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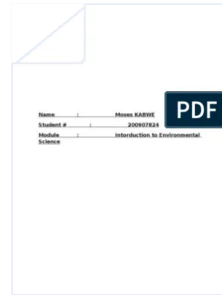
World bishops' appeal to COP 21 negotiating parties

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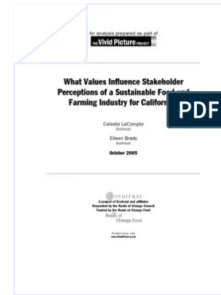
On Oct. 26, the heads of Catholic bishops' federations on every continent issued a joint appeal to COP 21 delegates that they produce a "comprehensive and transformational agreement" to addr... [Full description](#)

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APPEAL TO COP 21 NEGOTIATING PARTIES

The following appeal is issued by Cardinals, Patriarchs and Bishops from representing the continental groupings of national episcopal conferences. those negotiating the COP 21 in Paris and it calls on them to work toward t fair, leagally bindina and trully transformational climate agreement.

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In his encyclical letter, *Laudato Si'* (LS), addressed to every person living on Earth (LS 3), Pope Francis claims that '*climate change represents one of the principal threats to humanity today*' (LS 25). The climate is a common good, belonging to all and caring for it is the responsibility of everyone (LS 23). The natural environment is a collective good, the patrimony of all humans and the responsibility of everyone (LS 95).

Whether believers or not, we are agreed today that the earth is essentially our inheritance, whose fruits are meant to benefit everyone. For believers, the question of fidelity to the Creator, since God created the world for every human person, is fundamental. An ecological approach needs to incorporate a social perspective which takes into account the fundamental rights of the poor and the underprivileged (LS 93).

Damage to climate and environment has enormous repercussions. The problem is that the dramatic acceleration of climatic change is global in its effects. It challenges and redefines our notions of *growth* and *progress*. It poses a *lifestyle* question. It is not enough to find a solution that is consensual, because of the scale and global nature of the problem and its impact, it invites a solidarity that is universal, a solidarity that is '*intergenerational*' and '*intragenerational*'. (LS 13, 14, 162)

The Pope defines our world as '*our common home*' and, in the exercise of our responsibility, we must keep in mind the human and social degradation which is a consequence of a damaged environment. We call for an integral ecological approach, we call for a new paradigm to be placed centre stage '*so as to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor*' (LS 49).

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events, deteriorating ecosystems and the loss of biodiversity, the Church is concerned about how climate change is affecting vulnerable communities and peoples, particularly those at a disadvantage. Pope Francis draws our attention to the irreparable impact of climate change in many developing countries across the world. Moreover, the United Nations the Pope said the misuse and destruction of the environment is accompanied by a relentless process of exclusion.¹

Courageous Leaders seeking enforceable agreements

The building and maintenance of a sustainable common home requires imaginative political leadership. Legal frameworks are required which set clear boundaries and ensure the protection of the ecosystem (LS 53).

Reliable scientific evidence suggests that accelerated climate change is the result of unrestrained human activity, working to a particular model of progress and that excessive reliance on fossil fuels is primarily responsible. The Pope and the Bishops from five continents, sensitive to the damage caused, appeal for a reduction in the emission of carbon dioxide and other toxic gases.

We join the Holy Father in pleading for a major break-through in Paris, for a just and transformational agreement supported by all based on principles of equity and participation.² This agreement must put the common good ahead of national interests. It is essential too that the negotiations result in an enforceable agreement to protect our common home and all its inhabitants.

We, Cardinals, Patriarchs and Bishops, issue a general call and make ten proposals. We call on COP 21 to forge an international agreement that limits the temperature increase to within those parameters currently suggested from

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all and meant for all.

¹ Address of the Holy Father, United Nations Headquarters, New York, Friday 25 Se

² Address of the His Holiness Pope Francis to the Environment Ministers of the Vatican City, 16 September 2015.

2

3. to adopt a fair, transformational and legally binding global agreeme vision of the world that recognises the need to live in harmony with guarantee the fulfilment of human rights for all, including those of Ind women, youth and workers.
4. to strongly limit a global temperature increase and to set a go decarbonisation by mid-century, in order to protect frontline communiti the impacts of climate change, such as those in the Pacific Islands and in
 - to ensure that the temperature threshold is enshrined in a lega agreement, with ambitious mitigation commitments and actions f recognising their common but differentiated responsibilities

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aviation and shipping, and providing affordable, reliable and safe re
access for all.

6. to ensure people's access to water and to land for climate resilient and systems, which give priority to people driven solutions rather than profit
7. to ensure inclusion and participation of the poorest, most vulnerable ar levels of the decision-making process.
8. to ensure that the 2015 agreement delivers an adaptation approach responds to the immediate needs of the most vulnerable communiti local alternatives.
9. to recognise that adaptation needs are contingent on the success of mit taken. Those responsible for climate change have responsibilities to vulnerable in adapting and managing loss and damage and to shar technology and knowhow.
10. to provide clear roadmaps on how countries will meet the provision consistent, and additional finance commitments, ensuring a balan mitigation actions and adaptation needs.

All this would call for serious ecological awareness and education (LS 202-21

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for all generations to come. Amen

BISHOP SIGNATORIES TO THIS DECLARATION:

HIS EMINENCE OSWALD CARDINAL GRACIAS
Archbishop of Bombay, India
President of FABC (Asia)

HIS GRACE ARCHBISHOP GAE
Archbishop of Lubang
President of SECAN

HIS EMINENCE PÉTER CARDINAL ERDŐ
Archbishop of Esztergom –Budapest
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HIS EMINENCE REINHARD CARDINAL MARX
Archbishop of Munich, Germany
President of COMECE (Europe)

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Archbishop of Port Mc
President of FCBCO

HIS EMINENCE RUBEN CARDINAL SALAZAR GÓMEZ
Archbishop of Bogota, Colombia

President of CELAM (Latin America)

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Bishop of Hamilton,

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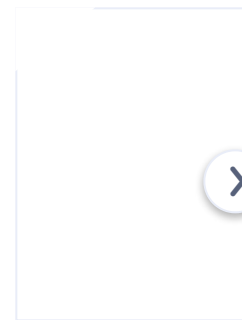
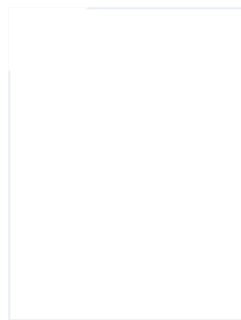
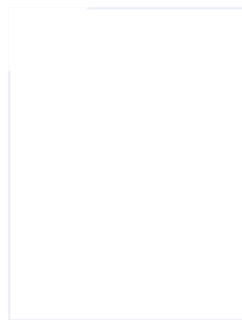
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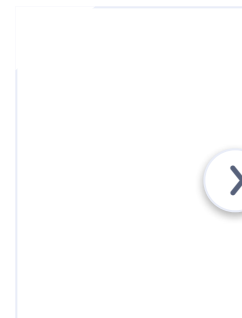
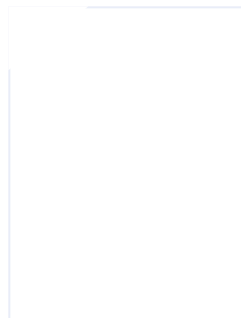
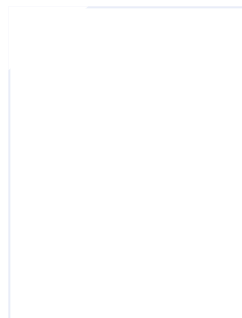
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