

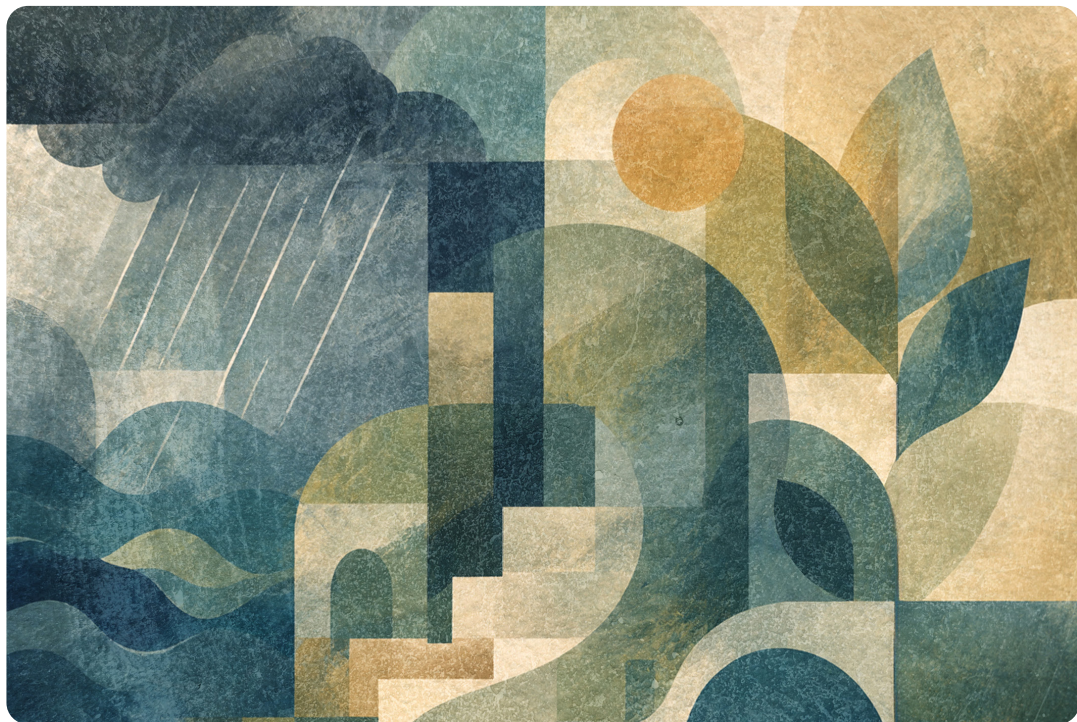


THE PONTIFICAL
ACADEMY OF SOCIAL
SCIENCES

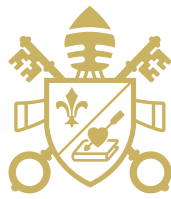


WORKSHOP ON

BUILDING CLIMATE RESILIENCE LEGISLATION



12 May 2026
Casina Pio IV, Vatican City



“In the midst of a world that is in flames, as a result of both global warming and armed conflicts,” this Conference should become a sign of hope, through the respect shown to the views of others in the joint endeavor to search for common language and consensus, while putting aside selfish interests, bearing in mind the responsibility for one another and for future generations.

Message from His Holiness Pope Leo XIV delivered by Cardinal Secretary of State Pietro Parolin at the Thirtieth Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP30), Belém, 7 November 2025.



Background, Rationale & Concept

Extreme weather threatens lives and livelihoods worldwide. The unprecedented intensity of floods, fires, and hurricanes is hitting hardest those least able to recover. These disasters demand a united response rather than the politics of inertia or blame. Building climate resilience requires complementing mitigation with adaptation to cope with the additional heating of the planet in the coming decades. To catalyze mitigation and adaptation, we need to enable societal transformation. The challenge is not only to survive the devastating impacts of climate change but also to thrive and evolve into a sustainable way of living. We must broaden the current approach and dominant focus beyond mitigation to climate resilience. Mitigation is the central cornerstone of climate action, but since the risk landscape is already changing due to climate shocks, we need to build adaptation and resilience. Building resilience consists of the following actions:

- ▶ Anticipate threats and risks;
- ▶ Prepare for threats and risks;
- ▶ Respond to threats and risks; and
- ▶ Recover and rebound from threats and risks.

Mitigation, Adaptation, and Societal Transformation (MAST) form the three pillars of the PAS/PASS framework for building Climate Resilience:

- ▶ **Mitigation:** Mitigation to bend the GHG emissions curve downward now and reach climate neutrality by 2050, to limit the warming to below 2°C is the first Pillar of MAST.
- ▶ **Adaptation:** Adaptation to unavoidable climate change is the second pillar of MAST. It involves reducing sensitivity to climate change, reducing exposure to climate threats, and enhancing adaptive capacity. Adaptation must start at the local level, a city, a village, a state and scale upwards to an entire nation.
- ▶ **Societal Transformation:** Societal transformation to a sustainable way of living is essential for both reducing the anthropogenic perturbations (bend the curve) and for thriving despite the climate impacts. Societal Transformation involves fundamental shifts in values, behavior, and governance of socio-economic systems. In Pope Francis' words, "This transformation is akin to an ecological conversion."

PAS/PASS Initiative: Climate Resilience and Scope for Cooperation on Regional Summits

A series of initiatives on climate policies and the climate crisis, organized by the Pontifical Academy of Sciences (PAS) and the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences (PASS), have paved the way for a significant transdisciplinary alliance

between climate science, social science, policy, faith-based communities, and civil society.

- ▶ The Faith and Science initiative by the Vatican, in which PAS mobilized science communities, and the Governments of the UK and Italy shaped the COP agenda in Glasgow and helped bring issues of water, food and agriculture for the first time high on the agenda of the COP in Sharm el Cheikh.
- ▶ In July of 2022, PAS organized a meeting of experts, at which the MAST concept for resilience was first proposed and accepted by all the experts attending the meeting in a conference declaration. This led to the realization that resilience must be built at the local level of cities and states: <https://www.pas.va/en/publications/scripta-varia/sv152pas.html>
- ▶ A Global summit was organized jointly by PAS and PASS during May 15 - 17, 2024, assembling mayors and governors from all hemispheres to discuss and showcase innovative solutions for climate resilience. The outcome of the summit was a **Planetary Call to Action for Climate Change Resilience** (Pope Francis, Ramanathan, V; Suárez-Orozco, M; von Braun, J; Alford, H; Turkson, P; and 15 other authors by PAS and PASS, signed by attendees, including all the attending Mayors and Governors). The document recognizes that the climate crisis is already upon us. It also acknowledges the need for a new, expanded approach that adds adaptation and societal transformation to emissions mitigation to protect people and ecosystems. We endeavor to foster adaptation and societal transformation within a global framework that is also deeply rooted in the local level. To support implementation, we designed series of ten regional summits across all hemispheres.
- ▶ The regional summits advance the Call to Action for a universal protocol of resilience, as Pope Francis called it in his speech on May 16, 2024, to the global resilience summit attendees: "I commend the two Academies for producing a universal protocol of resilience." PAS/PASS have already organized regional summits in California, Boston, Nairobi, Vienna, Brasilia, Rome and Senegal, with summits planned for India and Southeast Asia & the Pacific. We aim to culminate in a final comprehensive Vatican Summit in 2027 and the release of a Universal Protocol for Climate Resilience.

Overview

As part of a global series of regional climate summits, this **one-day workshop** at the Casina Pio IV in the Vatican Gardens will focus on the **practical realities of drafting, passing, and implementing climate resilience legislation**. It will serve as a strategic bridge between local legislative success stories and the global dialogue culminating at the **final convening at the Vatican**.



Purpose

This workshop will convene experienced legislators, emerging political leaders, policy experts, and judges to share concrete examples of **how climate resilience laws, codified and customary, have been successfully passed and implemented**—and what lessons can be applied across jurisdictions. Our goal is to learn from success stories that have gone beyond theory and into effective political and legislative action. We thus heed the urgent call from **His Holiness Pope Leo XIV**: “*It is time to move from words to action.*”

Format & Focus

› Legislative Testimonies:

Elected officials and policymakers from regions where we are hosting global summits will share firsthand accounts of the political strategies that helped them pass effective climate resilience laws.

› Intergenerational Dialogue:

Sessions will match veteran lawmakers with young legislators and political leaders, encouraging cross-generational collaboration and showcasing innovative ideas from a new generation of policymakers.

› Best Practice Case Studies:

Focused presentations on legislative achievements—including adaptation finance, disaster-resilient infrastructure, early warning systems, community-led resilience planning, and economic development—will serve as actionable models for replication.

› Policy Implementation Lab:

Substantive dialogue that explores how climate laws are translated into effective programs on the ground—addressing governance, funding, and accountability challenges.

Participants

- › Senior and early-career legislators from states and cities represented in the global summit series
- › Policy experts, advisors, and legal scholars
- › Climate advocates and youth leaders
- › Faith representatives

Outcomes

- › A cross-regional portfolio of legislative models and implementation strategies
- › An intergenerational climate legislation network
- › Contributions to the **MAST initiative**—advancing global education and action on **Mitigation, Adaptation and Societal Transformation**.

This summit reinforces our shared commitment: climate resilience is not only possible—it is already happening. By learning from those who have succeeded, we equip ourselves and our communities to act with an ethic of urgency, courage, and compassion.

Programme

- 9:00-9:10 **Words of Welcome & Opening Addresses**
His Eminence Cardinal Peter Turkson | Chancellor, PAS & PASS
- 9:15-9:25 **Setting the Stage: MAST Framework & Regional Summits**
Marcelo Suárez-Orozco | Council, PASS

Session I. Proof Points from Africa

- Chair: **Prof. Mohamed Hassan**, PAS
- 9:30-9:35 Chair's remarks
- 9:40-10:00 **Honorable Wilber Ottichilo** | Governor, Vihiga County, Kenya
Dr. Arame Tall | Senior Adaptation and Resilience Specialist, Climate Change Group, World Bank
- 10:05-10:15 Discussion

Session II. Proof Points from Europe

- Chair: **Honorable Anne Hidalgo** | Global Ambassador for the Global Covenant of Mayors & Former Mayor, Paris
- 10:20-10:25 Chair's remarks
- 10:30-10:50 **Rosmarie Wydler-Wälti** | Co-President, Senior Women for Climate Protection Switzerland (Klimaseniorinnen)
Honorable Michael Bloss | Member, European Parliament for Germany
- 10:55-11:05 Discussion
- 11:10-11:30 Coffee Break

Session III. Proof Points from North America

- Chair: **Honorable Catherine Blakespear** | Chair, Environmental Quality Committee, California State Senate
- 11:35-11:40 Chair's remarks
- 11:45-12:05 **North America**
Honorable Michael J. Moran | Majority Leader, Massachusetts House of Representatives
Honorable Aaron M. Michlewitz | Chair, Ways & Means Committee, Massachusetts House of Representatives
- 12:10-12:20 Discussion

Session IV. Proof Points from South America

- Chair: **Ana Lúcia Villela**, President, Alana Foundation
- 12:25-12:30 Chair's Remarks
- 12:35-12:55 **Honorable José Antonio Viera-Gallo** | Former Ambassador of Chile to Argentina
Honorable Marina Medeiros Helou | Member, Legislative Assembly of São Paulo
- 13:00-13:10 Discussion
- 13:15-14:15 Lunch

Session V. Administration of Justice & Role of the Courts

- Co-Chairs: **Honorable Gustavo Beliz** | PASS • **Prof. John McEldowney** | PASS
- 14:20-14:25 Chair's Remarks: **Honorable Gustavo Beliz** | PASS
- 14:30-14:35 Chair's Remarks: **Prof. John McEldowney** | PASS
- 14:40-15:35 **Reflections from the Judiciary**
Honorable Herman Benjamin | Chief Justice, Superior Court of Justice, Brazil
Honorable Janet Tello Gilardi | Chief Justice, Supreme Court, Peru
Honorable Maria Thereza de Assis Moura | Minister, Superior Court of Justice, Brazil
Honorable Marianne Bowler | Magistrate Judge, United States District Court



Honorable Francesco Viganò | Vice President, Italian Constitutional Court

Honorable Roberto Andrés Gallardo | President, COPAJU & President, Instituto Fray Bartolomé de las Casas

15:40-15:50 Discussion

15:55-16:15 Coffee Break

Session VI. Proof Points from Asia & the Pacific

Chair: **Prof. Ram Ramanathan** | Council, PAS (virtual)

16:20-16:25 Chair's Remarks

16:30-16:50 **Thomas Clark** | General Counsel, Asian Development Bank

His Eminence Cardinal Stephen Chow | Bishop of Hong Kong & PASS (virtual)

16:55-17:05 Discussion

Session VII. Incentivizing the Renewable Energy Transition

17:10-17:20 **Honorable Richard E. Neal** | United States House of Representatives (virtual)

17:20-17:30 Discussion

Session VIII. Reflections on Climate & Health

17:35-17:55 **Honorable Katrín Jakobsdóttir** | Former Prime Minister, Iceland & Chair, Pan-European Commission on Climate & Health

Dr. Ashish Jha | Senior Fellow, Belfer Center, Harvard Kennedy School

18:00-18:20 Closing Discussion

18:25-18:35 **Closing Remarks & Way Forward**

Marcelo Suárez-Orozco | Council, PASS

His Eminence Cardinal Peter Turkson | Chancellor, PAS & PASS

18:35 Dinner

List of Participants

Gustavo Beliz

PASS Academician; Former Secretary of the Strategic Affairs Secretariat, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Herman Benjamin

Chief Justice, Superior Court of Justice, Brazil

Catherine Blakespear

Chair, Environmental Quality Committee, California State Senate

Michael Bloss

Member of the European Parliament for Germany

Marianne Bowler

Magistrate Judge, United States District Court

Marcus Chiu

The Hong Kong Jockey Club

Cardinal Stephen Chow  via Zoom

PASS Academician; Bishop of the Diocese of Hong Kong

Thomas Clark

General Counsel, Asian Development Bank

Cathryn Clüver Ashbrook

Senior Advisor, Nachhaltige Soziale Marktwirtschaft, Bertelsmann Stiftung, Germany

Maria Thereza de Assis Moura

Minister, Superior Court of Justice, Brazil

Matthew Fenlon

University of Massachusetts Boston

Laís Fleury

Head of Partnerships and Nature Portfolio
Alana Foundation

Roberto Gallardo

President, COPAJU; President,
Instituto Fray Bartolomé de las Casas

Jennifer Gross

Founder, Blue Chip Foundation

Pedro Hartung

CEO, Alana Foundation

Mohamed Hassan

PAS Academician

Anne Hidalgo

Global Ambassador for the Global Covenant of Mayors; Former Mayor of Paris

Katrín Jakobsdóttir

Former Prime Minister of Iceland; Chair, Pan-European Commission on Climate and Health

Ashish Jha

Senior Fellow, Belfer Center, Harvard Kennedy School

Gabriel Leung

The Hong Kong Jockey Club

Sean Leung

The Hong Kong Jockey Club

John McEldowney

PASS Academician; Professor of Law,
University of Warwick, Coventry, UK

Marina Medeiros Helou

Member, Legislative Assembly of São Paulo

Martin Meehan

President, University of Massachusetts

Malini Mehra

Chief Executive, GLOBE (Global Legislators Organisation for a Balanced Environment)

Aaron Michlewitz

Chair, Ways and Means Committee,
Massachusetts House of Representatives

Brigitte Mohn

Bertelsmann Stiftung, Germany

Michael Moran

Majority Leader, Massachusetts House of Representatives

Richard Neal  via Zoom)

United States House of Representatives

Wilber Ottichilo

Governor, Vihiga County, Kenya

Alonzo Plough

Chief Science Officer and Vice President, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Princeton, New Jersey

Ram Ramanathan  via Zoom)

PAS Academician

**María Dolores Sánchez Galera**

PASS Councillor; Universidad Carlos III de Madrid; Public Law (LLB Honours in Comparative Public Law); European Master's Degree; PhD in Environmental Law and Fundamental Rights

H.E. Msgr. Marcelo Sánchez Sorondo

Former PAS and PASS Chancellor

Marcelo Suárez-Orozco

PASS Academician; UCLA Wasserman Dean Emeritus and Distinguished Professor Emeritus; Chancellor, University of Massachusetts Boston

Arame Tall

Senior Adaptation and Resilience Specialist, Climate Change Group, World Bank

Janet Tello Gilardi

Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Peru

H.Em. Cardinal Peter Turkson

PAS and PASS Chancellor

José Antonio Viera-Gallo

Former Ambassador of Chile to Argentina

Msgr. Dario E. Viganò

PAS and PASS Vice Chancellor

Francesco Viganò

Vice President, Italian Constitutional Court

Ana Lucia Villela

President, Alana Foundation

Christina Voigt

Full Professor of Law, University of Oslo (currently visiting professor at the University of the West Indies, Barbados); Chair of the IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law and Co-Chair of the Paris Agreement Compliance Committee

Rosemarie Wydler-Wälti

Co-President, Senior Women for Climate Protection Switzerland (Klimasenioren)

Memorandum

Attendance

- Pickup schedule from the *Domus Sanctae Marthae*:
- On 12 May a bus will leave the *Domus Sanctae Marthae* at 8.45am to accompany participants to the Casina Pio IV where the meeting starts at 9.00am. The same bus will leave the Casina Pio IV to take you back to your hotel after dinner at 8:00/8.30pm.
- On 12 May lunch and dinner for the participants will be served at the Academy. If you are a vegetarian or have any dietary restrictions (food allergies, and/or religious restrictions), please let us know as soon as possible.

Access instructions to the Vatican Casina Pio IV

- You can come through the entrance called Perugino (Via della Stazione Vaticana, no number, it's a very short street). Instructions to the Casina Pio IV, headquarters of the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences, can be found in the following link:

<http://www.casinapioiv.va/content/accademia/en/about/contacts.html>

Just inside the gate there is a Vatican Security checkpoint. The Vatican Gendarmes already have the names of the invitees and will make sure everyone reaches us.

For more information

Please refer to www.pass.va for further information on the Academy, the Academicians, and current and past events.

Dress code: is formal business attire.

- Security: Invites are strictly personal. Please remember to bring a valid ID. Dress code is business attire.
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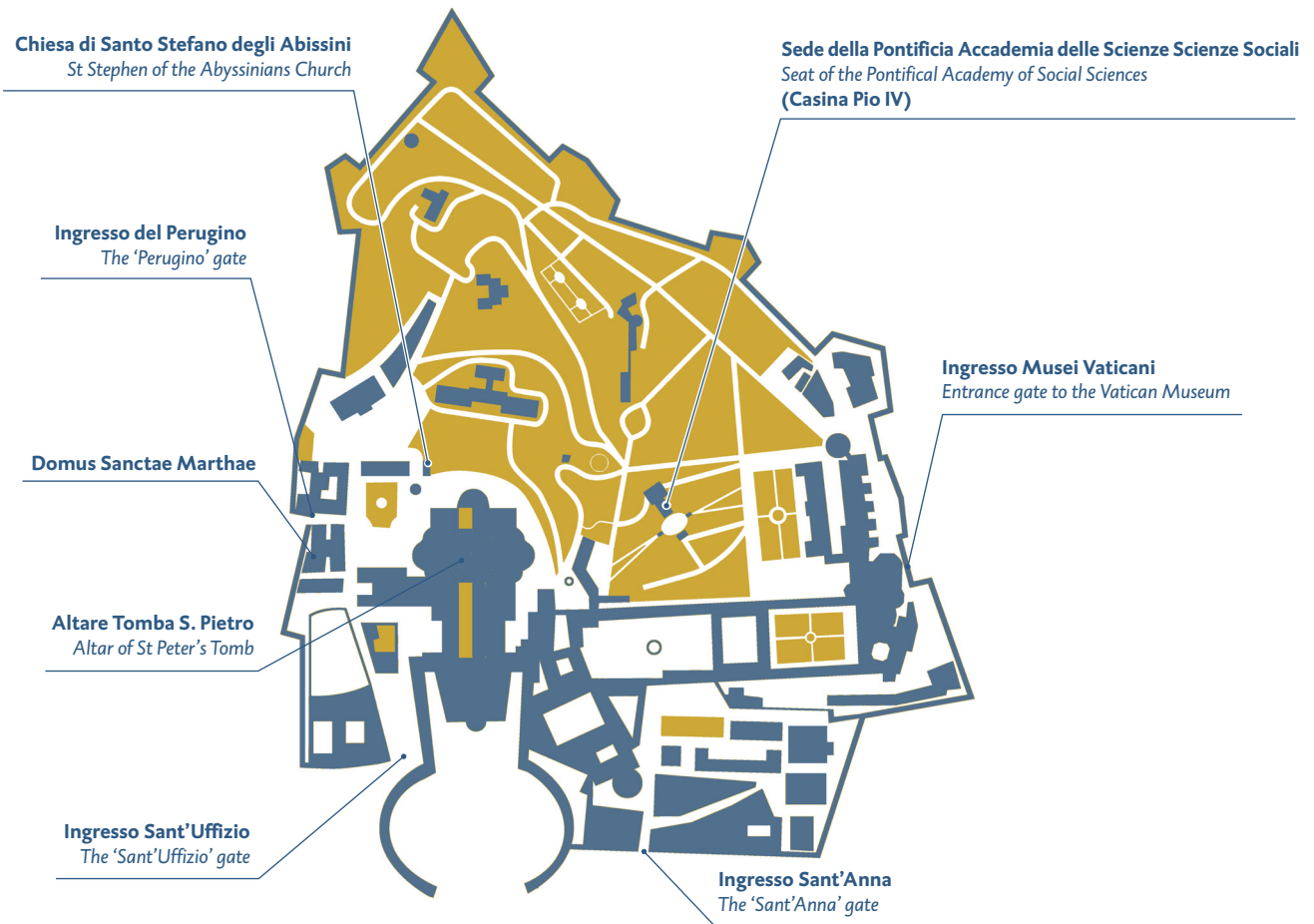
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Password: G@rdens1936



**CONTACTS
AND MAPS**







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▶ <https://www.youtube.com/@CasinaPioIV>