

November 27, 2023

The Honourable Steven Guilbeault, M.P.
Minister of Environment and Climate Change
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A6

The Honourable Ahmed Hussen, M.P.
Minister of International Development
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON
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Canada's responsibility to climate justice and Loss & Damage at COP 28

Dear Ministers,

We are writing as members of the Waterloo Region volunteer citizens advocacy group [Faith Climate Justice Waterloo Region](#), who are committed to promoting the well-being of all creation and to advocating for justice for those most impacted by climate change. We believe that Canada has both the responsibility and opportunity to advance global climate justice specifically through the *Loss and Damage Fund* at the upcoming United Nations climate change conference being held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (COP 28).

Canada has a moral responsibility to work for climate justice at COP 28 since we are among the affluent G20 countries that produce almost 80 per cent of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Canada is also included in the latest listing of the top 10 global GHG emitters by the World Resources Institute. Meanwhile, developing countries that emit the least GHG emissions have been, and continue to be, most affected by climate change. This is a global injustice that requires Canada's action, in partnership with other nations.

At COP 28, Canada must advance climate justice by aggressively working with other nations to bring into force a global *Loss and Damage Fund* that was established at COP 27. Such a fund, financed by developed nations, will assist developing nations to recover from climate exacerbated disasters such as rising sea levels, prolonged heatwaves, and events such as floods, wildfires, and crop failures. This fund is needed for humanitarian relief in affected countries, yet in an interconnected world also serves all nations including Canada – by building stability, food security, and reducing the flow of climate refugees, contributing to global peace.

We thank Canada for its efforts at COP 27 to create the *Loss and Damage Fund* and in recent Transitional Committee meetings to ensure that the fund recommendations will be brought forward to COP 28. We now urge the Canadian delegation to bring its experience in international climate financing to the negotiating table, to work for this essential new fund to be implemented in a way that ensures robust funding that is separate and distinct from other climate funding commitments. The fund governance must be fair and equitable. Canada can lead the way by committing new, substantial, and ongoing funds to build the fund's resources.

It is also imperative that Canada and the international community address the root cause of the need for climate financing at COP 28. We know what that is – the GHG emissions that drive climate change. We know what causes most of these emissions – the production and burning of fossil fuels. And we know what the solution is – the rapid phasing out of fossil fuels and the accelerated ramp-up of renewable energy sources. In commenting on the recent UN Development Programme *Emission Gap Report* that highlights insufficient global action in

reducing GHG emissions, António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations has said “*We know it is still possible to make the 1.5 degree limit a reality. It requires tearing out the poisoned root of the climate crisis: fossil fuels. And it demands a just, equitable renewables transition.*” So, the bottom line for COP 28 and the Canadian delegation is to both advocate for financial support for those in urgent need now, while also acting to move our societies *towards a sustainable future and away from burning fossil fuels* as quickly as possible.

We urge Canada to continue to take a leadership role at COP 28, most particularly in the development of a global *Loss and Damage Fund*. Canada has a moral imperative to redress climate-related loss and damage in the Global South, and to work ambitiously to ensure that we do not perpetuate further losses.

Sincerely,

Members of Faith Climate Justice Waterloo Region



FAITH CLIMATE JUSTICE WR

Links

G20 countries emit almost 80% of global GHG emissions: [Enhancing the G20's Climate Change Policy Agenda with the Circular Carbon Economy Index](#)

Canada in top 10 national GHG emissions: [World's Top Emitters Interactive Chart | World Resources Institute \(wri.org\)](#)

Loss and Damage Fund approved at COP27: [COP27 ends with announcement of historic loss and damage fund \(unep.org\)](#)

Loss and Damage Fund Transitional Committee formation and membership (including Canada): [Transitional Committee | UNFCCC](#)

Transitional Committee breaks deadlock to send *Loss and Damage Fund* recommendations to COP 28: [COP28 Presidency hosts breakthrough meeting that agrees recommendations on operationalization of Loss and Damage Fund](#)

Another view of the *Loss and Damage Fund* recommendations: [Impasse broken on climate fund before COP28 but tough road ahead | Reuters](#)

Minister Guilbeault invited to facilitate political-level discussions ahead of COP 28: [Minister Guilbeault tapped as co-facilitator to support the COP28 President Designate - Canada.ca](#)

Canadian experience in global climate finance advocacy: [Open letter - Canada and Germany's way forward on climate finance in 2023 - Canada.ca](#)

UN Development Programme *Emission Gap Report* issued (contains Guterres quote): [Nations must go further than current Paris pledges or face global warming of 2.5-2.9°C \(unep.org\)](#)

CBC report on the UNDP *Emissions Gap Report* (contains Guterres quote): [Shift away from fossil fuels now or face nearly 3C warming by century's end: UN | CBC News](#)