

Civil Society Statement on the UNGA Resolution Operationalising the ICJ Climate Ruling

18 May, 2026

Statement by 186 civil society organisations, youth movements, Indigenous Peoples' organisations, frontline community representatives, environmental justice advocates, legal experts, health and climate movements worldwide

The climate crisis is not merely an environmental emergency; it is a human rights crisis, a health crisis, a matter of justice, survival, and international law. At a moment when multilateralism faces profound strain, the upcoming United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) [resolution](#) welcoming the International Court of Justice (ICJ) [Advisory Opinion on the legal obligations of States in respect of climate](#) change represents a defining opportunity for global leadership and collective responsibility.

As civil society organisations committed to climate justice, international cooperation, and the rule of law, we urge all Member States to co-sponsor and vote in favor of the UNGA Resolution welcoming and operationalising the ICJ climate ruling.

The ICJ climate ruling constitutes the most authoritative clarification of international law on climate change to date. Delivered unanimously, following a consensus request and unprecedented participation from States and civil society across all regions, the Opinion confirms that States have binding legal obligations to prevent climate harm, protect human rights, phase out fossil fuels, and provide remedy and reparations for climate-related loss and damage.

The Resolution now before the General Assembly faithfully and responsibly reflects these obligations, and offers clear pathways for implementation. A single delegation did not shape the Resolution, developed through extensive consultations and shaped by the engagement of over one hundred Member States. The final draft is holistic and representative of Member States' input. It affirms the importance of a just transition away from fossil fuels, recognizes the rights and legal protections of States threatened by sea-level rise, underscores the centrality of equity and intergenerational justice, and calls for structured follow-up to support implementation, including reporting by the UN Secretary-General.

Consensus adoption of this critical Resolution would send a powerful global message that States remain committed to climate action, international law, and multilateral cooperation at a time when humanity urgently needs all three.

As we look towards the date of adoption expected on 20 May 2026, we call on all Member States to:

- **Confirm and publicly communicate about their co-sponsorship before the adoption day;**
- **Support adoption of the resolution by consensus, including through diplomatic engagement;**
- **Vote in favor of the resolution as presented, should a vote be called;**
- **Engage constructively in follow-up processes to operationalise the ICJ Advisory Opinion in line with their legal obligations.**

As civil society, we stand ready to continue working with Member States and UN bodies to advance implementation of the Advisory Opinion, and to strengthen our collective capacity to enhance responses to the growing climate crisis. We welcome this resolution wholeheartedly and reaffirm our commitment to supporting its implementation and the operationalisation of the advisory opinion in a manner that upholds human rights, ensures equity and delivers justice in accordance with the findings of the ICJ.

The intensifying harm that the climate crisis wreaks on all our countries has already resulted in unacceptable human suffering, including immense loss and damage, severe health risks, displacement of civilians, threatened sovereignty and survival of entire countries, and more, leaving devastating repercussions for many, primarily communities that have contributed the least to climate change. For frontline communities, small island developing States, youth, and future generations, this resolution is not abstract political exercises, it is about dignity, existence, and survival.

The climate crisis does not have to be fought alone. Through continued collaboration and international cooperation, we can deliver true climate justice.

Co-sponsor the resolution and #VoteYesForClimateJustice.

Thank you,

1. 1 Million Women
2. CAN Europe
3. Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL)
4. Child Rights International Network (CRIN)
5. Comms Declare
6. Conectas Direitos Humanos
7. Congregation of the Mission

8. Deignan Institute for Earth and Spirit at Iona University
9. Earth.Org
10. Edmund Rice International
11. Environmental Defenders Network (EDEN)
12. Environmental Defenders Office
13. Franciscans International
14. Impact Coalition on Strengthening International Judicial Institutions
15. Look Green Care Foundation
16. Natural Justice
17. Pacific Islands Student Fighting Climate Change (PISFCC)
18. Parents for Climate Australia
19. People's Climate Assembly
20. Plan International Australia
21. Resilient40
22. School Sisters of Notre Dame
23. Sisters of Charity Federation
24. Solomon Islands Climate Action Network
25. Stand Up for Your Rights
26. The Climate Reality Project Australia & Pacific
27. VIVAT International
28. Vote Earth Now
29. World Future Council
30. World's Youth for Climate Justice (WYCJ)
31. Yarra Climate Action Now (YCAN)
32. Australia Conservation Foundation

33. Greenpeace International
34. Asian Research Institute for Environmental Law
35. African Futures Lab
36. Par Literary Center
37. Tipping Point North South
38. Pax Christi International
39. Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers
40. Emony Yefwe International
41. Refugee Law Initiative
42. Trócaire
43. Ecojustice Ireland
44. Agenda for Relief and Development Initiative- South Sudan
45. Banka Earth Foundation
46. SCIAF
47. Canadian Association for the Club of Rome (CACOR)
48. Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic, Inc.
49. African Climate Justice Caravan
50. Refugees International
51. Aotearoa Lawyers for Peace
52. Centre for Citizens Conserving Environment & Management (CECIC)
53. World Christian Life Community
54. Amnesty Germany - Climate Crisis Group
55. Association of Women of Southern Europe AFEM
56. International Presentation Association
57. Company of the Daughters of Charity of Saint Vincent de Paul

58. Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Loreto Generalate
59. Sustainable Beekeeping and Human Development (SuBeHuDe)
60. Asociación Interamericana para la Defensa el Ambiente (AIDA)
61. Réseau Action Climat France
62. Passionists International
63. Hawai'i Institute for Human Rights
64. The GOOD Group
65. United Nations University - Regional Center of Expertise Hawai'i Moananuiakea (UNU-RCE Hawai'i Moananuiakea)
66. Congregations of St Joseph
67. Moana Tasi Project
68. Masahawa Organization for Development
69. Cyber x Climate™
70. Gottsleben Ministries™
71. Secure Survivors™
72. Innovation Network International
73. The Green Protector
74. Saheli
75. Oxfam International
76. Human Development Research Initiative (HDRI)
77. Environmental Rights Centre Scotland
78. Pilex Centre for Civic Education Initiative
79. Notre Affaire à Tous
80. Egyptian Foundation for Environmental Rights
81. Reacción Climática

82. EKOenergy ecolabel
83. Martha Justice Ministry, Sisters of St. Martha
84. EXTRA Infohub
85. Plan International
86. Debt Justice Norway
87. Dibeem for Environmental Development
88. Nuclear Information and Resource Service ("for a nuclear-free, carbon-free world")
89. International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)
90. Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur
91. ECODES
92. Heinrich Böll Foundation Washington, DC
93. International Environment Forum
94. NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
95. CliMates France
96. Sisters of Charity of New York
97. Environmental Management Trust (EMT)
98. Ghana Federation of Disability
99. Results International (Australia)
100. Climate Action Network Australia
101. Future Generations Tribunal
102. Nillumbik Climate Action Team
103. Vote Earth Now
104. Cordaid
105. Global Responsibility
106. Environmental Justice Australia

107. Co-ordination Office of the Austrian Bishops' Conference for International Cooperation and Global Church (KOO)
108. Austrian Alliance for Climate Justice
109. Climate and Health Alliance
110. Darling Downs Environment Council
111. Alliance for Future Generations - Fiji
112. Human Rights Watch
113. Österreichische Liga für Menschenrechte
114. WA Climate Leaders
115. Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (CSPPS)
116. CELS (Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales)
117. Mennonite Central Committee
118. ActionAid International
119. WILPF UK
120. AwareNearth
121. Holland Park Media
122. Climate Action Network Latin America (CANLA)
123. Australian Fair Trade and Investment Network
124. Hunter Peace Group
125. Climate Action Monaro
126. Society of the Sacred Heart
127. Casa Generalizia della Societa del Sacro Cuore
128. Climate Action Network International
129. CARE Climate Justice Center
130. Generation Climate Europe

131. Jubilee Australia Research Centre
132. Amnesty International
133. BARCIK (Bangladesh Resource Centre for Indigenous Knowledge)
134. Community Action for Healing Poverty Organization- CANSA
135. Community Action for Healing Poverty Organization-CAHPO
136. Indian Network on Ethics and Climate Change
137. Nejat Center for Social Development, Drug Rehabilitation and Medical Services Organization NDRC
138. Labour Education Foundation
139. AGRAJATTRA
140. Nazrul Smriti Sangsad(NSS)
141. EcoHimal Nepal
142. SARASWATI SEVABHAVI SASNTHA,BHATWADGAON
143. Samsoor Watan Organisation for Environment
144. Association of Voluntary Actions for Society (AVAS)
145. Waterloo Region Climate Collaborative
146. Canadian Association for the Club of Rome (CACOR).
147. The ChariTree Foundation
148. Centre for Peace and Development Initiatives (CPDI)
149. Observatório do Clima
150. Enact Earth Foundation
151. U.S. Climate Action Network
152. MBRDO
153. Mobilizing an Earth Governance Alliance (MEGA)
154. Fondazione Proclade Internazionale-onlus

155. Global Climate & Health Alliance
156. Institute for Policy Studies Climate Policy Program
157. Plant-for-the-Planet Foundation
158. Peace Movement Aotearoa
159. WILPF Australia
160. Climate Action Network - Réseau action climat Canada
161. Society of the Sacred Heart
162. Aid Organization
163. Don't Nuke the Climate Coalition
164. KOTHOWAIN (Vulnerable Peoples Development Organization) Bandarban Hill Tract,
BANGLADESH
165. Climate Action Network Japan
166. Carbon Market Watch
167. Centre for Climate Justice-Bangladesh (CCJ-B)
168. Indigenous People's Climate Justice Forum
169. Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary
170. CIDSE – International family of Catholic social justice organisations.
171. Loss and Damage Youth Coalition
172. African Centre for Governance
173. LDH (Ligue des droits de l'Homme)
174. Beyond Climate Collaborative
175. Zomen Development Program
176. ClimaTalk
177. PRETO BUSINESS Corp.
178. RCPA-O

179. Hope Givers Foundation
180. Union des Amis Socio Culturels d'Action en Developpement (UNASCAD)
181. FGA
182. VSO
183. The ClimAct Initiative
184. ONG Jovenes y Desarrollo Sostenible
185. Dutch Platform Fair and Green Economy
186. Climate and Health Alliance