



THE
LUTHERAN
WORLD
FEDERATION

**52nd Session of the UN Human Rights Council
PGA Town Hall with civil society organizations
27 February 2023**

Civil society organizations to share views on the theme of the 77th session of the General Assembly, “Solutions through solidarity, sustainability and science.”

**Delivered by Elena Cedillo. Program Executive for Climate Justice.
The Lutheran World Federation**

I am grateful for this opportunity to offer some reflections from a faith-based perspective. I would like to speak to you about Solutions through Sustainability, looking at the complexity of the world, our planet, and how humans interact with it.

I would like to address it from an angle of climate change and human rights.

Many challenges for sustainability (poverty, inequality, food security, access to healthcare, and education) are affected by climate change; addressing climate change is, therefore, one of the most important steps toward protecting lives, livelihoods, and the full and effective enjoyment of human rights.

Scientists have warned us about the catastrophic effects of a global warming of 1.5°C. Many changes due to past, current and future greenhouse gas emissions, such as the sea-level rise and changes in the ocean and ice sheets, are irreversible over hundreds to thousands of years. Building a more sustainable global economy that helps to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions that cause climate change is urgently required.

As faith-based organizations and communities of faith, we believe that climate action and sustainability for all must also be guided by solidarity and support for those in our communities who have been rendered vulnerable.

Now, more than ever, transformative actions are needed in a way that provides enough resources for people to live full, healthy lives without compromising the planet and humanity's future. This is not what we see in the way we run our economies, development, and societies in the world today.

The recognition of the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment enables us to fulfill our aspirations and is integral to the full enjoyment of a wide range of human rights; we all depend on the environment we live in. Environmental sustainability is a crucial enabling factor for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and dignity for all.

Sustainability transformation:

Requires a deep understanding of how we interact with each other as well as with and within our common home;

It needs to establish a systematic Intergenerational dialogue, enabling young people-driven processes, participating effectively in building their futures, and harnessing their enthusiasm and vision for a sustainable and just future,

It needs to strengthen the transformative actions of women, indigenous peoples, and local communities to bolster implementation from the local to the regional and global levels.

Requires strong engagement among stakeholders, governments, academia, the private sector, civil society actors, faith actors, local communities, and the full participation of all.

The UN General Assembly has a crucial role to play in advancing these issues and ensuring that all countries and stakeholders are committed to achieving sustainability, addressing climate change, and protecting human rights. Thank you.