

Good afternoon!

Welcome to this parallel event entitled **”Climate Change: it is happening here, it is happening now: Fighting Climate Change through International Solidarity”**

that has been co-organised by the **Permanent Mission of the Philippines to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, the Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII (APG23), the Company of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, the Istituto Internazionale di Maria Ausiliatrice of the Salesians of Don Bosco (IIMA), New Humanity, Teresian Association and Vides International.**

This event is co-sponsored by the Permanent Mission of Fiji to the United Nations and Specialized Agencies in Geneva, the Permanent Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations and Specialized Agencies in Geneva, the Catholic Inspired NGO (CINGO) forum in Geneva, Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University, Dominicans for Justice and Peace (Order of Preaches); the Catholic International Centre of Geneva (CCIG); the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC), Franciscans International, Foundation for GAIA, International Organization For Least Developed Countries (IOLDS), International Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations (ISMUN), World Council of Churches and the Geneva Interfaith Forum on Human Rights, Climate Change and Environment.

Climate change is undoubtedly one of the greatest global challenges threatening, with its devastating impact, the environment and the future perpetuation of humankind, exacerbating existing inequalities between countries and the vulnerabilities of communities and groups.

This parallel event will focus on the environmental, human, social and cultural impacts of climate change, focusing on the need to create synergy with all stakeholders in an integrated and coherent way, enabling countries to achieve their objectives under the Paris Agreement and Agenda 2030.

In all this complex discourse, how can international solidarity help to overcome the current challenges? How the cry of the poor and the cry of the earth should be taken up from the member states and all the other stakeholders through a new spirit of international solidarity?

Accordingly, the speakers will deal with interrelated aspects, first of all with the precious insights of the Independent Expert on Human Rights and International Solidarity followed by other experts and civil society representatives who will enlighten some aspects of this complex issue.

Scope of the parallel event is also to share our spiritual approach on the topic, giving prominence to the concept of integral ecology, and focusing then on climate change-induced migration. Finally, the event aims to present examples of existing best practices, sustainable measures and policies adopted in particular by civil society groups.