



United Nations Climate Action Summit, 23 September 2019: Commitments from the Anglican Consultative Council¹

Climate change is an existential threat to peace and security, human rights, economic prosperity and cultural and ecological preservation. The **Anglican Consultative Council (ACC)** welcomes the leadership of the United Nations Secretary-General in convening the UN Climate Action Summit, and urges all Member States and other stakeholders to make courageous, ambitious, and necessary commitments to support the goals of the Summit.

The ACC recently passed resolutions committing the Anglican Communion to play its part in tackling the causes and consequences of climate change. Affirming that there is a global climate emergency, the ACC encouraged all of its Member Churches to actively 'strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth',² for example:

- By promoting a day during the [Season of Creation](#) as a day of public repentance
- By developing an action plan and resources for sustainable living at individual, parish, diocesan and provincial level; including policies and procedures to minimise waste, increase use of renewable energies, and incorporate creation care into liturgical practice
- By preparing a [Lenten Fast for Creation](#)
- By holding strategic planning conferences on the Sustainable Development Goals and Climate Change, ensuring the involvement of indigenous, youth, and women's voices
- By identifying environmental and climate-related threats in their own context and develop or adapt existing tools on disaster preparedness and mitigation to respond accordingly

One of the key ways that Anglican Communion is responding to the climate emergency is through work to build climate resilience at the community level. The ACC has called on all Member Churches to:

- recognise the important role of Indigenous/First Nation peoples' knowledge in building resilience to climate change in communities
- encourage investment in resources to support education, training and activism in addressing climate change
- develop a strategy for climate-induced disaster preparedness, emergency relief and post-disaster rehabilitation

In addition, many individual Member Churches are actively responding to the climate emergency through their own initiatives and policies. Much of this work comes from the grassroots, embodying the spirit of *asset-based community development* and *church and community mobilization*. Three examples are listed below:

- Members of the **Anglican Church of Melanesia**, in partnership with the UK-based University of Southampton, have received training to assist in climate data collection and monitoring as part of a research initiative to study the impacts of climate change on the Solomon Islands.
- In the **Anglican Churches of Kenya and Burundi**, large-scale tree-planting initiatives have taken place to support the decarbonisation process in their respective countries. The Church in Burundi has committed to **planting 10 million trees over a five-year period**.
- The Transition Pathway Initiative (TPI) is a global, asset-owner led initiative, which assesses companies' preparedness for the transition to a low carbon economy. The TPI is co-chaired by the Director of Ethics and Engagement for the **Church of England Pensions Board**. Over 50 investors globally have already pledged support for the TPI; jointly they represent \$15 trillion combined Assets Under Management and Advice.

The Anglican Consultative Council commits to being an active partner of Member States, UN agencies and all stakeholders in turning back the tide of the climate emergency, particularly in regards to the following tracks at the Summit:

- Mitigation (at the local and community level), Social and political drivers, Youth and public mobilization, Infrastructure, cities and local action, and Resilience and Adaptation

Through its office at the United Nations, the ACC will monitor the discussions at the Summit and continue to raise up and represent the voices of Anglicans around the world who are actively addressing the impacts of climate change, advocating to transform unjust structures, and calling for their leaders to take urgent action.

¹ The Anglican Consultative Council (ACC) is the legislative and policy-making arm of the worldwide Anglican Communion's 85 million members, spread across 40 Member Churches in over 165 countries. The ACC has been in Special Consultative Status with ECOSOC since 1985.

² The Fifth 'Mark of Mission' of the Anglican Communion. The Marks of Mission are an important statement on mission. They express the Anglican Communion's common commitment to, and understanding of, God's holistic and integral mission