



DAY 4

COP26 ECUMENICAL DELEGATION

News from the UN Climate Change Conference UK 2021

NOVEMBER 2021 | DAY 4

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 4 Highlights

Notable quotes

"THERE'S NO WAY TO ADAPT FROM EXTINCTION,"
VANESSA NKATE, UGANDA.

"WE WILL JUDGE COP26 ON HOW MUCH RICH COUNTRIES STAND IN SOLIDARITY WITH VULNERABLE PEOPLE ... IF THERE IS NO STREAM OF FINANCE AGREED FOR PEOPLE NOW, WE WILL CALL THIS COP A FAILURE."
HARJEET SINGH, SENIOR ADVISER AT CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK (INTERNATIONAL)

The focus of the day has been on Finance. The day started with United Nations' special envoy on climate action and finance, Mark Carney's announcement that the Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero (GFANZ) has received commitments of \$130 trillion US capital from global financial institutions to help with the transformation of the world's economy toward clean energy. It is certainly an important shift. However, the GFANZ does not require signatories to end funding to fossil fuel, coal, and other carbon intensive industries.

As we heard prior to the start of COP26 from Canada's co-led effort on financing commitments to support countries in need of funding for adaptation and mitigation, the target of \$100 billion/year that was reaffirmed in 2015 has still not been achieved in 2021 but looks likely in 2022.



Day 4 Highlights

Notable quotes

**“WE ARE HUMAN THROUGH
CREATION AND WITH
CREATION.”**

MARK MACDONALD,
NATIONAL INDIGENOUS
ANGLICAN ARCHBISHOP

*Please take time to read, reflect, and pray
on the blog post from COP26 Ecumenical
Delegation member Janet Gray, “Are we so
blinded and hardened that we cannot
appreciate the cries of humanity?”*

<https://fortheloveofcreation.ca/are-we-so-blinded-and-hardened-that-we-cannot-appreciate-the-cries-of-humanity/>

However, as the session called “Mobilising Equitable, Just and Gender-Sensitive Climate Finance” speaker Minister Nancy Timbo from Malawi noted, women and girls in the meantime are carrying the weight of the climate crisis. They cannot wait two or three years for financing. Further, it must be ensured that this funding does not add to the already unjust debt burden of countries in the Global South.

Other sessions today highlighted the importance of using pension funds to invest in sustainability. Speaker David Hayman at the session “How Your Wallet Could Save the World” noted that there are people protesting businesses doing environmental harm while their pensions invest in those very businesses. Film maker Richard Curtis stated, “Greening your pension is 21x more powerful than giving up flying, becoming a vegetarian and changing your energy provider combined”!

An initiative to watch from Costa Rica and Denmark that would prevent funding of oil and gas development, and redirect support to clean energy has the support of 20 countries to divert funds from 2022.

Stories, Impressions, Reflections

Today, our delegation continued to navigate the ups and downs of COP26. There have been large scale announcements that sound promising but are often lacking important targets and clarity. There have been the wonderfully inspiring initiatives taking place on the ground globally, in spite of barriers, to support those already being hit by the impacts of the climate crisis. There has been the challenge of wading through language that can be understood and used in different ways that makes it easy to get caught in cynicism or frustration.

A seven-year-old boy, the son of an Imam who spoke at one of today’s sessions, called on world leaders to allow him and his friends to enjoy the blessings of nature. He lifted my spirit. We must find our sources of inspiration, and there are many. We must respect our impatience and well-earned skepticism.

And we must keep moving forward together - in hope and love and solidarity.

To follow COP26 online go to the COP26 Youtube channel:

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

