



JUSTICE COALITION OF RELIGIOUS

This guide was produced by the [Justice Coalition of Religious](#) (JCoR), a coalition of 21 non-governmental organizations that are accredited to collectively represent over 200 congregations of Roman Catholic women and men Religious at the United Nations (UN). For centuries, congregations of Religious have served people who have been rendered poor, vulnerable, oppressed, and marginalized by existing global systems. Through our membership in JCoR, we have united with our sister and brother organizations to enhance collaboration among our members—at UN Headquarters and around the world—in our common mission: to improve quality of life for people who are living in poverty and to enhance our stewardship of the natural environment.

The primary aim of our collaboration is to strengthen the capacity of Catholic Religious and their partners to address the root causes of human and environmental suffering.

We work toward this goal by coordinating national, regional, and global efforts of Religious to call on political leaders to take action for a just, equitable, and rights-based implementation of the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs), the United Nations' Agenda for 2015-2030.

We hope these pages will help you join us in this mission!



COP27 WHAT IS IT?

UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE 2022

The acronym COP stands for the Conference of the Parties, of which there are three: biodiversity, climate change, and desertification. These conferences were established in 1992 during the UN [Earth Summit](#). The most prominent of the three is the COP on climate change. It is the highest-level decision-making forum of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change ([UNFCCC](#)), and it serves as an annual gathering for governments to meet and discuss climate change. Participatory governments include the UN Member States who have signed the UNFCCC, the [Kyoto Protocol](#), or the [Paris Agreement](#). This year, the 27th COP on climate change ([COP27](#)) will be held in Egypt. The summit will bring governments, civil society, and other stakeholders together to discuss climate change and its impacts, agree on how to address it, and accelerate climate action.



KEY TERMS

The following commonly used terms are important to understand if you plan on participating in or following the discussions at COP27

UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

The UNFCCC outlines the legal framework and principles for international climate change cooperation. Its overarching goal is stabilizing atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases to avoid "dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system." Click [here](#) to learn more.

Paris Agreement

The Paris Agreement is an international treaty that was adopted in 2015 to address climate change. It marks a significant achievement in the global discourse because it is the first legally-binding agreement to unite a multitude of countries with a commitment to engage in ambitious efforts to combat climate change and its impacts. Under the Paris Agreement, each country determines how much they will reduce their carbon emissions each year, and these plans are called [nationally determined contributions](#) (NDCs). Click [here](#) to learn more.

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

The IPCC is the United Nations body tasked with assessing the science related to climate change. It produces reports on climate change, including its impacts, risks, and recommended actions for governments in response to the scientific, technical, and socio-economic data. Click [here](#) to learn more.



Sustainable Development Goal 13 (SDG13)

SDG13 is a commitment by the global community to take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts. "Climate change is a real and undeniable threat to our entire civilization. The effects are already visible and will be catastrophic unless we act now. Through education, innovation and adherence to our climate commitments, we can make the necessary changes to protect the planet." Click [here](#) to learn more.



COP27 GOALS



Why is COP27 important?

The world needs climate action NOW. Global emissions continue to rise as the planet rapidly approaches a dangerous precipice. We are far off track in terms of limiting climate change to agreed levels, threatening Earth's ability to sustain the human population. The IPCC's [2022 report](#) identifies half of humanity as highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. This vulnerability reveals patterns of immense inequality and marginalization, with those who have contributed least to climate change positioned to be most affected. COP27 provides a rare opportunity for governments, civil society, and other stakeholders to meet and collaborate to tackle the impending impacts of climate change.

What are the central aims of COP27?

Mitigation

Mitigation refers to efforts to reduce or prevent the emission of greenhouse gases. The global community needs to work together to limit global warming to [below 2°C, ideally below 1.5°C](#). Immediate action is required to realize this goal. COP27 calls on countries to fulfill the pledges of the Paris Agreement and implement the commitments from COP26 to increase their NDCs and create an ambitious work plan for climate change mitigation.

Adaptation

Adaptation is the process of taking action to reduce the current and expected effects of climate change. At COP26, a work plan was launched to advance the Paris Agreement [global goal on adaptation](#). At COP27, governments need to demonstrate their commitment towards this global goal, enhancing resilience, and assisting the most vulnerable communities. COP27 should serve to encourage action on adaptation, placing adaptation at the forefront of global climate action.

Finance

It is imperative to make significant progress on climate finance at COP27. The global community needs to increase transparency of financing, better facilitate the funding needs of developing countries, and follow through on financial pledges - including demonstrated progress on delivery of the annual USD [100 billion goal](#). Both adequacy and predictability of climate finance are essential elements necessary to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement.

Collaboration

Collaboration amongst governments, civil society, and stakeholders is essential to deliver on the commitments of the Paris Agreement and ensure the world remains sustainable and capable of supporting life. COP negotiations are consensus-based, so reaching agreement on climate commitments and action will require inclusive and active participation from all stakeholders - with humans at the center. All stakeholders, collaboratively, need to turn commitments into action.

MORE RESOURCES

For more information and opportunities to act, take a look at these resources created by JCoR members and partners



Shoeless on Sinai: A Digital Pilgrimage to COP27

Check out our guide to a special COP27 digital pilgrimage. Join global Religious through dedicated events and pray in solidarity with the whole Earth Community - in collaboration with with Catholic Sisters, Brothers, priests, and other faith leaders who will be advocating for environmental justice in the UN proceedings on the Sinai Peninsula. Visit the dedicated [webpage](#) to learn more.



The UN and You: COP27

This report, published by the [Sisters of Charity Federation at the UN](#), calls on participants at COP27 to deliver on solidarity and accountability. It summarizes measures of success for the conference, including adaptation, loss and damage, climate finance, COP27 as Africa's COP, a just transition to clean energy, and the participation of civil society. Click [here](#) to read the report.



COP27 Reflection Calendar

The [Dominican Leadership Conference](#) created a reflection calendar for COP27 and the month of November. Click [here](#) to access daily readings and reflections (available in English, French, and Spanish).



NOTHING IS MORE **IMPORTANT**

than finding a way to live together - justly, respectfully, sustainably,
joyfully - on the only planet we can call home.

~Annie Leonard, Executive Director of Greenpeace