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## **Bell ringing against climate disaster – be part of it !**

**On 13 December, bells will ring in Switzerland and across the world. As they did in the past, to warn of imminent danger of floods or fires. Today, climate change threatens us, and it must be urgently stopped.**

The most devastating impact of climate change and its negative consequences is on the people in poor countries, even though it is mainly caused by the industrial countries. Droughts and floods destroy crops, hunger becomes more intense. That's why *Fastenopfer* and *Bread for all*, together with their international networks *CIDSE* and *APRODEV*, demand climate justice. The aim is to ensure that the new climate change treaty, which is being negotiated in Copenhagen from 7 to 18 December, takes the concerns of people in the developing countries into account.

As early as in September, at the UN climate summit in New York, a delegation of bishops, including bishop Theotonius Gomes (Bangladesh), Nafisa D'Souza (India) and Janet Magera (Kenya), met heads of government and ministers to demand an effective and just climate treaty. At a meeting, they urged the Swiss environment minister Moritz Leuenberger to push for ambitious emission-cutting targets and support the adaptation measures developing countries have to take. As a symbol, they gave Leuenberger a small bell, which represents the multitude of bells that will ring across the globe during the climate conference.

### **WORLDWIDE CALL:**

Many governments are reluctant to commit to climate protection measures. This makes pressure from the public even more important. That's why *Fastenopfer* and *Bread for all*, together with *CIDSE* and *APRODEV*, are inviting all parishes and church-based communities in all countries to **ring their bells on Sunday, 13 December at 3 pm: for 10 to 15 minutes or 350 times** (as a symbol of the maximum concentration of CO<sub>2</sub> the atmosphere can tolerate (350 ppm).

Antonio Hautle, the director of *Fastenopfer*, as well as *CIDSE*, say: 'We are inviting everyone to put out a loud and clear message. We want to give a strong signal with this event.' Faith communities across the world – Christians and members of other faiths – will ring their bells in a united appeal to governments to take the necessary measures in Copenhagen on which the future of the world depends. The bells will ring in all time zones at 3 o'clock in the afternoon – starting in the threatened Fiji Islands in the South Pacific, and continuing round the globe via Asia, Africa and Europe to America.

### **VIDEO MESSAGE:**

Everyone is urged to film the ringing bells, so that at the end, a video with the most comprehensive global bell-ringing can be shown on youtube: as a loud and strong global appeal to include the poor countries of the South on an equal basis in the measures against climate change.

[Instructions on making video films can be accessed here.](#)

We would be happy if this message was spread as widely as possible, and the worldwide ringing of bells becomes a voice that cannot be ignored.