



The Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach Welcomes Administration's Emission Reduction Plan

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Washington, D.C., March 31, 2015 — The Obama Administration unveiled the United States' proposed Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) today, a pledge to reduce U.S. emissions significantly as part of a global effort to curb climate change. Scott Wright, Director of the Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach issued this statement:

"This is a critical moment for the United States to show global leadership by remaining committed to curbing pollution and slowing the destruction of God's creation in advance of the Paris Climate Talks in December.

Communities around the world where Columbans serve in parishes and mission centers continue to be displaced by extreme natural disasters, a consequence of human-induced climate change. We witness intense floods in Pakistan and super-storms in the Philippines and Japan. The glaciers of the Andes mountain region in Peru, a source of irrigation and drinking water for farming communities, are melting at a rapid pace. Coastal communities in Fiji are under constant threat of dislocation due to sea level rise.

Many communities lack the ability to adapt to these quick and devastating changes, creating conflict and an influx of climate refugees. We are alarmed especially that developing nations suffer most from natural disasters and environmental degradation, largely a consequence pollution from wealthy nations.

It is crucial to mitigate climate change, while assisting countries whose people must adapt to its effects. Congress must approve the President's request for the United States' first installment to the Green Climate Fund, which will aid developing nations in these efforts.

We are all called to care for God's creation and follow the teachings of Pope Francis, whose forthcoming Ecology Encyclical will re-iterate our obligation to care the Earth and all God's people. He says, 'The book of Genesis tells us that God created man and woman entrusting them with the task of filling the earth and subduing it, which does not mean exploiting it, but nurturing and protecting it, caring for it through their work.'"

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The Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach represents the U.S. Policy Priorities of the Missionary Society of St. Columban, Catholic priests and lay missionaries dedicated to serving poor and marginalized communities in 15 countries throughout the world. We remain committed to God's call for justice, peace, and the integrity of creation. Follow our work on Facebook and Twitter (@Columban_Advocac).