

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington DC

July 29, 2014

Dear President Obama,

As religious institutions and faith-based organizations, we share your concern about the future of God's Creation and the global challenge of addressing climate change. We thank you for the steps you are taking to fulfill our calling to be stewards of God's Earth. We are especially grateful for the Clean Power Plan and the positive effects it will have upon our health, environment, and future. As important as this step is in addressing our domestic emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, climate change is a global challenge and needs to be addressed on a global level in cooperation with countries from all over the world. For this reason, we express our gratitude that you will be personally attending the UN Climate Summit in New York on September 23rd.

UN General Secretary Ban Ki-Moon has called upon leaders of nations to join this Summit because there is an urgent need for cooperation and global leadership to address climate change. The ongoing climate discussions under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change present a key opportunity for such cooperation, and the New York Climate Summit will be an important step in this process.

Advocates from many different sectors around the globe are increasingly distressed by the lack of collective commitment from our governments to address the clear dangers of climate change. From melting snowpack altering water accessibility for our neighbors in the Andes, to rising sea levels forcing our brothers and sisters in island nations and along our own coasts to flee, climate change is already affecting the very people our faith calls us to serve. The Climate Summit will provide a critical forum to push for greater ambition in reducing emissions, increased funding for global efforts to address climate change, and continued dedication to helping vulnerable countries adapt to and manage the ongoing impacts of a changing climate. However, the Climate Summit will only be successful if world leaders attend and voice a common commitment to addressing climate change.

In your recent speech at Georgetown University, you stated that "we will be judged as a people, and as a society, and as a country" by our actions on climate change. We know that you are committed to addressing climate change and share our view that it is a moral issue. We therefore urge you to use this opportunity to lead our nation and world to a sustainable future. We also ask you to consider and convey how our country plans to contribute to global efforts to prevent the worst impacts of climate change and aid vulnerable countries in their adaptation to the challenges they are already facing.

We join with faith voices from around the world who are also urging their leaders to attend as we believe that this is a critical moment deserving the presence and commitment from global leaders.

We trust in your leadership, vision and dedication to a thriving and sustainable future for generations to come and all creation, and pray for you as you take on this critical challenge.

Sincerely,

Church World Service
Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach
Conference of Major Superiors of Men
Creation Justice Ministries
Episcopal Church
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Franciscan Action Network
Friends Committee on National Legislation
Interfaith Power & Light
Leadership Conference of Women Religious
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Quaker Earthcare Witness
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas' Institute Justice Team
Union for Reform Judaism
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee
United Church of Christ
United Methodist Church – General Board of Church and Society
United Methodist Women