pope Francis and the world's religious leaders have called on governments across the globe to raise their ambitions ahead of the UN climate summit in Glasgow warning there could be just a decade left to restore the planet.

"We have inherited a garden: we must not leave a desert to our children," states [the appeal, signed by the Pope and around 40 faith leaders](#).

Francis joined with religious leaders and scientists in the Vatican on this morning, where he handed over the joint declaration to a British government minister, Alok Sharma, the President of COP26, and Luigi di Maio, Italy's Foreign Minister. The UK and Italy are joint hosts of the COP summit.

The appeal, which calls on the world to achieve net-zero carbon emissions "as soon as possible", was presented to the politicians during a one-day event organised by the UK and Italian embassies to the Holy See titled "Faith and Science: Towards COP26".

Along with the Pope, it brought together the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, the Orthodox Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, the Grand Imam of al-Azhar, Ahmed el-Tayeb and representatives of Judaism, Hinduism, Sikhism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, Zoroastrianism and Jainism. They were also joined by scientists who had helped draft the declaration.

"We appeal to governments to raise their ambition and their international cooperation...scientists have warned us that there might be only one decade left to restore the planet," it reads.

All governments, the leaders state, "must adopt a trajectory that will limit the global average temperature rise to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels" and that "those nations with the greatest responsibility and present capacity to provide substantial financial support to vulnerable countries and to agree new targets."

During the event, which took place inside the Apostolic Palace, male and female religious leaders all agreed that it is a sacred duty, according to their faith, to take action to protect the planet.

"COP26 in Glasgow represents an urgent summons to provide effective responses to the unprecedented ecological crisis and the crisis of values that we are presently experiencing, and in this way to offer concrete hope to future generations," the Pope explained in written remarks. He said he would not read his speech so as to save time.

Archbishop Welby told the gathering that "the world has just enough time to get this right", and called for a "rapid change in taxation and trade rules that promote green activity" while the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar, Egypt, urged "all young Muslims" and scholars to oppose any action that damages the environment. Quaker leader Gretchen Castle pointed out that it is "the poorest who have done the least to cause the crisis are the hardest hit."

The morning session concluded with the ceremonial planting of an olive tree, and Archbishop Paul Gallagher, the Vatican Foreign Minister, encouraging participants to "enjoy some Roman tourism and good Italian food" before gathering again for further discussions Palazzo Borromeo. The archbishop said the leaders' COP26 appeal showed the need for "change and transformation" while on Sunday 3 October told the BBC Radio 4 Sunday programme that it was designed to "impact world leaders and raise their ambitions" at what is a "turning point" of human history.

Over the last eight-and-a-half years Francis has made protection of the planet a hallmark of his pontificate, pushing privately and publicly for world leaders to take action and pledging to make the Vatican net-zero by 2050. Speaking to a group of young economists and entrepreneurs on Saturday

1 October, the Pope told them: “You are perhaps the last generation that can save us: I am not exaggerating.”

Today’s event took place on the feast day of St Francis of Assisi, the saint renowned for his care of the natural world and the Pope’s namesake. The Roman Pontiff used a line from a poem written by the 11th-century friar as the title of his 2015 encyclical on the environment, *Laudato si’* while timing its publication to create maximum impact on the Paris COP summit which led to a landmark deal to reduce carbon emissions. Following the Paris summit, it was reported that [Francis intervened](#) at a crucial moment to ensure the Paris deal got over the line.

The Pope is due to be in Glasgow for the start of the COP summit, with details of this trip expected to be released in the coming days: the prospect of a papal visit to the summit was [first reported](#) by *The Tablet* earlier this year.

The 4 October declaration underlines the willingness of religious leaders to work together to tackle climate change. It follows last month’s [joint appeal](#) by the Pope, Archbishop Welby, and Patriarch Bartholomew for action to be taken to protect the environment, which is the first time that the three Christian leaders have issued a joint statement.

## International

### Al Jazeera

#### [Religious leaders plead for rapid climate action at COP26](#)

*Dozens of prominent religious figures from around the globe meet at the Vatican to demand world leaders take immediate moves.*

*04 October 2021*

Dozens of religious leaders appealed to governments to commit to ambitious targets at the upcoming UN climate conference, which has been described by scientists as the last chance to act meaningfully to halt global warming before it is too late.

The call for urgent climate action was echoed on Monday by imams, rabbis, patriarchs and reverends who shared how their faith traditions interpreted the emergency, many insisting religion and science must act together to save the planet.

“Faith and Science: An Appeal for COP26” was the latest initiative to rally momentum and outrage before the [October 31-November 12 summit](#) in Glasgow, Scotland that experts say is a make-or-break chance to curb greenhouse gas emissions.

“I call on all young people, regardless of their religion, to be ready to fight against any action that damages the environment or increases the climate crisis,” said Grand Imam Sheikh Ahmed al-Tayeb of the Al-Azhar Mosque in Cairo, Egypt.

For the religious leaders, care for the environment is a moral imperative to preserve the planet for future generations and to support communities most vulnerable to climate change.

Several participants stressed no nation could go it alone.

“If one nation sinks, we all sink,” said Rajwant Singh, a Sikh leader from the United States.

“Water is the father, air is the teacher, and Earth is our common mother. Just as we don’t dishonour our mother, father, and teacher – why would we dishonour these gifts from our creator?”

‘Substantial financial support’

About 40 religious leaders gathered at the Vatican in Rome at the meeting called by Pope Francis before the COP26 meeting. Leaders of major faith groups representing Sunni and Shia Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, Jainism, Sikhism and more attended.

“We have inherited a garden; we must not leave a desert to our children,” said an appeal signed by those who gathered before handing it over to the head of the COP26 conference, Alok Sharma.

In the appeal, the religious figures urged political leaders to adopt measures to limit temperature rise to 1.5C (2.7F), and for rich countries most responsible for greenhouse gas emissions to provide “substantial financial support” to most vulnerable communities.

Bishop Frederick Shoo, president of the Lutheran Church of Tanzania, quoted Martin Luther in describing his vocation to plant trees on Mount Kilimanjaro that has earned him the nickname of the “tree bishop”.

“Even if I knew I would die tomorrow ... I would plant a tree today,” Shoo said, paraphrasing the 16th-century Luther who broke away from the Catholic Church.

Pope Francis had been scheduled to read a lengthy speech but gave just a brief welcome and then left the floor to others, starting off with Sheikh Ahmed. He urged young Muslims and religious scholars to “carry out their religious duty” by taking responsibility for the crisis.

The Istanbul Patriarch Bartholomew called for continued dialogue as he signed the joint appeal alongside Patriarch Hilarion of the Russian Orthodox Church, who used his two-minute speech to call for repentance for all the damage already done.

“It shall be remembered that the current ecological situation has been caused, among other factors, by the desire of some to profit at the expense of others, as well as by the desire of unjust enrichment,” Hilarion said.

The appeal urged all governments to adopt plans to achieve net-zero carbon emissions as soon as possible with wealthier countries taking the lead.

“We plead with the international community gathered at COP26 to take speedy, responsible, and shared action to safeguard, restore, and heal our wounded humanity and the home entrusted to our stewardship.”

[Al Jazeera English](#) on You Tube (8.23M subscribers)

[Pope, faith leaders issue joint appeal on climate change to COP26](#)

The Vatican is pushing for more concrete steps from world leaders before a major climate conference. Pope Francis and dozens of religious leaders made a joint appeal for governments to take immediate action to confront the climate crisis when they meet at a summit in Scotland next month. The support of the world's leading spiritual figures adds to a growing consensus that real action must emerge from the coming summit. Al Jazeera’s Adam Raney reports from Vatican City.

## **Republika (Indonesia)**

**“Religion and Science hand in hand in saving the earth”.**

# Agama dan Sains Beriringan Selamatkan Bumi

Acara ini dihadiri tokoh Muslim, Katolik, Kristen, Yahudi, Hindu, Sikh, Budha, Konghucu, Taoisme, Zoroaster, dan Jainisme.

■ FERIZ NADIRA, DENHARAGUSTIN

VATICAN CITY — Puluhan tokoh agama dunia kini beres-beres untuk menghadiri konferensi internasional di Vatikan yang membahas pemertanian di dunia untuk berkontribusi menyelesaikan Bumi.

"Kita telah menyadari sebuah tantangan, kita telah melihat bagaimana dunia ini berubah. Kita telah melihat bagaimana dunia ini berubah. Kita telah melihat bagaimana dunia ini berubah."

Pernyataan itu diungkapkan oleh Paus Fransiskus, pemimpin Gereja Katolik, saat menghadiri konferensi internasional "Faith and Science: Towards COP26" yang berlangsung pada 21 Oktober di Vatikan.

Setelah penandatanganan, pernyataan ini kemudian diserahkan kepada Menteri Luar Negeri Italia Luigi Di Maio dan ketua konferensi COP26 yang digelar di Glasgow, Skotlandia.

"Para pemimpin agama yang datang hari ini menyadari bahwa kita perlu bertindak dengan cepat. Kita perlu bertindak dengan cepat. Kita perlu bertindak dengan cepat."

Sebelumnya, Paus Fransiskus telah mengunjungi Vatikan untuk bertemu dengan pemimpin-pemimpin agama lainnya.

Pernyataan para tokoh agama ini diputar bersama oleh Vatikan, Reuters, dan media lainnya.



■ Paus Fransiskus diri menyambut Imam Besar al-Ahmad al-Tayeb di Vatikan City, Sabtu (4/10).

Kebudayaan Ulama (NU) dan Muhammadiyah adalah dua organisasi Islam terbesar di Indonesia. NU merupakan organisasi keagamaan Islam yang terbesar di Indonesia, dengan lebih dari 40 juta anggota. Muhammadiyah adalah organisasi Islam yang terbesar di Indonesia, dengan lebih dari 30 juta anggota.

Para pemimpin agama menyatakan kepedulian mereka terhadap perubahan iklim. Mereka juga menekankan pentingnya sains dalam memahami perubahan iklim.

"Kami ingin mempromosikan hal yang positif dengan kita, untuk menunjukkan bahwa sains dan agama dapat berjalan bersama."

Para pemimpin agama juga menekankan pentingnya sains dalam memahami perubahan iklim. Mereka juga menekankan pentingnya sains dalam memahami perubahan iklim.

Di Glasgow, Scotlandia, para pemimpin agama juga menekankan pentingnya sains dalam memahami perubahan iklim. Mereka juga menekankan pentingnya sains dalam memahami perubahan iklim.

"Kami ingin mempromosikan hal yang positif dengan kita, untuk menunjukkan bahwa sains dan agama dapat berjalan bersama."

Para pemimpin agama juga menekankan pentingnya sains dalam memahami perubahan iklim. Mereka juga menekankan pentingnya sains dalam memahami perubahan iklim.

Para pemimpin agama juga menekankan pentingnya sains dalam memahami perubahan iklim. Mereka juga menekankan pentingnya sains dalam memahami perubahan iklim.

Chang yang merupakan ketua BAH adalah ahli geologi. Di Robert McInerney, dia telah memimpin Antartika selama 10 tahun. Hingga 80 persen di dunia sudah terpetakan, dan 90 persen sudah terpetakan.

Para pemimpin agama juga menekankan pentingnya sains dalam memahami perubahan iklim. Mereka juga menekankan pentingnya sains dalam memahami perubahan iklim.

"Kami ingin mempromosikan hal yang positif dengan kita, untuk menunjukkan bahwa sains dan agama dapat berjalan bersama."

Para pemimpin agama juga menekankan pentingnya sains dalam memahami perubahan iklim. Mereka juga menekankan pentingnya sains dalam memahami perubahan iklim.

## KILAS

### Turki Kirim 33 Ton Makanan ke Afghanistan

KABUL — Turki mengirimkan 33 ton bantuan makanan ke Afghanistan. Duta Besar Turki untuk Afghanistan, Cihat Erginc, mengatakan, bantuan makanan tersebut dikirim oleh Badan Suci Merah Turki beserta lembaga bantuan Turki lainnya.

"Badan Suci Merah Turki dan lembaga Turki lainnya akan terus memonitor kebutuhan untuk rakyat Afghanistan. Ini adalah tugas kemanusiaan," ujar Erginc, dalam sebuah konferensi pers.

Bantuan pangan tersebut diserahkan kepada Badan Suci Merah Afghanistan. Erginc mengatakan, sekitar 2.000 paket makanan akan didistribusikan untuk membantu kebutuhan pangan terhadap 14.000 orang selama satu bulan.

### FCC: 216 Ribu Korban Pelecehan Gereja

PARIS — Laporan French Catholic Church (FCC) melaporkan, 216 ribu anak, mayoritas laki-laki, disiksa secara seksual oleh para imam Katolik Prancis sejak 1950. Penyelidikan tersebut dilakukan oleh pemerintah Prancis, polisi, dan gereja. FCC pun bertanya kepada para korban.

"Angka ini menunjukkan seberapa banyak korban yang telah menderita. Kami berharap Badan Suci Merah Turki juga terus memonitor kebutuhan untuk rakyat Afghanistan."

Para pemimpin agama juga menekankan pentingnya sains dalam memahami perubahan iklim. Mereka juga menekankan pentingnya sains dalam memahami perubahan iklim.

"Kami ingin mempromosikan hal yang positif dengan kita, untuk menunjukkan bahwa sains dan agama dapat berjalan bersama."

Para pemimpin agama juga menekankan pentingnya sains dalam memahami perubahan iklim. Mereka juga menekankan pentingnya sains dalam memahami perubahan iklim.

Para pemimpin agama juga menekankan pentingnya sains dalam memahami perubahan iklim. Mereka juga menekankan pentingnya sains dalam memahami perubahan iklim.

## Unicef Soroti Kesehatan Remaja dan Anak Akibat Pandemi

■ DENHARAGUSTIN

PARIS — Dana Anak-Anak Persebaran Bangsa-Bangsa (Unicef) memperingatkan dunia tentang ancaman kesehatan remaja dan anak akibat pandemi.

"Pandemi ini telah mengganggu kehidupan remaja dan anak di seluruh dunia. Kami khawatir tentang kesehatan mereka."

Unicef juga memperingatkan tentang ancaman kesehatan remaja dan anak akibat pandemi. Mereka juga memperingatkan tentang ancaman kesehatan remaja dan anak akibat pandemi.

Para pemimpin agama juga menekankan pentingnya sains dalam memahami perubahan iklim. Mereka juga menekankan pentingnya sains dalam memahami perubahan iklim.

Unicef juga memperingatkan tentang ancaman kesehatan remaja dan anak akibat pandemi. Mereka juga memperingatkan tentang ancaman kesehatan remaja dan anak akibat pandemi.

"Pandemi ini telah mengganggu kehidupan kehidupan remaja dan anak di seluruh dunia. Kami khawatir tentang kesehatan mereka."

Unicef juga memperingatkan tentang ancaman kesehatan remaja dan anak akibat pandemi. Mereka juga memperingatkan tentang ancaman kesehatan remaja dan anak akibat pandemi.

Para pemimpin agama juga menekankan pentingnya sains dalam memahami perubahan iklim. Mereka juga menekankan pentingnya sains dalam memahami perubahan iklim.

Unicef juga memperingatkan tentang ancaman kesehatan remaja dan anak akibat pandemi. Mereka juga memperingatkan tentang ancaman kesehatan remaja dan anak akibat pandemi.

"Pandemi ini telah mengganggu kehidupan kehidupan remaja dan anak di seluruh dunia. Kami khawatir tentang kesehatan mereka."

Unicef juga memperingatkan tentang ancaman kesehatan remaja dan anak akibat pandemi. Mereka juga memperingatkan tentang ancaman kesehatan remaja dan anak akibat pandemi.

Para pemimpin agama juga menekankan pentingnya sains dalam memahami perubahan iklim. Mereka juga menekankan pentingnya sains dalam memahami perubahan iklim.

Unicef juga memperingatkan tentang ancaman kesehatan remaja dan anak akibat pandemi. Mereka juga memperingatkan tentang ancaman kesehatan remaja dan anak akibat pandemi.

"Pandemi ini telah mengganggu kehidupan kehidupan remaja dan anak di seluruh dunia. Kami khawatir tentang kesehatan mereka."

Unicef juga memperingatkan tentang ancaman kesehatan remaja dan anak akibat pandemi. Mereka juga memperingatkan tentang ancaman kesehatan remaja dan anak akibat pandemi.

Para pemimpin agama juga menekankan pentingnya sains dalam memahami perubahan iklim. Mereka juga menekankan pentingnya sains dalam memahami perubahan iklim.

## Malaysia Protes Kapal Cina di ZEE

■ KAMARAN DEWARA

KUALA LUMPUR — Pemerintah Malaysia memprotes kapal Cina yang melanggar zona eksklusif Malaysia (ZEE) di perairan Selat Malaka.

"Kami khawatir tentang keamanan perairan Malaysia. Kami khawatir tentang keamanan perairan Malaysia."

Para pemimpin agama juga menekankan pentingnya sains dalam memahami perubahan iklim. Mereka juga menekankan pentingnya sains dalam memahami perubahan iklim.

Para pemimpin agama juga menekankan pentingnya sains dalam memahami perubahan iklim. Mereka juga menekankan pentingnya sains dalam memahami perubahan iklim.

Para pemimpin agama juga menekankan pentingnya sains dalam memahami perubahan iklim. Mereka juga menekankan pentingnya sains dalam memahami perubahan iklim.

"Kami khawatir tentang keamanan perairan Malaysia. Kami khawatir tentang keamanan perairan Malaysia."

Para pemimpin agama juga menekankan pentingnya sains dalam memahami perubahan iklim. Mereka juga menekankan pentingnya sains dalam memahami perubahan iklim.

Para pemimpin agama juga menekankan pentingnya sains dalam memahami perubahan iklim. Mereka juga menekankan pentingnya sains dalam memahami perubahan iklim.

Para pemimpin agama juga menekankan pentingnya sains dalam memahami perubahan iklim. Mereka juga menekankan pentingnya sains dalam memahami perubahan iklim.

Para pemimpin agama juga menekankan pentingnya sains dalam memahami perubahan iklim. Mereka juga menekankan pentingnya sains dalam memahami perubahan iklim.

"Kami khawatir tentang keamanan perairan Malaysia. Kami khawatir tentang keamanan perairan Malaysia."

Para pemimpin agama juga menekankan pentingnya sains dalam memahami perubahan iklim. Mereka juga menekankan pentingnya sains dalam memahami perubahan iklim.

Para pemimpin agama juga menekankan pentingnya sains dalam memahami perubahan iklim. Mereka juga menekankan pentingnya sains dalam memahami perubahan iklim.

Para pemimpin agama juga menekankan pentingnya sains dalam memahami perubahan iklim. Mereka juga menekankan pentingnya sains dalam memahami perubahan iklim.

Para pemimpin agama juga menekankan pentingnya sains dalam memahami perubahan iklim. Mereka juga menekankan pentingnya sains dalam memahami perubahan iklim.

"Kami khawatir tentang keamanan perairan Malaysia. Kami khawatir tentang keamanan perairan Malaysia."

Para pemimpin agama juga menekankan pentingnya sains dalam memahami perubahan iklim. Mereka juga menekankan pentingnya sains dalam memahami perubahan iklim.

Para pemimpin agama juga menekankan pentingnya sains dalam memahami perubahan iklim. Mereka juga menekankan pentingnya sains dalam memahami perubahan iklim.

Para pemimpin agama juga menekankan pentingnya sains dalam memahami perubahan iklim. Mereka juga menekankan pentingnya sains dalam memahami perubahan iklim.

Fox56 (USA)

Scranton rabbi chosen to sign climate change declaration at the Vatican



■ Subi Reef di Laut Cina Selatan, kawasan yang dipertentakan oleh negara.

by Melanie Zayas

Tuesday, September 21st, 2021

SCRANTON (WOLF) — A rabbi from our area has been chosen to sign a climate change declaration at the Vatican for the United Nations next month.

Rabbi Daniel Swartz of Scranton will be one of 40 faith leaders to attend the United Nations Climate Change Conference in November.

Rabbi Swartz is one of four Americans that were selected to speak on climate change and the urgency surrounding the matter.

"First there's going to be some kind of dignitary reception with different diplomats and things on the night before, and then we're gonna gather in the Vatican on the 4th and do some final statements to each other so i got a two to three minute speech that I'll give," said Rabbi Swartz.

Rabbi Swartz along with the other 39 religious leaders and scientists will sign the declaration on October 4th.

Related: <https://www.wnep.com/article/news/local/lackawanna-county/rabbi-from-scranton-invited-to-vatican-daniel-swartz/523-711cdb40-c66d-4b57-8c7a-12a455f3fcc2>

## Catholic/Religious Affairs

### Vatican News

#### [Pope on COP26: Sharing, love, respect should shape efforts for better future](#)

By Benedict Mayaki, SJ (04 October 2021)

Pope Francis gathers scientists, religious leaders and experts in the Vatican for a “Faith and Science: Towards COP26” meeting, during which participants signed a joint appeal ahead of the upcoming UN COP26 Climate Conference.

Pope Francis met alongside other religious leaders and scientists from around the world in the Vatican on Monday, to take a common stand for the protection of the environment, ahead of the UN Climate Change Conference scheduled for 1 – 12 November in Glasgow, Scotland.

The day-long meeting themed: “Faith and Science: Towards COP26” is a Vatican initiative born of a proposal of the embassies of Great Britain and Italy to the Holy See. It developed through monthly virtual meetings that began earlier this year, in which religious leaders and scientists were able to share their concerns and wishes for greater responsibility for the planet and for necessary change. The Pope and the participants also presented a joint declaration to Alok Sharma, the president-designate of the COP26 climate summit, and to Luigi di Maio, Italian minister for foreign affairs. In his address to the participants at the meeting, Pope Francis expressed gratitude for their presence which shows a “desire for a deepened dialogue among ourselves and with scientific experts” and proposed three concepts to guide their reflection: openness to interdependence and sharing, the dynamism of love, and the call to respect.

#### **Openness to interdependence, sharing**

Pope Francis affirmed that “everything is connected in our world”, adding that science, as well as our religious beliefs and spiritual traditions, highlight the connectedness between ourselves and the rest of creation.

Indeed, “we recognize the signs of divine harmony present in the natural world, for no creatures are self-sufficient; they exist only in dependence on each other, complementing one another and in the service of one another,” the Pope said.

Recognizing this interconnectedness, therefore, means not only realizing the harmful effects of our actions “but also identifying behaviors and solutions to be adopted, in an attitude of openness to interdependence and sharing.” More so, this should lead to “an urgently needed change of direction” nurtured also by respective religious beliefs and spirituality, because for Christians, “openness to interdependence springs from the very mystery of the Triune God.”

In this light, the meeting, “which brings together many cultures and spiritualities in a spirit of fraternity,” strengthens our realization that we are members of one human family.

So, “to illumine and direct this openness, let us commit ourselves to a future shaped by interdependence and co-responsibility,” the Pope urged.

### **Dynamism of love**

Pope Francis went on to emphasize that our common commitment must constantly be driven by the dynamism of love for “in the depths of every heart, love creates bonds and expands existence, for it draws people out of themselves and towards others.”

Love’s driving force is not set in motion once for all, but rather needs to be renewed daily, the Holy Father added. “Love is the mirror of an intense spiritual life: a love that extends to all, transcending cultural, political and social boundaries; a love that is inclusive, concerned especially for the poor, who so often teach us how to overcome the barriers of selfishness and to break down the walls of our ego.”

The Pope then highlighted the need to counter the “throwaway culture,” and the “seeds of conflict” which cause serious wounds to the environment and lead to the breaking of “that covenant between human beings and the environment, which should mirror the creative love of God, from whom we come and towards whom we are journeying.”

### **A challenge that inspires hope**

The Holy Father said that the challenge to work for a culture of care for our common home and for ourselves is one that inspires hope because “humanity has never possessed as many means for achieving this goal as it possesses today.”

He recommended that the challenge can be faced on various levels, including two in particular: “example and action” and “education.” He also pointed out that many opportunities present themselves, as the Joint Appeal notes, that point to various educational and training programs that can be developed to promote care for our common home.

### **Call to respect**

Explaining his third idea – the call to respect – the Pope said it is a respect for creation, for our neighbour, for ourselves and for the Creator, but also mutual respect between faith and science, “in order to enter into a mutual dialogue for the sake of protecting nature, defending the poor, and building networks of respect and fraternity.”

In this sense, he continued, respect is more than an abstract and passive recognition of others but is also “an empathetic and active experience of desiring to know others and to enter into dialogue with them, in order to walk together on a common journey.”

Concluding, the Holy Father reiterated the importance of *Openness to interdependence and sharing, the dynamism of love* and a *call to respect* as interpretative keys that can shed light on common efforts to care for our common home.

He also noted that COP26 “represents an urgent summons to provide effective responses to the unprecedented ecological crisis and the crisis of values that we are presently experiencing, and in this way to offer concrete hope to future generations.”

At the end of the event, several [video messages from religious leaders who were unable to attend in person were broadcast](#) in the Hall of Blessings.

**Related:** [Vatican to host a meeting on faith and science with eye on COP26](#)

## Vatican News Italian

[Il Papa: rispettiamo l'uomo, il creato e il Creatore. La Cop26 offra risposte efficaci - Vatican News](#)  
[Zamagni: alla Cop 26 un fondo per sostenere la transizione verde - Vatican News](#)

## Vatican News French

[François et des responsables religieux lancent un appel en vue de la COP26 - Vatican News](#)

## Vatican News Arabic

[الخالقة الله لمحبة مرأةً هو والبيئة البشري الكائن بين العهد إن: فرنسيس البابا](#)  
["COP 26 نحو والعلم الإيمان" لقاء خلال مشترك نداء - Vatican News](#)

## National Catholic Reporter

[Pope Francis joins world faith leaders in urgent climate appeal ahead of COP26](#)

Oct 4, 2021 by [Brian Roewe](#)

In response to the "grave threat" of climate change, heads of the world's major religions united at the Vatican to issue an unprecedented joint appeal to government leaders at next month's United Nations climate summit, calling for "urgent, radical and responsible action" to drastically curb greenhouse gas emissions and for the world's wealthiest countries to lead in healing the planet.

The nearly 40 religious figures, among them Pope Francis, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and Islamic, Jewish, Buddhist and Hindu leaders, also pledged to increase awareness of the climate crisis and actions to address it within their own congregations.

"We are currently at a moment of opportunity and truth. We pray that our human family may unite to save our common home before it is too late," the declaration read. "Future generations will never forgive us if we squander this precious opportunity."

"We have inherited a garden: we must not leave a desert to our children," the faith leaders wrote.

The joint statement, issued Oct. 4, the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi, the [patron saint of ecology](#), outlined the expectations of the world's major religions — representing about half the global population — for the COP26 U.N. climate conference, set for Nov. 1-12 in Glasgow, Scotland.

"We plead with the international community, gathered at COP26, to take speedy, responsible and shared action to safeguard, restore and heal our wounded humanity and the home entrusted to our stewardship," the faith declaration said.

"We appeal to everyone on this planet to join us on this common journey, knowing well that what we can achieve depends not only on opportunities and resources, but also on hope, courage, solidarity and good will."

A portion of the statement was read at a "Faith and Science Toward COP26" ceremony at the Vatican, where faith leaders, all wearing masks, signed the document. Francis, who signed last, handed the appeal over to Italian Foreign Minister Luigi Di Maio and Alok Sharma of Britain, president of COP26. Officials from embassies to the Holy See from both nations, which are co-hosting the climate conference, worked with the Vatican [to organize the statement](#).

Sharma described the appeal as "a powerful call to action for the world." He called for an alliance of faith leaders, scientists and youth to "turn the tide" on climate change.

"Doing so requires us all to play our part, every country in every part of society mounting a global effort led by those most human qualities, reason and morality, the head and the heart," he said.



Each religious leader present spoke briefly about the need to protect the environment. Those unable to attend because of the coronavirus pandemic sent video messages. At the conclusion, each poured soil into a potted olive tree to be planted in the Vatican gardens. They met again in the afternoon to discuss how faith and science can work together to raise awareness and cooperate further.

In prepared remarks for the event, Francis said that the world's religious and spiritual traditions and science both stress the interconnectedness of our world. Recognizing the interrelations among species, he said, reveals not only the harmful effects of human activity on ecosystems, but also possible solutions.

"COP26 in Glasgow represents an urgent summons to provide effective responses to the unprecedented ecological crisis and the crisis of values that we are presently experiencing, and in this way to offer concrete hope to future generations. We want to accompany it with our commitment and our spiritual closeness," the pope said.

COP26 will be the first U.N. climate conference in two years. An [abbreviated, virtual meeting](#) was held in December 2020 because of the coronavirus pandemic. This year's event is viewed as the most consequential climate summit since the 2015 COP21, which produced the landmark Paris Agreement in which the world's nations committed for the first time to cut emissions in an effort to limit global warming to 1.5 C above pre-industrial levels.

The faith leaders, who conferred throughout the year in multiple meetings with leading scientists, including Hoesung Lee, chair of the U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, said that "time is running out" and that this decade may be the last chance left "to restore the planet."

Average temperatures already have risen by more than 1 C and are on track to reach 2.7 C by the end of the century, based on countries' current greenhouse gas emission reduction commitments, according to a [recent IPCC report](#).

"The degradation of our common home due to climate change is a symptom of deeper social ills," Joachim von Braun, president of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences told the gathering. "For this reason, it is essential that in addressing these challenges, science and faith combine forces."

Climate change solutions must include changes in consumption, technological breakthroughs and policies that recognize that human and ecosystem health are inextricably connected, the scientist said.

The religious leaders urged governments to "achieve net zero carbon emissions as soon as possible." Wealthier nations, which are the major emitters, must lead that effort, they said, as well as follow through on long-promised financing— \$100 billion annually through the Green Climate Fund — to help less-industrialized nations curb emissions and adapt to climate change.

They also urged developed nations to commit to "loss and damage" payments to less-industrialized countries for climate-related destruction that has already occurred.

They advocated a new economic model that prioritizes human dignity, inclusivity, ecologically friendly practices over exploitation and excess, and "one based not on endless growth and proliferating desires, but on supporting life."

The statement also called for special attention to the rights of Indigenous peoples, an end to biodiversity loss, responsible financing by banks and investors, and a just transition to a clean energy economy, with particular attention to employment for people working in the fossil fuel industry.

Calling climate change a moral issue, they stressed the importance of education and the "crucial" role of religious traditions in bringing about an "ecological conversion" among all people.

The faith leaders also pledged to more active political participation on environmental issues, and to take actions within their own communities to reduce emissions, pursue sustainability in their buildings and properties, encourage simpler lifestyles, seek out ethically produced goods and services, and apply environmentally and socially responsible standards to investments, including shifting from fossil fuels to renewable energy.

An interfaith program called "Faith Plans for People and the Planet," aimed at leveraging religious groups' assets and investments, was also launched Oct. 4.

To involve Catholics, the Vatican is creating the [Laudato Si' Action Platform](#), a seven-year roadmap to sustainability for all types of Catholic institutions, from families and dioceses to hospitals and schools.

Religious leaders and institutions have increasingly [turned attention to climate change](#) in recent years.

Climate negotiators have said Francis' encyclical "*Laudato Si'*, on Care for Our Common Home," along with statements from other faith leaders [and the world's bishops](#), had a positive influence on COP21 in 2015. The hope is that this new interreligious appeal will yield similar results in Glasgow.

More and more, the Vatican has emphasized the importance of a united religious voice on climate change. In November, the Vatican's council on interreligious dialogue [hosted a multi-day interfaith event](#) to mark the five-year anniversary of *Laudato Si'*. And in September, Francis joined Bartholomew and Archbishop Justin Welby of Canterbury in a [first-ever joint message on environmental sustainability](#) by the three Christian leaders.

Plans for the Oct. 4 faith appeal began in January. Since then, faith leaders have met eight times with scientists, including Lee of the IPCC and the heads of the Pontifical Academies of Sciences and Social Sciences.

Before the event, von Braun told EarthBeat he was "pleasantly surprised" with the faith leaders' openness to scientific advice and is optimistic the statement will deliver "a powerful message" to political leaders at COP26.

"This summit comes at a point in time when the world knows more, is concerned more and wants to see more action. And the people are moving together. That's why this new alliance between science and faith will matter at the COP," he said.

## **National Catholic Register**

### **[Faith Leaders, Scientists Meet at Vatican to Push for Greater Efforts to Fight Climate Change](#)**

A joint, seven-page appeal, signed on the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, was presented to Pope Francis ahead of the UN Climate Change Conference set to begin Oct. 31 in Glasgow.

Edward Pentin October 4, 2021

VATICAN CITY — Faith leaders and scientists who support the science of climate change came together at the Vatican today to formally call on the international community to step up their action to protect the environment ahead of a United Nations Climate Change Conference.

Otherwise known as COP26, the intergovernmental conference will take place in Glasgow, Scotland from Oct. 31 to Nov. 12.

Signing on the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the almost 40 interreligious signatories put their names to a joint seven-page appeal that was presented to Pope Francis in the Aula delle Benedizioni of the apostolic palace by representatives of the U.K. and Italian governments — the prime movers of the initiative.

The text calls on the world to achieve net-zero carbon emissions as soon as possible to limit the global average temperature rise to 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels; to pressure rich nations to step up their “climate action”; to urge governments to increase the rate of transition to clean energy and sustainable agriculture; and to have faith leaders do more to educate their communities and adapt their own practices to greener alternatives.

“Future generations will never forgive us if we miss the opportunity to protect our common home,” the faith leaders and scientists wrote. “We have inherited a garden: we must not leave a desert to our children.”

The signatories included Russian Orthodox Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokolamsk, the Orthodox Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, Justin Welby, the Anglican archbishop of Canterbury, and Ahmad Muhammad al-Tayyeb, the grand imam of Al-Azhar University. Other high-profile figures represented other Christian denominations, Sunni and Shiite Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, Sikhism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, Zoroastrianism and Jainism.

Thirty-three of the interreligious signatories traveled from across the world to the Vatican for the event. The Dalai Lama was not invited to take part or sign the document as the organizers wanted every major polluting country to heed the appeal, one of the largest being China, which has long had tense relations with Tibet.

COP26, which builds on the goals of the 2015 Paris Agreement and the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change, is reportedly expected to usher in some significant changes to people’s everyday lives in an effort to have 200 countries cut their carbon emissions by 2030.

Some measures could include speeding up a switch to electric cars, phasing out of coal power, cutting down fewer trees, and protecting nations from possible climate disasters such as funding coastal-defense systems. The appeal signed today hopes to have faith leaders pressure world leaders to meet those goals.

### *Pope Francis’ Three Concepts*

In his address, handed out rather than read to participants to save time, Pope Francis underlined three concepts that could “shed light on our efforts to care for our common home” — “openness to interdependence and sharing, the dynamism of love, and the call to respect.”

He stressed that as “everything is interconnected,” the world must come together not only to realize the harmful effects of human action but also identify “behaviors and solutions.”

Francis added that love is “the mirror of an intense spiritual life” that should extend to all, overcoming selfishness, “counter a throwaway culture” and inspire hope. Lastly, he stressed the need to respect creation, one’s neighbor and each other, adding that respect is “active” and means entering into dialogue and walking together “on a common journey.”

Each faith representative, in their two-minute speeches to the gathering, expressed their concerns about the environment and many strongly argued for action. Sheikh al-Tayyeb called on young people to “be ready to fight against action that may damage the environment or increase the climate crisis” and called on scholars and others to raise awareness. Patriarch Bartholomew underlined the importance of dialogue, especially between faith and science, to “heal the wounds of the planet.”

Archbishop Welby said over the past century humanity has “declared war on creation.” As a consequence, he called for a “global financial architecture which repents of its past sins” and urged a “rapid change in taxation and trade rules that promote green activity.” The “war” against the climate affects the poorest, he said, and added that “reconciliation to creation in obedience to our Creator proclaims our love of God and opens each of us to friendship to one another. I have run out of time. The world has just enough time to get this right.”

Some expected the Russian Orthodox Church to be less enthusiastic about the appeal, but Metropolitan Hilarion said that following an internal church agreement in 2013 to promote a shared responsibility for God’s creation, he was “happy to promote the discussion that preceded today’s summit by signing its final appeal.”

He added a new beginning was needed “in terms of conversion of heart and repentance for all the damage done to God’s creation” and that he hoped “today’s meeting will contribute to a profound change of heart, repentance and taking responsibility for the present and future of our global home. Let our work for the preservation of our beautiful planet with God’s help be resolute and efficient.”

Ayatollah Seyed Mostafa Mohaghegh Damad, head of Islamic Studies at the Academy of Sciences in Tehran, said the “environmental catastrophe we are facing today that has made life insufferable for many is essentially a moral and intellectual crisis and faith leaders can play a pivotal role in tackling it.” He added that humanity has broken the divine covenant of being at peace with nature, and so the mission of all believers is to unite to restore it.

Rajwant Singh, the Sikh founder and president of EcoSikh in Maryland, sang a poem by Guru Nanak, the founder of the Sikh faith, who believed that the earth is “our common mother.” The appeal to save the environment “has to hit the heart, not minds, of every human being,” he said, adding that just as “we don’t dishonor our mother, father and teacher, why would we dishonor these gifts from our Creator?”

Among the Jewish representatives was Rabbi Noam Marans, head of the International Jewish Committee for Interreligious Consultations. “We are in this together, responsible one for the other, like the prophets of old,” he told those gathered. “We call upon our political leaders to step up and do what is necessary and preserve our collective home.”

### *Faith Leaders’ ‘Unique Voice’*

Alok Sharma, a British government minister who is president of COP26 and led today’s initiative, opened the speeches by saying the “climate crisis is grave and entirely of our own making. A crisis built by human hands.”

He said it is “easy to feel overwhelmed by the sheer scale of the challenge,” and noted the injustice of the poorest “suffering the most” yet having “contributed the least to climate change.”

Born a Hindu, Sharma said his tradition “teaches that nature is divine, that we must promote the welfare of all human beings,” and added that “religions around the world contain similar teachings.”

Speaking to reporters after the event, he stressed how faith leaders “have a unique voice when it comes to talking to world leaders” and convincing them to take action.

The initiative follows a lengthy period of talks and preparatory meetings that ran from January to July this year.

Scientists did not sign the appeal but were instrumental in having the faith leaders collaborate. They included Hoesung Lee, chair of the U.N.’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Hans Joachim Schellnhuber, an influential contributor to Pope Francis’ 2015 environmental encyclical *Laudato Si* (Care for Our Common Home), and climatologist Veerabhadran Ramanathan.

Both Schellnhuber and Ramanathan are members of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences and both were strongly opposed to having a climate change skeptic speak at a high-level academy summit in 2015. Similarly, for today’s appeal, climate skeptics were not included because it would have “complicated discussions,” according to a source close to the initiative. “We wanted to create an appeal that made sense in terms of being quite ambitious.”

Noting that there are contradictions within the Church, the source said the Vatican had taken on this approach on behalf of all bishops’ conferences of the world.

Asked whether not having skeptics present for the discussion had made the initiative unrepresentative, Sharma told the Register the faith leaders who took part “represent around three quarters of the world’s population and that is by any measure a significant percentage of people across the globe. That’s why their voice matters so much.”

Pressed on whether scientists skeptical of climate change science should also have been included, Sharma said “a range of scientists were included” and he recommended anyone questioning the science of climate change to look at the IPCC’s report that came out in August.

“It’s an amalgamation of scientific work across the globe which made it very clear we are at a very dangerous point,” Sharma said. “The window is closing on tackling climate change and keeping that 1.5 agreed critical limit within reach, but the door is still open, we still have time to act.”

He added: “[The IPCC report] made very clear that it is humanity that is responsible for causing the global warming we’re seeing across the world.”

## **America Magazine**

[Pope Francis and 40 faith leaders call for urgent action to combat climate change: ‘Future generations will never forgive us’](#)

**Gerard O’Connell October 04, 2021**

In an unprecedented response to the “grave threat” facing all peoples worldwide from climate change, Pope Francis and some 40 faith leaders representing the world’s major religions have joined in an appeal for urgent action. Signed today, Oct. 4, in the Vatican and addressed to all governments participating in the 26th U.N. Climate Change Conference ([COP26](#)) in Glasgow, Scotland from Oct. 31 through Nov. 12, the appeal calls for decisive international political action

to combat climate change and “to safeguard, restore and heal our wounded humanity and the home entrusted to our stewardship.”

The Glasgow summit aims to accelerate progress toward the goals of the [Paris Agreement](#) and the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change.

The faith leaders represent an estimated 84 percent of the world’s people that identify with a faith, and come from the main Christian denominations, the two main branches of Islam (Sunni and Shi’a), Judaism, Hinduism, Sikhism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, Zoroastrianism and Jainism. Christians present at the signing in the Vatican included Pope Francis; Bartholomew I, the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople; Metropolitan Hilarion of the Russian Orthodox Church, representing Patriarch Kirill; and Archbishop Justin Welby of Canterbury, representing the Anglican Communion. Muslim representatives included the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar, Ahmad Muhammad Al-Tayyeb (Egypt) and Ayatollah Seyed Mostafa Mohaghegh Damad from the Academy of Sciences in Tehran (Iran), while the worldwide Jewish community was represented by Rabbi Noam Marans of the International Jewish Committee for Interreligious Consultations.

Six years ago, before the U.N.-sponsored climate change conference in Paris in 2015, Pope Francis published the encyclical “[Laudato Si’](#)”; that document is widely recognized as having contributed significantly to getting many governments to support the Paris Climate Agreement, in which 195 countries committed to keeping global temperature rises to below two degrees Celsius.

Today’s appeal is the result of a series of virtual monthly dialogues between faith leaders and scientists throughout 2021 that was initiated and organized by the British and Italian embassies to the Holy See in collaboration with the Holy See. Those dialogues culminated with an event this morning in the Vatican’s Hall of Benedictions at which each of the faith leaders signed the appeal. After the signing, Pope Francis handed the appeal to the COP26 president-delegate, Alok Sharma, from the United Kingdom, which is hosting the U.N. conference in partnership with Italy, and to Luigi Di Maio, the Italian foreign minister.

In brief remarks, Pope Francis thanked the other faith leaders for their presence, which, he said, “clearly shows our desire for a deepened dialogue among ourselves and with scientific experts.” Though the pope was scheduled to speak for 10 minutes, he limited his speech to two minutes and invited attendees to read his full speech in the written text provided to attendees.

“COP26 in Glasgow represents an urgent summons to provide effective responses to the unprecedented ecological crisis and the crisis of values that we are presently experiencing, and in this way to offer concrete hope to future generations,” Pope Francis wrote. “We want to accompany it with our commitment and our spiritual closeness.”

Today’s gathering, “which brings together many cultures and spiritualities in a spirit of fraternity, can only strengthen our realization that we are members of one human family. Each of us has his or her religious beliefs and spiritual traditions, but no cultural, political or social borders or barriers prevent us from standing together,” he wrote. “To illumine and direct this openness, let us commit ourselves to a future shaped by interdependence and co-responsibility.”

In their appeal, faith leaders emphasized the pressing need for urgent action in this decade, especially by countries that are mainly responsible for the carbon emissions that are causing climate change and the disasters it produces. They called for the world to limit global average

temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels in the immediate future and to achieve net-zero carbon emissions as soon as possible (and not later than 2050).

They also called on wealthier nations and those with the greatest responsibility to step up their climate action at home by reducing carbon emissions and financially supporting vulnerable countries to adapt to and address climate change. The appeal also called for a transition to clean energy and to sustainable land use practices and for responsible financing of development by financial institutions, banks and investors.

“Our faiths and spiritualities teach a duty to care for the human family and for the environment in which it lives,” said the document. “We are deeply interdependent with each other and with the natural world. We are not limitless masters of our planet and its resources.”

“Future generations will never forgive us if we miss the opportunity to protect our common home. We have inherited a garden, we must not leave a desert to our children.”

More than 100 heads of state are slated to attend COP26. Pope Francis is expected to attend the opening session of the COP26 conference in Glasgow on Nov. 1, and he may also meet Queen Elizabeth II during that visit, though the Vatican has yet to confirm this. **America** has learned from Vatican sources that prior to his visit to COP26, Pope Francis will receive U.S. President Joseph R. Biden Jr. in a private audience in the Vatican’s Apostolic Palace on Oct. 29. President Biden will be in Italy to attend the G20 summit of heads of state in Rome on Oct. 30-31.

## **Crux**

### **[Pope Francis and faith leaders call for net-zero carbon emissions ahead of UN summit](#)**

By [Inés San Martín](#) Oct 4, 2021  
| Rome Bureau Chief

ROME – In a majestic room at the heart of the Vatican’s apostolic palace, and surrounded by greenery set out for the occasion, leaders of the world’s faith traditions signed an appeal addressed to those who will negotiate the future of the environment in an upcoming United Nations summit in Glasgow.

The appeal calls for the world to achieve net-zero carbon emissions as soon as possible to limit the global average temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels; presses wealthier nations to step up their climate action at home and financially supporting vulnerable countries to address climate change; and calls on governments to be more ambitious in transitioning to clean energy and sustainable use of land, with eco-friendly food systems and responsible financing.

The faith leaders also commit themselves to greater climate action, particularly in the fields of education on caring for the environment and also choosing green investments for their faith communities.

In a surprise move, the pope set aside his prepared remarks, telling participants to read them instead, so other speakers would have the opportunity to address the meeting.

Speakers included Italian Cardinal Pietro Parolin, the Vatican’s Secretary of State; a young woman representing a youth climate meeting held last week in Milan, the COP26 President-Designate Hon Alok Sharma; and Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Luigi Di Maio, co-chair of the November summit in Glasgow.

In his written remarks, Francis presented three concepts that he believes can guide the reflection on deepening the dialogue between faith and science in favor of protecting God's creation: "Openness to interdependence and sharing, the dynamism of love and the call to respect."

"Today's meeting, which brings together many cultures and spiritualities in a spirit of fraternity, can only strengthen our realization that we are members of one human family," the pontiff wrote. "Each of us has his or her religious beliefs and spiritual traditions, but no cultural, political or social borders or barriers prevent us from standing together."

Each religious leader – the pontiff included – was given two minutes to make their point.

Justin Welby, the archbishop of Canterbury, called for a "rapid change in taxation and trade rules that promote green activity," claimed that over the last century humanity has "declared a war on creation," and argued that "the world has just enough time to get this right."

Quaker leader Gretchen Castle argued that "the poorest who have done the least to cause the crisis are the hardest hit," and that this is the time to "address our over consumption and wasteful habits, and learn to live in a collective, socially supportive world community, respectful of all life" and heed the call to "go and sin no more"

Grand Imam Al-Tayyeb of the Cairo-based Al-Azhar university called on all young Muslims and other religious people to "be prepared to deal with any activity that harms the environment."

Metropolitan Hilarion, who attended in representation of Russian Orthodox Patriarch Kirill, expressed his hope that the appeal might be "a new beginning for our communities and the whole world."

"It shall be remembered that the current ecological situation has been caused, among other reasons, by the desire of some to profit at the expense of others, as well as by the desire of unjust enrichment," he said.

Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople called the appeal signed by religious leaders as a "powerful symbolical gesture, precisely because it's both the outcome of dialogue and a call to continue this dialogue."

This much-needed dialogue, he said, is among all people of good will – religious or not – who share a common dream "for the sake of our planet and its people, as well as generations to come, that deserve to inherit a better, cleaner world."

"We need this dialogue in order to sustain the environment, in order to coexist with one another as human beings and as part of God's sacred human creation, and we need it in order to simply be, breath and love one another," Bartholomew said.

As noted by Bishop Thomas Schirrmacher, Secretary General Evangelical World Alliance, Bartholomew began the movement of religious leaders advocating for the environment three decades ago, saying that "the future and conservation of our planet and creation is not only a problem of science and politics, but also a problem of faith."

The seven-page appeal signed by the leaders was the result of months-long negotiations between faith traditions who gathered once a month to draft the document signed on Monday.



Faith groups included the Catholic Church, Orthodox Church, Protestant denominations, Sunni and Shiite Muslims; Jews, Hindus; Sikhs; Buddhists; Taoists; and representatives of Zoroastrianism, Confucianism and Jainism.

The efforts followed an invitation issued by the Vatican, and the embassies of England and Italy to the Holy See. These two countries are co-chairs of the COP26, the 26<sup>th</sup> United Nations Climate Change Conference to be held in Glasgow this November.

## Religion News Service

### [Faith leaders, including Francis, to present joint appeal for COP26 climate summit](#)

*Pope Francis will join about 40 faith leaders to promote climate awareness among world leaders at the COP26 environmental summit.*

October 1, 2021 by [Claire Giangravé](#)

VATICAN CITY (RNS) — Pope Francis, along with other religious leaders and scientists, will present a joint declaration to the president of the COP26 environmental summit on Monday at the Vatican, promising to encourage the faithful to care for creation and, in turn, urging governments to do their part to curb climate change.

“We were very glad to be able to work with our colleagues in the Italian embassy and at the Holy See in bringing together a wide group of faith leaders in advance of COP and to think about the role of faith leaders in messaging to our political leaders about the importance of this meeting,” said the recently appointed U.K. ambassador to the Holy See, Christopher Trott, while speaking to Vatican reporters on Friday (Oct.1).

The UK and Italy will be presiding over the COP26 summit of world leaders in Glasgow, Scotland, Nov. 1-12. The event is intended to build on the 2015 Paris Agreement and other UN declarations on the environment to reduce carbon emissions and promote a global framework for combating climate change.

Almost 40 faith leaders, representing a wide range of religious organizations from Jews to Christians to Buddhists, were brought together to discuss climate change and its consequences over the past six months.

Pope Francis will personally hand over the appeal at the Vatican to COP26 President-Designate Hon Alok Sharma and Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs Luigi di Maio.

The joint appeal is expected to urge political leaders to commit to achieving net-zero carbon emissions and limit the rise of global temperatures to 1.5° Celsius. Faith leaders will also pledge to promote climate awareness not only among decision-makers in their countries, but also among the faithful in their communities, providing a powerful stage for the environmental discussions at COP26.

“It’s important for all of us to recognize that a spiritual leader in a way speaks on behalf of and speaks to his or her faith congregations,” Trott told a small group of Vatican reporters on Friday. While recognizing the divisions that exist within religious groups, the ambassador said that “this kind of messaging from a very, very well-respected group of people is going to have an impact” on the COP26 discussions and beyond.

Ever since Pope Francis released his “green encyclical” *Laudato Si* in 2015, he has become a prominent figure in promoting care for the environment and the fight against climate change. Francis recently [sent a message encouraging the activism of young people](#) gathering in Milan, Italy, for the Youth4Action meeting to discuss new ideas for sustainability and the environment. The Vatican has also launched a Global Compact for Education in 2019 that hopes to promote environmental education and awareness in Catholic and non-Catholic schools and universities. Pope Francis showed his willingness to cooperate with other religious leaders in advocating for the

environment when he issued a [joint appeal](#) to the UN on Sept. 10, co-signed by the Anglican archbishop, Justin Welby, and the Ecumenical patriarch, Bartholomew I.

Cooperation among different religious leaders was a key objective in preparing the joint appeal that will be presented on Monday. "I was very struck in the discussions by the commonalities among these different faith leaders, in their approach and the way they think about our responsibility for the planet," Trott said.

"Whether or not it's a creation story, as you would find in the Abrahamic religions, there is an absolute sense that we don't own this planet. It's not ours to do with as we wish but, rather, we are temporary tenants of this planet, and we are required to pass this planet on to future generations in a state of wellbeing," he added.

The influence religious leaders have on their faith communities has increasingly caught the attention of secular governments. During the COVID-19 pandemic, [Pope Francis used his moral pulpit to promote vaccination among 1.2 billion Catholics in the world](#), and political actors hope the same influence may be harnessed again to raise awareness for the environment.

"Our hope is that at COP in Glasgow, the appeal that is coming out on Monday will be born in mind by world leaders as they sit down and negotiate the outcome of the agreement," Trott said.

Pope Francis is expected to attend the COP26 summit, where he will likely deliver a speech, though the Vatican has still to confirm the papal trip. While the Vatican has sent representatives to COP summits before, this would be the first time a pope personally attended such a gathering.

## Rome Reports

### [Faith leaders and scientists gear up for COP26 with a meeting hosted by the Vatican](#)

2021/10/01

There are just a few weeks left before representatives from most of the world's countries gather in Glasgow for COP26, the 2021 United Nations climate change conference.

The UK has been working closely with Italy and the Vatican to make faith leaders key players in the race to achieve net-zero emissions and slow global warming.

NIGEL TOPPING

UK High-Level Climate Action Champion for COP26

"(Faith leaders) have a unique role because many people in both grassroots and in positions of leadership are people of faith. The conversation on climate change is often framed as an economic one, but it's also one of intergenerational equity, of solidarity between the wealthy and the poor, of stewardship, of creation, of nature."

And what better way to promote solidarity than to act in solidarity? To prove it, the Vatican is hosting "Faith and Science: Towards COP26." The meeting, scheduled for Oct. 4, is the culmination of months of collaboration between 40 leaders from the world's major religions and 10 leading scientists to prepare an appeal to global leaders.

NIGEL TOPPING

UK High-Level Climate Action Champion for COP26

"The message is, 'You have a responsibility to the citizens that you represent, to take the difficult decisions that are necessary to be stewards of this earth for future generations.'"

Nigel Topping acknowledges the gravity of the planet's current situation, and he encourages people who see the environmental crisis as a lost cause to have faith in human creativity.

NIGEL TOPPING

UK High-Level Climate Action Champion for COP26

“We've seen the cost of the technologies we need to tip the scale plummet: solar, wind, battery storage. Now we're seeing green hydrogen, or green steel start to ramp up. So look at the signs of growing ambition and growing action. We know how to make this transition. It really is a matter of political will, which is why the call from, not just leaders, but from communities of faith, to their secular leaders, is so important.”

Topping says reaching net-zero emissions is inevitable, but that it depends on “individual and collective choice whether we do it quickly enough to avert the worst damages.”

## **Exaudi News**

### **[New UK Ambassador to Holy See on Faith, Science](#)**

Christopher Trott Tells Exaudi About Multifaith Encounter in the Vatican Ahead of COP26

Deborah Castellano Lubov, October 2, 2021 6:44

We are extremely honored to have Pope Francis' participation and support in appealing to protect the planet and in decrying harming the environment, expressed the new British Ambassador to the Holy See, Christopher Trott.

He made his comments to Exaudi at his Rome residence when discussing the “Faith and Science: Towards COP26” event in the Vatican on October 4. Faith leaders and scientists will be meeting with the Pope and will push for heightened environmental awareness ahead of the COP26 Summit in Glasgow, Scotland this November.

The UK will host the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties ([COP26](#)) in Glasgow on Nov. 1-12, 2021. The COP26 summit will bring parties together to accelerate action towards the goals of the Paris Agreement and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

The Pope may make a brief trip to Scotland for the [COP26](#) event, Cardinal Peter Kodwo Appiah Turkson, Prefect of the Vatican's Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, had told Exaudi's Deborah Castellano Lubov when asked whether such a visit was being contemplated.

“We are hoping and we are keeping our fingers crossed,” the Cardinal said, “noting the request has been made and addressed to him. As far as I know, the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, Bartholomew, has also—through his personal secretary—made contact, and in time to try to synchronize the dates.”

While stressing they would like to synchronize the date and be there together, he still cautioned that “right now, however, I cannot confirm any such participation, but the request has been made”.

Yesterday, Ambassador Trott recalled how world leaders, six years ago in Paris, made a historic agreement to tackle climate change, for instance by working to keep global mean temperature rises well below 2 degrees Celsius and to strive to limit this rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

### **Paris Agreement and COP26 Background**

The Paris Agreement was agreed at COP21 in 2015. For the first time ever it saw almost every country around the world enter into a legally binding commitment to reduce emissions.

The [goals of the COP26](#) are to secure global net zero by mid-century and keep 1.5 degrees within reach, adapt to protect communities and natural habitats, mobilize finance, and work together to deliver.

Ahead of this widely-anticipated event, the British Ambassador shared about Monday's encounter, and how the world faith leaders and scientists, with the Pope, are expected to remind of past commitments taken with regard to protecting the planet, and to build on such ambitions in Scotland.

Ambassador Trott told Exaudi how if the Pope were to go to Glasgow, his presence, representing the Holy See, would be significant.

The diplomat highly emphasized how the Pope's encyclical on the environment *Laudato Si'*, he believed, helped in the negotiations of the Paris Agreement for how to protect the earth.

#### Common View of Responsibility for Planet

Recalling the joint preparation between the Vatican and British and Italian Embassies to the Holy See, the Ambassador expressed appreciation for the participating faith leaders' contributions.

"I was very struck in these discussions about the commonality expressed by these faith leaders, in approach, or in the way they think about our responsibility, for the planet," he said.

"Whether or not it is the Creation story, as one would find in the Abrahamic religions," Ambassador Trott underscored, "there is an absolute sense that we do not own this planet. It is not ours to do with as we wish, but rather we are temporary tenants of this planet, and we are required to pass this planet on to future generations, in a state of well-being."

Thus, the idea for the event—the British diplomat suggested—came from, the work that was done ahead of Paris, in particular, "that grew out of the Pope's *Laudato Si*, and his comments around the Paris agreement, which we judge to have had a significant effect on negotiations" in the French capital.

"And our hope is that likewise that at COP26 in Glasgow," he continued, "the appeal that is coming out on Monday, will be born in mind by world leaders as they sit down and negotiate the outcome of the agreement in Scotland."

#### Extremely Honored

"We are extremely honored that the Holy Father himself will be associated with this agreement," he said, adding: "and we are pleased that the Chairs of the COP meeting will be here and present on Monday, in order to hear the appeal."

When asked about the impact of the Holy Father on these initiatives, "I think it is important to recognize that a spiritual leader speaks on behalf of and speaks to his or her faithful, his or her congregations."

"I have been told that about 80 percent speak about having a faith, and if you think about then, religious leaders, and if you think about religious leaders speaking for their congregations, they are speaking for a significant proportion of people around the world."

"And one of the things that we are very conscious of," he expressed, "is that obviously, they can also speak to those people."

#### Importance of Appeal

"I think that is the sense of the importance of that appeal," he reflected, in "that it will speak to political leaders, but then it will also speak to the faithful about the importance of this issue."

"Obviously," the diplomat acknowledged, "We recognize that not everyone is convinced of the importance or urgency of climate change, but I think that this type of messaging from a very, very well respected group of people, will have an impact on the debates that go on between now and COP, and eventually the debate that will continue beyond COP."

#### Hopes for Pope Francis in Scotland

When asked by Exaudi, what would be his hope, if the Holy Father were to go to Glasgow, the Ambassador responded: "I very much hope that the Holy Father will go to Glasgow because what we would like to see particularly in the opening event is as many world leaders as possible coming to Glasgow and making statements, but obviously the Holy Father if he came, would be there as Head of State of the Vatican."

The Oct. 4 initiative, a statement from the Vatican stated, was developed through monthly virtual meetings that began in early 2021, "in which religious leaders and scientists were able to share their concerns and wishes for greater responsibility for the planet and for the necessary change."

These exchanges have given rise to a joint appeal that will be signed by religious leaders during the meeting in the Vatican on the morning of Oct. 4, which Pope Francis will deliver into the hands of the Hon. Alok Kumar Sharma, President-designate of COP26, and Hon. Luigi Di Maio, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy.

In the afternoon, a closed-door session will take place at the Embassy of Italy to the Holy See.

### **Catholic News Service**

#### **Faith leaders, scientists, unite to fight climate change (30 September 2021)**

[HMA Holy See Christopher Trott on You Tube](#)

[Carol Glatz](#) | [Catholic News Service](#)

The two nations co-chairing the U.N. Climate Change Conference are counting on the persuasive power and moral pull of religious leaders to help convince the world's governments to set high standards in their commitment to mitigate climate change.

The embassies of the United Kingdom and Italy to the Holy See, together with the Vatican, have invited to Rome nearly 40 leaders of the world's major religions, together with top scientists, to remind world leaders of their responsibility to help in the care of the planet, said Christopher Trott, British ambassador to the Holy See.

He told Catholic News Service Sept. 27 that he hoped a united appeal will remind political leaders "that actually the world is watching and that this matters not just in the halls of power, but it actually matters to the whole of the world's population," since more than 70% of the global population identifies with a religious belief.

The meeting, "Faith and Science: Toward COP26," was scheduled for Oct. 4 -- the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of ecology -- ahead of the Nov. 1-12 U.N. summit in Glasgow, where parties from 197 nations are meant to find agreement on how to tackle the threat of climate change. The United Kingdom was chairing the COP26 presidency, in partnership with Italy.

Trott said his predecessor, Sally Axworthy, and others who started planning the interfaith meeting saw the real impact Pope Francis made with his strong statements on the environment and his encyclical "Laudato Si'," ahead of the COP21 in Paris in 2015.

The pope's voice made a difference, he said, because the targets set in the Paris Agreement "were slightly more ambitious than they might have otherwise been ... and we hope that same thing will apply again" with the added weight of people representing all the world's major faiths as well as scientists.

"There is a recognition among scientists that the world needs to do something in response to the changing climate in order to stop the situation from getting worse, but at the same time that vision of protecting the planet is something that is central to an awful lot of faiths," he said.

Trott said they hope political leaders will understand that the voices of religious leaders matter and that they will not want their constituents to see them as ignoring or acting against "the leaders of the faith that their people adhere to."

"So, we hope that there will be a sort of moral pressure on them to compromise when the negotiation gets tough," he added.

The other reason faith leaders are important, he said, is they can communicate back to their congregations how to understand the challenges the world is facing, and the kind of responses needed.

"In a way, what they can say to the political leaders is, 'You need to set some ambitious targets and then we can help you sell those ambitious targets to our faithful,'" he said.

Religious leaders also can help clear up the misinformation about climate change, he said.

Faith leaders are often "better equipped" than governments to address the skepticism, explain why specific action is needed and "recognize that we are in a potential crisis, a kind of existential crisis, a kind of crisis that's hard immediately to quantify but that we are facing this challenging moment and we have an opportunity now to respond to that moment, that we won't always have," Trott said.

"It is about not selling the idea of climate change," he added, "but selling the idea that we need to respond in our individual lives as well as at a governmental level to this crisis that I think makes the message of the faith leaders so powerful."

With a long career in diplomatic posts and missions in Africa and Asia, Trott said he witnessed the devastating effects of climate change most starkly when he briefly served as high commissioner to the Solomon Islands in the South Pacific.

"I went with a television crew and representatives of the Anglican Church to an island which had been the childhood home of an Anglican priest who is now based in the U.K. and that island is now underwater; there is one house left on that island" where, decades before, a few hundred people had lived, he said.

Rising sea levels, as well as desertification across the Sahel in Africa, will be "in the back of my mind as I think about COP," he said.

"I think the Holy Father is very much thinking about the impact on the most vulnerable countries of climate change, which is why the Vatican is very focused on the ambitions we set in terms of adaptation, in terms of support to vulnerable countries in this agreement we are hoping to reach in Glasgow," he added.

## **EJewish Philanthropy**

### **[Your Daily Phil: The rabbis traveling to the Vatican \(30 September 2021\)](#)**

The American Jewish Committee (AJC) and the Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life (COEJL) will represent the Jewish community at a gathering of faith leaders hosted by the Vatican on Oct. 4, leaders from both groups told eJewishPhilanthropy.

The meeting, called "Faith and Science: Towards COP26," will issue a joint appeal from the global religious community about the importance of "COP26," the 26th U.N. Climate Change Conference that will run from Oct. 31 to Nov. 12 in Glasgow, Scotland, said Rabbi Daniel Swartz, invited by the Vatican to the meeting as the executive director of COEJL. The gathering will bring together about 40 religious leaders and 10 scientists.

"Our commitments have to be in the political realm as well," said Swartz, who is also the spiritual leader of Temple Hesed in Scranton, Pa. "This isn't just about throwing less stuff away in our congregations."

The religious leaders represent "the moral voice, and that moral voice is beyond geographies, and tends to last longer than the policymakers of the day," said Rabbi Noam Marans, who is attending in his capacity as immediate past president of the International Jewish Committee for Inter-Religious Consultations (IJCIC), which is a constituent agency of AJC that focuses on interfaith work.

The statement to be signed and issued at the meeting was written collaboratively online over several months, with the help of regular Zoom meetings, Marans said. It is not yet finalized, but calls for policy measures such as limiting the global average temperature rise to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, and creating decent employment for all workers in the transition to a clean energy economy. Marans said the statement's power will lie in its use as a tool by Bartholomew I, archbishop of Constantinople and the spiritual leader of the Eastern Orthodox Church, and Pope Francis, who in 2015 issued *Laudato Si'*, an encyclical that calls for solidarity with the poor and stewardship of the earth.

"These leaders are radar-like focused on the environment, so this kind of document can really have an impact," Marans said.

