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Pope Benedict XVI Urges International Cooperation on Climate Protection

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As the world commemorates the sixtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Holy Father addressed the United Nations on Friday, April 18, urging the international community to recommit itself to this declaration which “express[es] the just aspirations of the human spirit, and constitute the ideals which should underpin international relations.”

Linking questions of “the environment, of resources and of the climate,” with “questions of security, development goals, reduction of local and global inequalities” the Holy Father urged “international leaders to act jointly and to show a readiness to work in good faith, respecting the law, and promoting solidarity with the weakest regions of the planet.”

“I am thinking especially of those countries in Africa and other parts of the world which remain on the margins of authentic integral development, and are therefore at risk of experiencing only the negative effects of globalization. In the context of international relations, it is necessary to recognize the higher role played by rules and structures that are intrinsically ordered to promote the common good, and therefore to safeguard human freedom,” the Pontiff continued.

Pope Benedict called for scientific and technological advances to be at the service of humanity: “international action to preserve the environment

and to protect various forms of life on earth must not only guarantee a rational use of technology and science, but must also rediscover the authentic image of creation.”

Pope Benedict acknowledged that to help resolve these problems, a "greater degree of international ordering" must continue to advance despite “a time when we experience the obvious paradox of a multilateral consensus that continues to be in crisis because it is still subordinated to the decisions of a few, whereas the world's problems call for interventions in the form of collective action by the international community.”

The U.S. Catholic Bishops and the Catholic Coalition on Climate Change will continue to advance the Holy Father’s call to finding real solutions to the impacts of climate change on the poorest people at home and abroad. Such advocacy will engage the Catholic community and other stakeholders in the climate change debate and will encourage action to reduce greenhouse gas pollution and adaptation strategies by policy makers, individuals, businesses, and governments. In this way the Catholic community will honor the Creator by caring for Creation. Click [here](#) the full text of Benedict XVI’s speech to the United Nations.

For questions or comments, write: info@catholicsandclimatechange.org