***As wildfires rage, storms intensify, earth is scorched and rivers burst their banks across the world, it is said that we are now in the era of Loss and Damage. Climate change is no longer a future crisis that we can prevent, but a crisis now. It is already causing immense suffering to the planet and its people, especially communities already marginalized by the global economic system. As a result, the issue of addressing Loss and Damage is fast becoming a top priority for developing countries in global policy debates on climate change*.**

[Responding to the Signs of the Times: A Theological Reflection on Loss and Damage](https://www.jesuits.africa/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Responding_to_the_Signs_of_the_Times_-_A_Theological_Reflection_on_Loss_and_Damage_original.pdf)

Fr Leonard Chiti (SJ)

Perhaps the biggest breakthrough in global climate change talks in recent years was the agreement to create a Loss and Damage Fund to provide financial assistance to nations most vulnerable and impacted by the effects of climate change. The creation of this fund was seen as a turning point in the global effort to tackle the climate crisis, and a major opportunity to correct climate injustice, which sees those who have done the least to contribute suffer most from global warming.

The talks about what exactly this fund will look like are taking place throughout 2023, and it is hoped that these details will be finalized at COP28 in Dubai. Many faith organisations have been following this process closely, concerned to ensure that the fund truly delivers for people on the frontlines of climate change. We see everyday the suffering caused by climate change-induced cyclones, droughts, sea-level rise and more; we know the deep need people have for remedies to weather the storms of climate injustice.

Inspired by Pope Francis’s call for “synodality”, in June 2023 an online dialogue was convened to reflect on this issue via the lens of moral teaching, sacred scriptures and ancient wisdom. This dialogue features contributions from senior African church leaders, key figures from the Vatican and faith-based NGOs , all reflecting on the moral case for action on Loss and Damage.

It was agreed at this dialogue that “we are called not just to reflect, but also to act”, and therefore decided to distil contributions from the session into a statement: [Loss and Damage: The Moral Case for Action](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/13WJqmlSeU6TwLvrUqOKB3y9oH6WhOWxDRyrXIchA9W8/edit#responses). This statement was drafted and circulated to regional nodes in each continent for input to make sure that it is truly reflective of global realities and perspectives on this issue. It has now been finalized by this group of nodes, and is open for sign-on by faith leaders across the world.

We hope that your faith leaders will consider adding their voices to this global plea action for justice. The plan is to publish his statement ahead of COP28 and the ambition is that it will inject vital moral arguments and prophetic vision into the negotiations on Loss & Damage that will take place in Dubai.

*A true ecological approach always becomes a social approach;*

*it must integrate questions of justice in debates on the*

*environment, so as to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry*

*of the poor.*

Pope Frances, Laudato Si