## **Call for inputs – Promotion and protection of human rights in the context of mitigation, adaptation, and financial actions to address climate change, with particular emphasis on loss and damage**

*Submission to the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change from the Anglican Consultative Council, an organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations*

Introduction

The Anglican Communion is the world’s third largest Christian communion, comprised of forty-two provinces across 165 countries representing 85 million members, all working in various capacities to transform unjust structures of society, challenge violence, pursue peace and reconciliation, safeguard creation and act in loving service.

As a non-governmental organization in Special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, a long-standing participant in the UN Human Rights Council, an organization accredited with the UN Environmental Assembly, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the UN Biological Diversity Convention, the Anglican Consultative Council welcomes the opportunity to inform the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change’s report on actions to address climate change, particularly in the context of loss and damage.

The responses shared below have been compiled by the Anglican Communion Office at the United Nations, with information sourced from the Anglican Communion Environmental Network and the secretariat of *The Resilience Course*, launched in partnership between the Anglican Alliance and Episcopal Relief and Development in 2020 to increase the resilience of churches and communities across the Anglican Communion. The Resilience course is a year-long cooperative learning exchange which shares learning, skills, and best practice to build both a church and community’s resilience and their capacity to respond to a disaster. The course has proved enormously popular. Over 140 people from 42 countries representing 23 provinces of the Anglican Communion have enrolled. The course is being conducted in six languages and each session takes place four times to allow people in different times zones of the world to participate. The information included in the answers is therefore global in breadth and deeply rooted in front-line and grassroots experiences of climate change.

Responses

1. *What experiences and examples are you aware of that are being faced by particularly individuals and communities in vulnerable situations (as identified above) that have suffered loss and damage due to the adverse impacts of climate change?*

Loss and damage due to the adverse impacts of climate change are impacting communities across the world. In **Madagascar**, communities have been impacted by multiple cyclones as well as drought conditions in certain parts of the countries. The intersectional impacts of flooding, cyclones and other impacts of climate change occurring in the context of conflict and violence in **Mozambique** and **South Sudan** are of serious concern, with each element exacerbating loss and damage. Similarly in the **Philippines, Solomon Islands** and **Zimbabwe**, the recurring nature of extreme events, such as cyclones, droughts and floods, and the increasing frequency and intensity of such events, are causing greater impact of loss and damage. **Indigenous communities**, for example in **Brazil**, have been particularly vulnerable to flooding, leading to loss and damage. Increasing coastal erosion as a result of high swells and king tides has increased vulnerabilities for communities located in coastal areas, including severe damages to infrastructure, schools, places of worship, graveyards, and other essential services. These losses all have implications for the full enjoyment of human rights.

1. *What legislation, policies and practices do you think are necessary to provide redress for particularly individuals and communities in vulnerable situations that have suffered and will continue to suffer loss and damage due to the adverse impacts of climate change?*

**Prompt accessibility to funding** – creation of a rapid response funding mechanism that **includes** civil society and faith actors as potential recipients/delivery partners

**Localization** – operationalize and implement the commitments made at the World Humanitarian Summit on localizationand ensure that localization and related funding is accessible by grassroots based civil society and faith actors

**Higher visibility to neglected disasters** – design funding mechanisms that do not rely on disaster-by-disaster appeals contingent on media coverage, to support lower-visibility disasters better and more rapidly

**Capacity enhancement** – provide technical and dedicated financial support through international financial funding streams for climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction accessible by civil society organizations and faith actors.

1. *Please provide examples of policies and practices (including legal remedies) and concepts of how States, business enterprises, civil society and intergovernmental organizations can provide redress and remedies for individual and communities in vulnerable situations who have suffered loss and damage to the adverse impacts of climate change.*

**Strengthen national coordination mechanisms** – ensure that these mechanisms include civil society and faith actors and design mechanisms to support funding and information sharing

**Utilize faith organizations**– local faith organizations are highly effective at getting resources to local communities, including identifying the most vulnerable groups and accessing the hardest to reach locations, where faith actors have an established presence. Faith actors have also developed materials that equip communities to respond by basing training within their own faith traditions.

**Strengthen the capacity of local faith organizations** – capacity-building can help these organizations effectively network with larger organizations in the humanitarian sector and participate more efficiently with the NGO cluster and coordinating mechanisms. A good example of this capacity-building is the **Pastors and Disasters Toolkit**

1. *Please provide examples of ways in which States, the business enterprises, civil society, and intergovernmental organizations have provided redress and remedies for individuals and communities in vulnerable situations who have suffered loss and damage due to the adverse effects of climate change.*

The evidence from around the Anglican Communion notes that many responses and remedies to loss and damage due to the adverse effects of climate change and built upon **asset-based** approaches to response and recovery. Examples include:

* Drought response in **Madagascar** that includes and integrates long-term resilience activities
* Post-cyclone strategies in **Philippines** being undertaken in coordination with local government barangays (local districts) to support longer-term livelihood recovery
* Developing community gardens in the islands across **Fiji** and **Tonga** following cyclones
* Creating ecumenical disaster committees in **Sri Lanka** to coordinate and respond more effectively to disasters and pre-disaster mitigation activities
* Supporting grain banks and savings groups in **Tanzania** as a coping mechanism for households to absorb shocks and recover quicker
* Coordinating youth and community groups in **Brazil** to support cleanup and recovery operations post-flooding, particularly helping elder or marginalized households
* Building capacity of Diocesan disaster committees in **Solomon Islands**, where faith actors are often first responders during emergency situations.

1. *What international, regional, and national policies and legal approaches are necessary to protect current and future generations and achieve intergenerational justice for particularly for individuals and communities, from the adverse impacts of climate change?*

* **Stronger funding mechanisms** that prioritise accessibility for local and grassroots community groups such as faith actors, including moving from dialogue to action and implementation on Loss & Damage financing under the UNFCCC.
* Coordinating and response mechanisms that **prioritize longer-term resilience** - this includes post-disaster adaptation (including savings groups, grain banks, stronger houses etc.)
* Use the full potential of the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework for Action and the 2030 Agenda to **close the remaining gaps between international, national, and local level action**, which is hindering community-based climate adaptation and risk management approaches and inhibiting the ability of faith actors to participate to their full potential in fostering resilience and overcoming poverty.

1. *In 2021 at 26th session of the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26), some Parties and civil society organizations proposed a new financial facility to support loss and damage.*
   1. *Please provide ideas and concepts on how a new facility would operate and how the funds needed to underwrite this fund would be established and maintained.*

* Ensure that funds are available for adaptation and recovery and that **faith-based organisations and civil society organisations** can access funding directly
* Include capacity support for umbrella organizations within the operational guidelines, to help build surge capacity for reporting and monitoring so that **faith-based organisations and civil society organisations** can do that work on the ground
  1. *Please provide ideas and concepts on how a new financial facility for loss and damage could provide redress and remedies for individuals and communities in vulnerable situations who have suffered loss and damage due to the adverse impacts of climate change.*
* Provide scope for **local coordination** and integration of resilience plans, including the most vulnerable who are often excluded
* Ensure that the facility includes funding for adaptation **pre-disasters** and adaptation **post-disaster**
* Include the **marginalized** and **vulnerable** in all discussions

1. *What actions are necessary to enhance actions by States, business enterprises, civil society and intergovernmental organizations to dramatically increase efforts to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, including through support to developing countries, in particular small island developing States, least developed countries and landlocked developing States, to limit the human rights impacts on particularly individuals and communities in vulnerable situations to the adverse impacts of climate change?*

* Financing and technical support to implement renewable energy sources in such as wind and solar in vulnerable contexts, for example solar pumps for irrigation, ecological stoves which conserve fuelwood energy in rural areas, and energy from biomass (biofuels, ethanol, biodiesel etc.)
* Supporting nature-based solutions to mitigation efforts that also have a social benefit, for example agro-forestry, ensuring that ‘off-set’ projects do not damage the ecosystem or negatively impact the rights of those living on the land (e.g., Indigenous Peoples)
* Providing Community-Based REDD+ readiness guidelines to vulnerable low-income communities in rural areas
* Implement the Agreed Conclusions of the 66th Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, to ensure the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies, and programmes
* Ensure that all efforts are community-owned and directed

1. *What actions are necessary to enhance actions by States, business enterprises, civil society, and intergovernmental organisation to increase efforts to ensure that actions to adapt to the impacts of climate change contribute to reducing, and not exacerbating, the vulnerabilities of individuals and communities in vulnerable situations to the adverse impacts of climate change?*

* Ensure that vulnerable groups are included in planning and implementation of adaptations, so their needs are considered
* Include vulnerable and marginalized groups at all high-level and community-level discussions
* Assist vulnerable individuals/communities particularly in urban mountainside areas prone to landslides and lowlands prone to flooding by providing technical and financial assistance to improve the resilience of their housing sites or provide alternative secure locations. Work with faith-based organizations as catalysts for emergency plans, providing early warning and safe haven to communities in cases of extreme weather.
* Support nature-based solutions that aim to reduce physical vulnerability by adapting surroundings to a new climate reality and to reduce social vulnerability by providing income alternatives to impacted communities.