



United States
Conference of
Catholic Bishops

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PRESS RELEASE

Fourth Synodal Encounter Fratelli Tutti: North-South socio-environmental dialogue

September 10 - 12, 2026

Generalate of La Salle, Via Aurelia 476, Rome, Italy

HIGH-LEVEL NORTH-SOUTH ENCOUNTER MEETING BETWEEN POPE LEO XIV, ORGANIZED LABOR INSTITUTIONS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Organized and supported by:

PCAL (Pontifical Commission for Latin America) -CELAM (Latin American and Caribbean Episcopal Council) -USCCB (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops) -OEI (Organization of Ibero-American States)

The *Fourth Synodal Encounter Fratelli Tutti: North-South socio-environmental dialogue* will bring together: presidents, vice-presidents, and general secretaries from the following trade unions (CSI, CSA, AFL-CIO) Canadian Labour Congress, MST, UTEP, JOCA, SEIU, CFL, UNITE-HERE); Chambers of Employers (OIE, U.S. Chambers of Commerce, COPARMEX, UNIAPAC); international organizations (ILO, OAS, OEI, COP); regional development and cooperation banks (IDB, CAF); episcopal conferences (CELAM, USCCB, CEAMA); ecclesial and university networks (ODUCAL, RUC, LUC, REPAM, REMAM, REGCHAG, Iglesia y Minería, CARITAS, CEE); global companies (Microsoft, PLS, Integra); organized communities (IAF, GAMALIEL, DART, Faith in Action, The Just Power Alliance, The Black Mountain); and foundations (Porticus, EMFF). The participants will be received in a Private Audience by the Holy Father on September 12 at the Apostolic Palace. [List of participants attached].

The purpose of the meeting is to promote fraternity through social dialogue, by launching a **NORTH-SOUTH SHARED RESPONSIBILITY AGENDA FOR MULTISECTORAL COOPERATION**. By combining funding, capabilities, and knowledge from ecclesial, trade union, business, community, banking, and academic organizations, conclusions and concrete actions will be presented—as a result of the journey undertaken and the fruit of sectoral agreements- in response to the major transformations taking place in the Americas: 1) artificial intelligence and human dignity; 2) training and capacity building for socio-environmental dialogue; 3) community organization and care; 4) youth and addictions; 5) artificial intelligence and social friendship; 6) energy transition and protection of territories as a common good.

On Friday September 11 at 1 p.m., the Press conference at the Holy See Press Office. Participants will include: Cardinal **Jaime Spengler**, president of CELAM; **Liz Schuler**, president of AFL-CIO; Monsignor **Daniel Flores**, Vice President of USCCB; Cardinal **Leonardo Steiner**, president of CEAMA; **Gerardo Martínez**, full member of the Governing Body of the ILO representing workers; and Monsignor **Reginald Andrietta**, coordinator of the Organized Work Network of CELAM.

This meeting is a continuation of a discernment process initiated in 2023 (Bogotá 2023 and 2024, Washington DC 2025, Rome 2026) promoted by the Pontifical Commission for Latin America (PCAL), together with the Latin American and Caribbean Episcopal Council (CELAM), in collaboration with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

INSTITUCIONES PARTICIPANTES / PARTICIPANT INSTITUTIONS

Regional institutions that act and interact in and with Latin America and the Caribbean

IGLESIA

- **USCCB** -United State Conferences of Catholic Bishops- Mons. Daniel Flores, Vice President.
 - **USCCB** - Anthony Granado, Associate General Secretary.
 - **USCCB** -United State Conferences of Catholic Bishops- Jill Rauh, Executive, Secretariat of Justice and Peace .
 - **USCCB** -United State Conferences of Catholic Bishops- Michael O'Rourke, Dir. Office of Domestic Justice.
 - **USCCB** -United State Conferences of Catholic Bishops- Alexandra Carroll, Dir. of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development.
 - **USCCB** -United State Conferences of Catholic Bishops- Emily Schumacher-Novak, Associate Director of Education and Outreach.
- **CELAM** -Consejo Episcopal Latinoamericano y Caribeño- Card. Jaime Spengler, Presidente.
 - **CEPRAP/CELAM** -Centro Programas y Redes de Acción Pastoral- Cesar Piscoya, Coordinador.
 - **RETO/CELAM** -Red del Trabajo Organizado- Mons. Reginaldo Andrietta, Coordinador.
 - **RECOR/CELAM** -Red de Comunidades Organizadas- P. Charly Olivero, Coordinador.
- **CEAMA** -Conferencia Eclesial de la Amazonia- Card. Leonardo Steiner, Presidente
- **CEE** -Conferencia Episcopal Española- Fr. Eduardo Agosta, Dir. Dpto. Ecología Integral.
- **ICMC** -Comisión Católica Internacional para las Migraciones- Ignacio Alonso Alasino, Project Manager.
- **CÁRITAS** -América Latina- Nicolas Meyer, Secretario Regional
- **CATHOLIC CHARITIES** -Estados Unidos-, P. Robert Vitillo, Chief Innovation and Program Officer.

REDES TERRITORIALES

- **REMAM** -Red Eclesial Ecológica Mesoamericana- P. Noel Ortiz, Secretario Ejecutivo.
- **REGCHAG** -Red Eclesial Gran Chaco y Acuífero Guaraní- Hna. Rosita Sidasmed, Secretaria Ejecutiva.
- **REPAM** -Red Eclesial Panamazónica- Clara Lombana Cortés, Secretaria Ejecutiva.
- **IGLESIAS Y MINERÍA**, Mons. Manuel Ochogavia Barahona

ORGANISMOS INTERNACIONALES

- **OEI** -Organización de Estados Iberoamericanos- Luis Scasso, Dir. Regional.
- **OIT** -Organización Internacional del Trabajo- Amber Barth, Dir. para Estados Unidos y Canadá.
 - **OIT** -Organización Internacional del Trabajo- Italo Cardona, Dir. Países Andinos.
 - **OIT** -Organización Internacional del Trabajo- Melva Diaz Better, Principal de Alianzas y Programas para América Latina.
 - **OIT** -Organización Internacional del Trabajo- Gerardo Martinez, Miembro Titular del Consejo de Administración por trabajadores.
 - **OIE** -Organización Internacional de Empleadores-, Daniel Funes de Rioja, Presidente, y Presidente de CEATAL -Comisión Empresarial de Asesoramiento de la OEA.
- **OEA** -Organización de los Estados Americanos- Ángela Crowdy, Secretaria Ejecutiva de CICAD -Comisión Interamericana para el Control del Abuso de Drogas-.
 - **OEA** -Organización de los Estados Americanos-, Marta Pujadas, Presidente de COSATE -Consejo Sindical de Asesoramiento Técnico.

- **ONU** -Organización de las Naciones Unidas-, Gustau Manez Gomis, Chief of Staff de COP -Conferencia de las Partes.
- **BID** -Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo- Andre Soares, Jefe de Oficina de Presidencia.
- **CAF** -Banco de Desarrollo de América Latina- Pablo Gentili, Director Senior de Mecanismos de Integración.

CÁMARAS EMPRESARIALES

- **U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**, Stephanie Ferguson Melhorn, Senior Vice president, Head of International.
- **UNIAPAC-USEM** -Unión Internacional Cristiana de Dirigentes de Empresas/ Unión Social de Empresarios de México- Javier Solana, Presidente.
- **COPARMEX** -Confederación Patronal de la República Mexicana- Juan José Sierra Álvarez, Presidente.

EMPRESAS

- **MICROSOFT**, Fred Humphries, Corporate Vice President, US Government Affairs (USGA).
- **PLS** -Pilbara Minerales Limitada- Leandro Gobbo, Vice Presidente.
- **INTEGRA CAPITAL**, Nicolas Mallo Huergo, Presidente.

CENTRALES SINDICALES DE TRABAJADORES

- **CSI** - International Trade Union Confederation- Cathy Feingold, Vice President.
- **CSA** -Confederación Sindical de trabajadores y trabajadoras de las Américas - Rocio Saenz, Presidente.
 - **CSA** -Confederación Sindical de trabajadores y trabajadoras de las Américas-, Rafael Freire, Secretario General.
 - **CSA** - Confederación Sindical de trabajadores y trabajadoras de las Américas- Juan Pablo Martinez, Coord. Político.
 - **CSA** -Central General de los Trabajadores- Cristian Jeronimo, Miembro del consejo ejecutivo y Secretario General de CGT.
- **AFL-CIO** -American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations-, Liz Shuler, President.
 - **AFL-CIO** -American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations- Katie Corrigan, Senior Advisor.
- **CLC** -Canadian Labour Congress- Bea Bruske, Presidente.
- **JOCA** -Juventud Obrera Cristiana América- Cynthia Vazquez, Coordinadora
- **SEIU** -Service Employees International Union- April Verrett, President
- **CFL** -Chicago Federation of labor- Robert Reiter, President.
- **UNITE-HERE HEALTH** -Multi-employer Taft-Hartley Trust- Fr. Clete Kiley, Trustee.

COMUNIDADES ORGANIZADAS

- **DART** -Centro de Formación en Acción Directa e Investigación- John Aeschbury, Executive Director.
- **FAITH IN ACTION**, Joseph Fleming, Director.
- **GAMALIEL**, Juan Soto, Director.
- **IAF** -Fundación Areas Industriales- Joe Rubio, National Co-Director.
- **THE BLACK MOUNTAIN**, Daniel Rodhes, Co-President.
- **THE JUST POWER ALLIANCE**, Christian Bentley, Coordinator.



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MOVIMIENTOS POPULARES

- **MST** -Movimiento de Trabajadores Rurales sin Tierra- Ayala Ferreira, Dir. Derechos Humanos.
- **UTEP** -Unión de los Trabajadores y Trabajadoras de la Economía Popular- Alejandro Gramajo, Secretario General.

REDES UNIVERSITARIAS

- **ODUCAL** - Organización de Universidades Católicas de América Latina y el Caribe- Anderson Pedroso SJ, Presidente.
- **RUC** -Red Universitaria por el Cuidado de la Casa Común- Agustina Rodriguez Saa, presidente.
- **LUC** -Loyola University Chicago- Michael Okinczyk-Cruz, Professor, and Executive Director of CSPL -Coalition for Spiritual & Public Leadership-.

FUNDACIONES

- **PORTICUS** - Juan Esteba Belderrain, Dirc. América Latina.
- **EMFF** -Environmental Markets Fairness Foundation- Patricio Lombardi, Executive Director.