

Dear Loss and Damage Fund Board Members,

Congratulations on your appointment to the board of the Loss and Damage Fund (LDF). Thank you for accepting this responsibility and significant undertaking. We know that you recognize the urgency of the moment and the magnitude of climate challenges: The LDF's success is essential in achieving the Paris Agreement, supporting communities on the frontlines of climate change, and building a more peaceful and just world.

We write to you as faith organizations that work on climate action from a practical and moral imperative. A number of the undersigned are providing assistance to men, women, and children suffering from extreme weather events such as droughts, typhoons, and cyclones. They are seeing how people's physical, financial, natural, social, psychological, spiritual, and human needs are increasingly being unfulfilled due to the impacts of climate change and the resulting loss and damage. We are all motivated by compassion and justice that demands respect for the rights and dignity of all living beings, especially the poor and marginalized. They are having to deal with the effects of a climate crisis that they did not cause.

As the Board begins its work, we call on you to:

- Confirm quickly (no later than June 12th) that the World Bank can host the LDF as a Financial Intermediary Fund as set out in the COP28 decision text. In the case that the World Bank is unable to host the LDF, then the Board needs to act quickly to instruct the Conference of Parties (COP) serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA) to operationalize the Fund as an independent standalone institution. To this point, transparency must be upheld to ensure trust.
- Ensure that the funding modalities are accessible, effective, and primarily debt-free. Debt repayments are crippling many developing countries and those vulnerable to climate risks. To date, most climate finance has been provided as loans. The LDF should not perpetuate this. A small-grants window must also be established for vulnerable groups to directly receive the urgent funding they desperately need for reconstruction and recovery.
- Consider LDF objectives holistically avoiding the distinction between economic and non-economic losses and damages. People are already losing more than their material possessions due to climate change. They are losing their ancient land, their culture, their ways of life, their faith, their mental health, and their loved ones. Addressing the full scope of loss and damage requires recognizing non-economic losses and damages have tangible economic impacts.
- Prepare a long-term fundraising strategy to ensure that the Fund is well resourced to fulfill its purpose and address the true scale of need. This needs to include specifying the relationship between the LDF and funding arrangements. For transparency, efficiency and effectiveness, it will be critical for the Board to specify how the LDF fund will act as a *platform* for facilitating coordination between itself and the funding arrangements.

It is our sincere hope that the Board will work collaboratively, efficiently, and effectively to serve the needs of the most vulnerable who are suffering from the climate crisis: especially women, youth, the disabled, the elderly and Indigenous Peoples who are particularly affected by the impacts of the climate crisis.

This fund serves as a beacon of hope and has the potential to make a significant difference in the lives of those most affected.

Sincerely,

Adorers of the Blood of Christ US Region JPIC Office  
Anabaptist Climate Collaborative  
Benet Hill Monastery  
Catholic Climate Covenant  
Catholic Relief Services (CRS)  
Congregation of St. Joseph, Social & Environmental Justice  
Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life  
Dominican Sisters of Houston  
Dominican Sisters ~ Grand Rapids  
Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa  
The Episcopal Church  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
Franciscan Action Network  
Franciscan Peace Center  
Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart  
Interfaith Power & Light  
Mennonite Central Committee U.S.  
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns  
Pax Christi international  
New Mexico Interfaith Power and Light  
Medical Mission Sisters, Justice Office  
Office of Peace, Justice, and Ecological Integrity/Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth  
School Sisters of Notre Dame-Atlantic-Midwest Province  
Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Western Province Leadership  
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Justice Team  
Sisters of St. Francis, Clinton, Iowa USA  
Sisters of Saint Francis, Rochester MN  
Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet Albany  
Sisters of Saint Joseph of Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia PA  
Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester  
Sisters of St. Joseph of Springfield  
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC)  
United Church of Christ  
U.S. Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph  
Wheaton Franciscans, JPIC Office