

Today, We Seize the Day

Yeb Saño,  
Commissioner, Climate Change Commission  
Philippines  
Fast for the Climate

Fast for the climate is a fight for our future. We stand with millions in calling for urgent action on climate change.

Next year, here in Paris, we decide the future of the world. We have two clear choices – to halt climate change in its tracks or to let it spiral into an unmanageable menace.

Climate change is the defining issue of our generation. Our generation will be judged by our response to this challenge.

#FastfortheClimate endeavors to become the biggest solidarity movement calling for climate justice and urgent climate action. Already, thousands of people from around the world have decided to fast every first of each month to stand in solidarity with people and communities around the world confronting the profound impacts of climate change.

We appeal to world leaders – we need to do more to solve this crisis and stop this madness. We must all work together to arrive at an ambitious, fair, and brave new climate agreement here in Paris in 2015.

#FastfortheClimate seeks to send a message to governments that people from all walks of life, of all faiths and creeds, from all corners of the globe, expect no less than urgent and bold climate action. Climate change is profoundly affecting real lives and livelihoods. But the actions of governments around the world remain profoundly inadequate towards a safe and just future for our people and the planet.

The time to solve the climate crisis is now: we expect the whole world to cut carbon emissions and to secure a long-term renewable energy supply towards this safer future, building resilience for the most vulnerable and creating a revolutionary new path that transforms the way we pursue development. We urge all world leaders to work together in order to ensure the planet is a safe and better place for our current generation and for future generations.

It was Victor Hugo who once wrote that “No force on earth can stop an idea whose time has come.” #FastfortheClimate is an idea whose time has come. Nothing can stop the indignation and righteous anger of the world’s peoples against climate injustice. Nothing can stop the fervent prayers of communities around France and the whole world. Nothing can stop this global solidarity. No force on earth can stop this planetary awakening.

As the churches in France have taken this courageous step to unite in the face of this planetary crisis, I stand with them and together we will walk on the journey to change the world. I stand with them for their solidarity is deeply inspiring. I stand with them as they stand with people struggling with the adversity brought about by the current world order that is destroying the planet, further widening the gap between the rich and the poor, and destroying the moral and spiritual fabric of society. I stand with the church leaders of France and other leaders from the inter-faith community, civil society, and the youth in marching towards the new dawn. One day we will find ourselves wake up as the sun rises on the horizon knowing that we have triumphed against greed and apathy, and defeating the evil that has led to this crisis.

*Several organizations have taken this courageous step to unite in the face of this planetary crisis and support the fast: the Conseil d'Eglises Chrétiennes en France, the Fédération Protestante de France, the Conférence des évêques de France, the Assemblée des évêques orthodoxes de France, the Réseau Action Climat-France, Chrétiens Unis pour la Terre, A Rocha France, Pax Christi France, Bible et création, the Christianisme Social, Justice Paix et Sauvegarde de la Création-Alsace, the Éclaireuses et Éclaireurs Unionistes de France, Bizi, Hans Universalis, Agir pour l'environnement. Many French personalities have also decided to support this initiative, among who those sitting at this table with me.* I stand with them and together we will walk on the journey to change the world. I stand with them for their solidarity is deeply inspiring. I stand with them as they stand with people struggling with the adversity brought about by the current world order that is destroying the planet, further widening the gap between the rich and the poor, and destroying the moral and spiritual fabric of society.

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We call on every person who cares about the future of our planet to join us and sing forth the message, ring out with courage, hail to the hope of our dear mother earth. We call on all people in every country, every little village or big city, be part of this clarion call for urgency.

I have said it many times, but I say it again – “If not us, then who? If not now, then when?” Let us seize this moment.