

Climate Justice: Who Dies First?

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Prof. Dr Christoph Stueckelberger,
Professor of Ethics, University of Basel/Switzerland
Executive Director and Founder of Globethics.net

www.christophstueckelberger.ch

www.globethics.net

1.1 Responsibility a key for Climate Justice

The word responsibility is composed of two words:

- „Spondere“ (Latin) means to promise, to offer, to commit, to sign a contract (theologically: God offers his earth, he commits it to humankind. Philosophically: inherit the earth from children).
- „Re-spondere“ (Latin) means to respond, to answer to this offer by responsible behaviour / responsible use of this offer.
- Other world views: respond to rationality, respond to the wisdom of the forefathers, respond to the needs of suffering people/nature.

1.2 Responsibility: five key questions

Five key questions: a) who is responsible
b) what for c) to whom d) for how long e)
with which means?

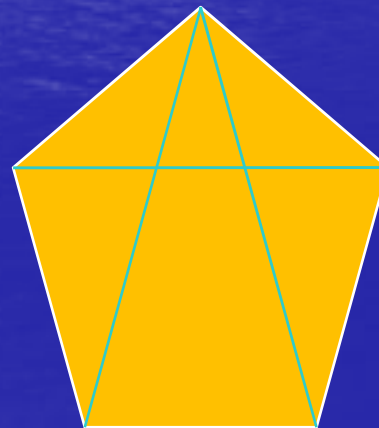
– To whom? Instance

– How long? Period

How? Means

– Who? Subject

What for? Object



1.3 Responsibility for the five „skins“

A holistic anthropology underlines the link between the human and the non-human. Each human being needs five levels of „skin“ to protect his/her life. These are five basic needs:

1. skin: the biological skin of the body (food,water)
2. „skin“: the clothes
3. „skin“: the housing
4. „skin“: the community
5. „skin“: the atmosphere (protects from ozon and is vital for all life on earth etc.) and climate

2.1 Climate Justice: who dies first?

- Painful questions: “Who dies first” as a result of climate change? “Whom do we sacrifice first?” as a result of human activity or non-activity.
- *The basic ethical question today is how to invest and distribute limited resources for the threefold duty of prevention, mitigation and adaptation related to climate change in order to minimize the number of victims.* Climate change becomes a question of global climate justice.

2.2 Basic Value: Justice

- *Climate Justice means just and fair instruments, decisions, actions, burden sharing and accountability for the prevention, mitigation and adaptation related to climate change.*

14 dimensions of justice, among others:

- Causer related justice: polluter pay principle
- Capability related justice: capability to contribute
- Needs-related justice: needs of people
- Procedural justice: corruption free
- On-time justice: climate action in time

3.1 Climate Justice Principles

Aspects for 10-15 Climate Justice Principles of the Global Alliance for Climate Justice:

- The five dimensions of responsibility as frame for the Climate Justice Principles
- Develop the different dimensions of justice/equity relevant for Climate Justice
- The polluters pay principle is expression of responsibility and has to be implemented

3.2 Climate Justice Principles

- Prevention has ethically higher priority than mitigation and adaptation (efficiency)
- Responsibility and Capability Index RCI is ethical: it leads to fair burden sharing IC/DC
- Ethical reasons for positive and negative sanctions, market and state instruments
- Time factor: on time, emergency legislation?
- Religions: hope as condition to act.

4.1 Christian Faith and Climate Change: Too Late or is there Hope?

- Yes, it is late, but not too late
- God's promise to Noah, „never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth“? (Gen 9:11)
- Humankind breaks God's covenant again and again, God is willing to renew it again and again – he gave even his life in Jesus Christ to save humanity (new covenant).
- God cares and suffers with all human beings.
- No more sacrifice of human lives are justified! Jesus was the last justified sacrifice.
- Stop exploitation, stop behave like Gods (Ez 28:1ff).

5. Various motivations to act

6. Threat and opportunity

Environmental crisis and Climate Change are a great threat and include opportunities:

- Business opportunities investing in environmental technologies etc.
- Becoming one, interdependent humankind
- Further developing global structures to solving global problems
- Strengthening inter-religious cooperation
- Overcoming greed, finding harmony, balance.

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**Who dies first? Whom do we sacrifice first?
Ethical Aspects of Climate Justice**

Prof. Dr. Christoph Stueckelberger
Executive Director Globethics.net, Geneva

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1. Painful Questions

Who dies first as a result of climate change? This question is no more theoretical as it seemed to be twenty years ago. It is a reality of life and death every day for millions of victims of drought or storms. It is a painful question for thousands of decision makers about priorities to mitigate climate change with limited resources. And since death as a result of climate warning is not a natural disaster but man-made - in this respect the world community reached a consensus view - the question becomes even more painful. Not "Who dies first" as a fact, but "Whom do we sacrifice first?" as a result of

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