



DAY 8

# COP26 ECUMENICAL DELEGATION

## News from the UN Climate Change Conference UK 2021

NOVEMBER 2021 | DAY 8

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.

### Weekend Highlights

#### Notable quotes

**"INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND FIRST NATIONS WITHIN CANADA ARE NOT PASSIVE VICTIMS WHEN IT COMES TO CLIMATE CHANGE, WE'RE CLIMATE LEADERS."**

REGIONAL CHIEF PAUL PROSPER, ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

**"HOW IS IT POSSIBLE THAT THOSE THAT ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR FEEDING THE WORLD ARE GOING HUNGRY?"**

ISHMAEL SUNGA, SOUTHERN AFRICAN CONFEDERATION OF FARMERS

I'll start with updates from the weekend for this longer newsletter. On Saturday, a Global Climate Rally was held around the world, with over 100,000 people showing up in Glasgow alone. Indigenous people lead the march, including members of the Kahnawake Mohawk Nation in Quebec. The strong message from those attending was for COP negotiators and global leaders to take real and urgent action. Certainly, there is a lot of grassroots energy, though there is also a great deal of frustration.

The theme on Saturday was Nature, which you might consider to be the theme of the entire conference, but it included discussions on nature-based solutions, conservation, food systems, and biodiversity. At one event, Canada's Environment Minister, Steven Guilbeault, announced that 20% of Canada's \$5.7 billion contribution to international climate finance will go to supporting biodiversity and nature-based solutions. It was a welcome announcement. However, as we've learned from speakers from the global south, local and Indigenous communities must be involved in decisions making and implementation.



## Weekend Highlights

### Notable quotes

**“TODAY WE’RE STILL SHOUTING FOR JUSTICE FOR OUR FRIENDS AND FAMILIES WHO HAVE LOST THEIR LIVES...WE ARE FIGHTING FOR A FUTURE THAT IS NOT RIDDLED WITH ANXIETY AND FEAR THAT ANOTHER HAIYAN MIGHT COME ANYTIME. WE DO NOT DESERVE TO LIVE IN FEAR. WE DESERVE A HOPEFUL FUTURE. WE DEMAND URGENT ACTION.”**

MARINEL UBAIDO, THE PHILIPPINES,  
SURVIVOR OF SUPER TYPHOON  
HAIYAN

**“...ONLY AWE AND WONDER INSPIRES LONG TERM ACTION. ONLY AWE AND WONDER INSPIRE COOPERATION, RATIONAL THOUGHT, AND SELF-SACRIFICE TO A HIGHER GOOD. THE REMAKING OF OUR WORLD FOR THE BETTER WILL NOT HAPPEN BY DECLARING WAR ON GLOBAL WARMING. WAR IS FEAR BASED. IT’S DIVISIVE ITS SELF-LIMITING AND COUNTERPRODUCTIVE.”**

RON GRAHAM, FORMER  
ASTRONAUT

Sunday was the beginning of the People’s Summit for Climate Justice, a kind of alternative summit running parallel to COP26 for three days. Sessions in the People’s Summit highlighted the challenge of the green transition. Communities in the global south are concerned that extraction of resources needed for clean energy will be just as environmentally and socially destructive as other forms of mining and resource extraction that have been damaging their communities for decades. Others are concerned that climate solutions are being used to deny the reality that the wealthiest need to consume less energy, and the world needs rapid “degrowth.” While supporting the importance of the green transition, these groups say it is essential that it is done in a way that respects and listens to impacted communities, particularly Indigenous and in the global south.

### Day 8

The focus of the day is Adaptation, Loss and Damage. Discussions focussed on support for those most impacted by the climate crisis. We’ve heard already that the commitment by rich nations to fund \$100 billion USD/year to poorer countries by 2020, set in 2009 and reaffirmed in 2015, has still not been met. The Green Climate Fund, which involves 194 countries, currently allocates 75% of funding to mitigation. People of the global south are calling for a more balanced division of those funds for mitigation and adaptation and immediate funding for loss and damage already being experienced. It is essential, as well, that funding goes to the communities in need in ways that include them in decision making and implementation.

While a great deal of attention today is on the arrival of former US President Barak Obama, Kenyan youth climate activist, Vanessa Nakate reminds us of the former president’s promise in 2009, when she was 13 years old, for climate financing of \$100 billion USD/year by 2020. The US has not yet met that commitment.

**More Day 8 below...**



## Day 8

**PLEASE TAKE TIME TO READ,  
REFLECT, AND PRAY ON THE FOR  
THE LOVE OF CREATION BLOG  
POST BY DELEGATION MEMBER  
ALICIA GREENFIELD:**

[HTTPS://FORTHELOVEOFCREATION.CA/LISTENING-TO-JEREMIAH-AT-THE-CLIMATE-PARADE-OF-PROMISES/#\\_FTN3](https://fortheLoveOfCreation.ca/listening-to-jeremiah-at-the-climate-parade-of-promises/#_FTN3)

A session today called “Fossil fuel divestment, climate justice and a just transition for all” led by faith organizations including the Laudato Si Movement, reminded the audience of the important role that faith communities have had leading on divestment from fossil fuels. In Ireland, for example, the work of faith communities led to a national divestment policy. We were also reminded that divestment alone is not enough. It must support climate justice and a just transition. Pastor Ray Minniecon, Aboriginal pastor from the Kabikabi and Gurang-Gurang tribes of Queensland, Australia, noted that faith communities must at the same time apologize for the Doctrine of Discovery and recognize the climate crisis as part of the long exploitation of Indigenous People.

### **Stories, Impressions, Reflections**

Sometimes we wonder if it makes a difference to go out on the streets and join a rally, to show up at events and call out for change. Certainly, some people who have been doing this for many years find change to be painfully slow if it happens at all. But if we didn't show up, if we didn't shout and march and witness, what then?

I'm thinking of Carlos from Ecuador who has been fighting for decades against mining in the cloud forest of the Andes. It is a fragile bioregion that is home to many species at risk. Now, the surge in renewables is part of the problem, as the demand for copper threatens his home. He is speaking out to ensure that a green transition is also a just transition. What if Carlos and his community members weren't there to protect the cloud forest?

Even being part of a virtual delegation at an event far away allows us to connect, to learn, and to support climate action. This connection, this power of people working together for justice, taps us into something bigger than ourselves. It allows us to achieve remarkable, impossible, grace-filled things.

It is an imperative of our faith that we “do justice” at this time of crisis.

If not now, then when? If not us, then who?

***To follow COP26 online go to the COP26***

***Youtube channel:***

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

