



DAY 10

COP26 ECUMENICAL DELEGATION

News from the UN Climate Change Conference UK 2021

NOVEMBER 2021 | DAY 10

The COP26 Ecumenical Delegation, led by *For the Love of Creation* and the United Church of Canada, will be bringing you highlights, impressions, stories, and hopes each day of the UN Climate Change Conference.

Day 10 Highlights

Notable quotes

"IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO JUST ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THERE IS A NEED FOR LOSS AND DAMAGE FINANCE, THERE NEEDS TO BE GREATER CLARITY THAT, IF WE ARE TO KEEP 1.5C WITHIN REACH, THE RESOURCES NEED TO BE THERE SO THAT DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND EMERGING ECONOMIES HAVE ACCESS TO THE TRILLIONS OF DOLLARS THAT ARE NEEDED TO REALLY CLOSE THE GAP."

EDDIE PÉREZ, CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK CANADA
(SPEAKING TO THE GUARDIAN)

The theme of the day was Transport, however, much of the morning was focussed on the draft negotiation outcome statement released late last night by the COP26 president, Alok Sharma.

While there are elements in the statement that are important, such as the inclusion of the call for countries to end fossil fuel subsidies, the statement overall lacks a real sense of urgency. Civil society organization delegates from Canada and others are pushing for stronger commitments, targets, and urgency. This includes reporting of revised nationally determined contributions (NDCs) by 2022 and annually following that. It includes centring Indigenous people's traditional knowledge, particularly in implementation, and ensuring those most-impacted (Indigenous peoples, women and girls) have access to grant-based funding. It also includes ensuring that the promise of \$100 billion/year in international funding is met by next year and that 50% is directed to adaptation, with an additional and separate fund for loss and damages. We will see in the next two days if these matters of urgency are addressed in the final version.



Day 10 Highlights

The day, of course, also included discussions on sustainable transport, with civil society groups and activists emphasizing the importance of funding and ensuring clean public transit. While electric vehicles get a good deal of attention, along with their needed infrastructure, it is essential to highlight that public transit allows for greater environmental and social impacts. This includes better access for low-income people and a reduction in overall vehicle use. Additionally, an agreement has been supported by some countries, including Canada, and a few automobile manufacturers to end the sale of fossil-fuel powered vehicles by 2040 or sooner. However, many major manufacturers have not signed on.

Of course, we cannot forget the importance of supporting the use of bicycles for transportation, arguably the most sustainable transportation on wheels. Clearly, some communities do a much better job of designing bike-friendly access and infrastructure than others, so this is an area of ongoing importance. Over 180 organizations globally, including in Canada, have signed a letter to world leaders at COP26 to take a better look at boosting support for cycling.

Also, of note today, Quebec and several countries were part of the launch of the Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance, a coalition led by Costa Rica and Denmark aimed at ending new oil and gas projects. Unfortunately, however, the alliance has not gained significant support.

Stories, Impressions, Reflections

Today, our delegation reflected on the question, "where is God in this?"

Each of us found our own ways of expressing how and where we see the movement of the Spirit and grace-filled spaces throughout this conference. We talked about the "hallways" where we scramble together to work out our analysis and our policy priorities together. And, of course, there are the people inside and outside of the event, and all around the world, dedicating their lives to the work for climate justice, for Indigenous rights, for inclusion and equity.

We discussed how this work of public and climate justice is part of how we express our love for creation and for our neighbours.

As Cornell West states, "justice is what love looks like in public."

It's a good reminder to keep in front of us, as we continue this process of witness.

To follow COP26 online go to the COP26 Youtube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/UNClimateChange>

