



**2021**

**ANNUAL REPORT**



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# FOREWORD

## from the President

2021 has been another challenging year, to say the least. The coronavirus kept circulating and the impact on our societies and our well-being has been dramatic. There have been conflicts, like the terrible one tearing Ethiopia apart and leaving us powerless and outraged.

For the CIDSE network, it has been another year of disruptions, cancellations, change of plans; yet of great commitment despite it all. We concluded the year slowly starting to assess the many impacts of the pandemic, not even aware of the dark cloud that the following year was about to carry, with a full-blown war in Europe.

The pandemic kept disrupting all our lives in unprecedented ways, though not in equal measure. Once again, the most vulnerable in our societies, all around the world, carried the brunt. If there is one thing the pandemic has made clear, it is that all and everything is connected. Economic inequality, social injustice, political polarisation, climate change and growing displacement: the crises that we face are not isolated. They are linked by structural systems of injustice and exploitation.

In June, we delved into these systemic connections at our second Systemic Change Forum, a crucial milestone for the CIDSE network, which has advanced our systemic thinking looking at key issues such as transformative partnerships, communication and organisational coherence. Learnings from this event will be long-lasting and invite us to keep evolving and challenging the colonial patterns that still condition our thoughts and actions.

Together with our partners and our allies, CIDSE has pursued its call for the transformation of our current economic model into one that promotes human flourishing on a thriving planet. In a world where 'faster and

bigger' still set the standard, we continue asking the question: can it be done with less? In a world fraught with misunderstanding and fear, CIDSE is looking to connect with each other, with the world and with our planet. We were present at COP26 in Glasgow, hosted by our member SCIAF, fighting for climate justice despite the fact that many of our partners couldn't be there with us. We advocated in international spaces for better regulation for corporations and respect for human rights, we stood on the side of those who saw their lands grabbed and their territories at risk, we offered spaces for women to share their challenges around gender equality, we brought youth together to foster commitment on ecology and spirituality, we challenged dangerous narratives around food systems.

Catholic Social Teaching keeps inspiring us in our efforts to secure a better future for the people and the planet. In his *Laudato Si'* encyclical, and more recently in *Fratelli Tutti*, Pope Francis urges us to view both the human and the ecological crises through an integral approach. We continue answering his call, united by the belief that social justice is key to our common future, and that international solidarity matters.

Indeed, we need to open our awareness to what is going on in the world. We need to actively work together on all levels – from local communities to the State, from organisations to individuals. Embrace our differences and understand them as a source of creativity. Start a dialogue and discover commonality in diversity. Even in difficult times, we should not let ourselves be discouraged by setbacks and failures. I invite you to read our annual report and discover how we continued striving for a more sustainable and just world. I hope you will enjoy learning about our achievements and challenges.



LIEVE HERIJGERS

Director, Broederlijk Delen  
(Belgium)

Photo credit: CIDSE

# BEST OF 2021

 **23-31  
JANUARY**

Connecting with social movements

On the occasion of the World Social Forum's 20th anniversary, CIDSE shared highlights of its [history with the global social movement](#) and a [reflection on the future of the WSF](#).

 **25-27  
JANUARY**

CIDSE Board meeting

Directors welcomed two new members: Denise Richard ([Partage.lu](#)) and Paolo Chesani ([FOCSIV](#)) and elected Ricardo Loy (Manos Unidas) to the CIDSE Executive Committee. A special session was held on the Encyclical *Fratelli Tutti*.

 **11  
FEBRUARY**

Stop to Gaza illegal blockade

In a multimedia story, CIDSE denounced [14 years of illegal blockade in Gaza](#) and called for its immediate lift.

 **17  
FEBRUARY**

Lent challenge

The Change for the Planet – Care for the People Initiative launched a 40-day “[Share to Care](#)” Lent challenge to put in practice new ideas for sustainable lifestyles.

 **29  
APRIL**

Food systems' governance

Ahead of the September UN Food Systems Summit, CIDSE revealed its [position and role](#) vis-à-vis the summit, opting for a critical approach.

 **19  
APRIL**

Making money move for agroecology

A new policy briefing on [agroecology and finance](#) by CIDSE and the Centre for Agroecology, Water and Resilience of Coventry University was officially launched at a [webinar](#).

 **19  
MARCH**

The wailing of God's creatures

CIDSE co-published a report commissioned to the *Laudato Si'* Research Institute advocating for the [protection of biodiversity from an integral ecology perspective](#).

 **8  
MARCH**

International women's day

CIDSE stood in [solidarity with women around the world](#) and celebrated [five years of gender blogging](#).

 **5  
MAY**

Climate finance

The findings and policy recommendations of the CIDSE report “[Improving Civil Society's Limited Access to The Green Climate Fund](#)” were presented at an [online seminar](#).

 **16 - 25  
MAY**

*Laudato Si'* week of action

CIDSE supported the [webinar](#) on “Critical political opportunities in 2021 to create change” and the launch of the [Laudato Si' Action Platform](#) and participated in [ELSIA's third reflection day](#).

 **7-9  
JUNE**

Systemic change

The 2nd edition of the [Systemic Change Forum](#) was an opportunity for CIDSE to assess and advance on the implementation of its systemic change approach.

 **16  
JUNE**

Business and human rights

On the occasion of the 10th Anniversary of the UN Guiding principles on business and human rights, CIDSE reiterated its [call for a strong UN Binding Treaty](#).



# BEST OF 2021



26 - 28  
**JULY**

UN Food Systems  
Pre-summit

Josianne Gauthier, CIDSE Secretary General, shared a [reflection on food systems & justice](#) in a video produced for the global virtual rally #FoodSystems4People.



27  
**JULY**

Right to say No

Concluding a series of regional workshops, the Thematic Social Forum on Mining and Extractive Economy, supported by CIDSE, hosted a [global webinar](#) to discuss learnings from global struggles.



12-15 & 22-28  
**AUGUST**

Youth sustainable camps

CIDSE member organisations' young volunteers met in [Spain](#) and [Switzerland](#) as part of the Change for the Planet - Care for the People initiative. Other gatherings took place in [Portugal](#) and [Italy](#) (September) as well as in [Belgium](#) (October).



6 - 10  
**SEPTEMBER**

Preparing for COP26

CIDSE took part in the Glasgow Climate dialogues where many stakeholders from the Global South could make their voices heard and in the [webinar](#) which unveiled the final communiqué.



6  
**NOVEMBER**

COP26 climate conference

Under the slogan "Urgency, Transformation and Action", CIDSE organised a series of [activities in Glasgow](#) with worldwide partners and allies and launched "[The future lies with youth](#)" a new documentary on climate youth activists.



25-29  
**OCTOBER**

UN Binding Treaty

A [CIDSE delegation](#) travelled to Geneva for the 7th Session of the Open-ended intergovernmental working group on transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights where it actively lobbied for a UN Binding Treaty.



17  
**OCTOBER**

Phasing out from fossil  
fuels

Ahead of the Rome G20 Summit, CIDSE supported the call of over 70 Catholic Church leaders to world leaders "[to consign fossil fuels to history](#)".



22  
**SEPTEMBER**

Agroecology and finance

Together with the Centre for Agroecology, Water and Resilience, CIDSE launched a [video animation](#), completing resources available on agroecology and finance.



17  
**NOVEMBER**

EU due diligence

CIDSE launched the "Access to Justice" [campaign](#) which calls on EU decision-makers to ensure a strong European law to stop corporate abuse and organised a [press briefing](#) for journalists together with other like-minded NGOs a few weeks later.



10  
**DECEMBER**

Land grabbing in West  
Africa

A series of [policy briefs on land grabbing](#) coordinated by CIDSE in collaboration with actors from the African platform "Our Land Is Our Life" and international civil society organisations was launched at an [hybrid event](#) in Sierra Leone.



14  
**DECEMBER**

Obituary

CIDSE paid tribute to [René Grotenhuis](#), Director of Cordaid (Netherlands) from 2003 to 2013 and President of CIDSE from 2008 to 2010.





# ACTING FOR CHANGE



Photo credit: CIDSE

## CONNECTING

CIDSE co-organises and participates in spaces for its members, allies and partners to exchange knowledge and experiences. These meetings and platforms of exchange facilitate the real relationships needed for practicing solidarity across movements, and accelerate impact by learning best practices. These spaces also provide a process for us to accompany social movements as they connect with different actors and are introduced to opportunities to participate in policy processes.

Here are some highlights of CIDSE's connecting work in 2021:

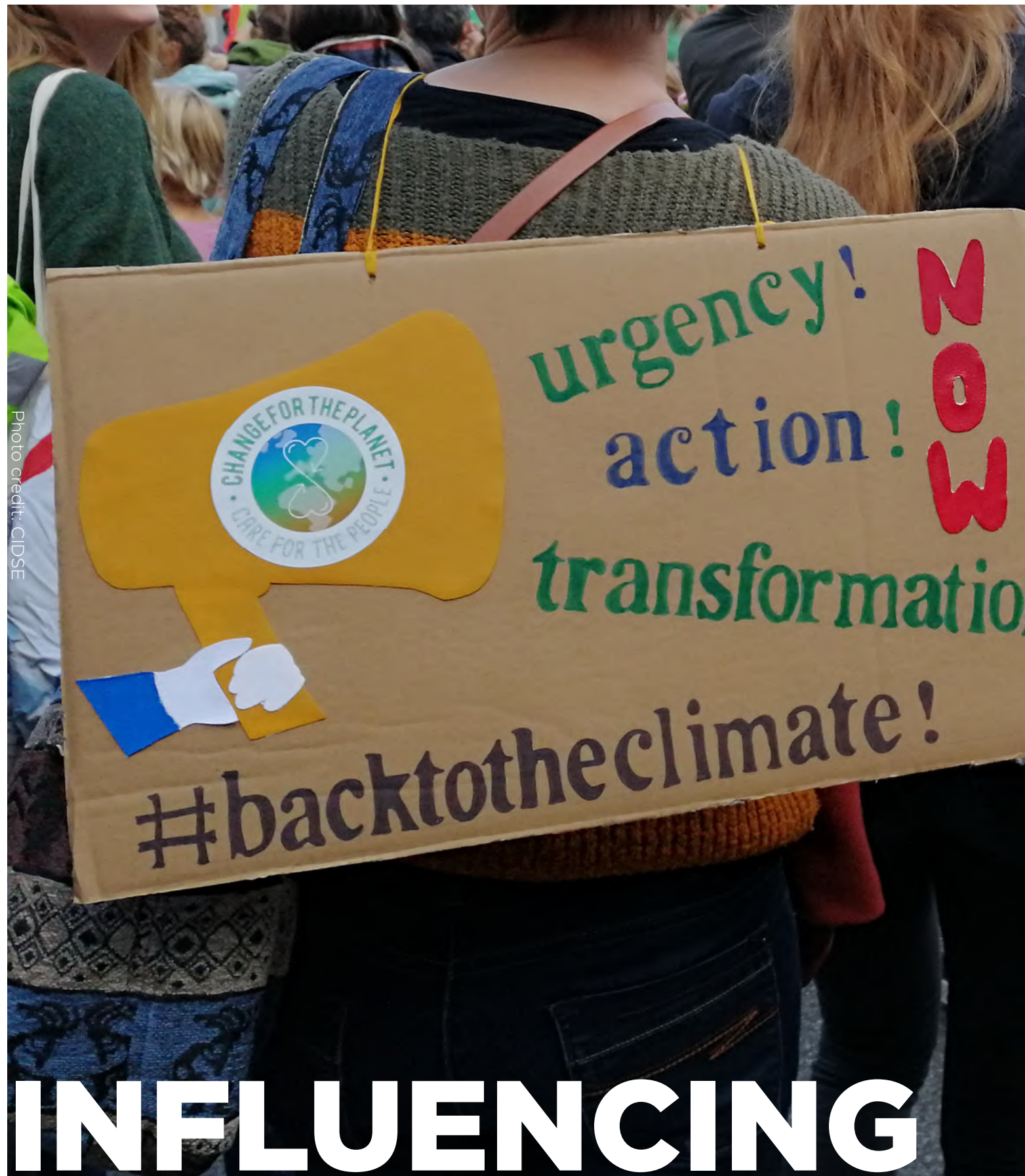
- ✓ CIDSE has contributed in catalysing and strengthening a powerful movement for change in Africa closely linked to grassroots communities, called "Our Land is Our Life". The movement has successfully carried out advocacy towards the African Union Land Governance Strategy Document, which incorporated many of its key recommendations. In addition, it has begun in 2021, and continued in 2022, the process of influencing the AU-EU partnership, not only in Europe but more importantly also at different levels and spaces in Africa. Another significant accomplishment was bringing on board communities at the centre of advocacy work by producing "[The Land grabbing policy brief series](#)" that amplifies local communities' struggles for their land rights and exposing corporate impunity as well as the need for accountability of governments in Africa and in Europe.
- ✓ Through the "[Access to justice](#)" campaign launched in November, consisting of a video call to action, and tools to better understand the issues of corporate impunity and access to justice for individuals and communities, CIDSE is calling on citizens

and volunteers to ask their Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) and Member States' decision makers to ensure a strong law from the EU to hold corporations accountable. We hope to give citizens a better understanding of the need for legislation guaranteeing access to justice and call for their support for addressing politicians.

- ✓ In order to get young supporters of the CIDSE initiative "Change for the Planet - Care for the People" ready to engage towards the COP26 in Glasgow, the project "[Our journey to COP26](#)" was launched. The "virtual journey", has been a mix of in-person and online events, both national and international. Thanks to the support of its member organisations, the CIDSE secretariat coordinated most of the events, gathering around 80 people and connecting with dozens of local and national groups. Young people enjoyed this fun and informative "journey".
- ✓ Connecting is also about bringing our network together: in 2021 we held our first "Ecological footprint chat", on travel post COVID-19. It allowed our network to support each other in bringing about organisational coherence around ecological footprint. In June, we also held the second Systemic Change Forum "[Change starts with us](#)", a really important moment for our network, which allowed us to take stock of where we stand with our systemic change approach as we are nearing the end of our current Strategic Framework. The Forum gave us the space and, above all, the time to look at the past year and to reflect on its impact on systemic change and what it means for us as a network going forward.



# ACTING FOR CHANGE



# INFLUENCING

We lobby high-level decision makers and participate in policy-making processes at crucial moments. The policies we push for are informed by the knowledge and experience of our partners and members, and we in turn can provide them with our observations of the developments of international policy processes, so that together we can take advantage of opportunities for transformative policies.

Here are some highlights of CIDSE's advocacy work in 2021:

- ✓ CIDSE's lobby for a solid European Sustainable Governance Initiative has paid off: Members of the European Parliament voted for a Legislative Initiative report (INL) demanding the European Commission to table a proposal to direct companies to prevent human rights and environmental violations and ensure access to justice for affected persons by corporate abuse. In the Legal Affairs Committee, INL was adopted in plenary with a large, bipartisan majority. This was a big success for CIDSE and its allies who were lobbying for this. CIDSE is currently following the development of this law and at the same time continues to push for an international binding treaty on business and human rights at the United Nations.

[See further information about CIDSE's work around corporate regulation, including a wide range of resources.](#)

- ✓ CIDSE continued to raise a strong voice on urgency and ambition for climate justice, with a focus on the impact on the most vulnerable and the call for protecting biodiversity and indigenous communities. The United Nations climate change conference in Glasgow (COP26) was just

the tip of the iceberg, or the public face of work done by the network to address the issue of higher ambition in climate action. During the conference, which took place in the backdrop of restrictions caused by the pandemic, members gathered with allies to make the voices of the most vulnerable heard through side events and demonstrations, hosted by our Scottish member SCIAF.

[See further information about CIDSE's engagement on COP26, including a wide range of resources.](#)

- ✓ CIDSE has identified finance as a key lever of change and reflected on it in relation to food and climate. Some outcomes of this work are the policy brief: "[Making money move for agroecology](#)" complemented by a short and punchy [animation video](#). They are making the case that we need to defund industrial agriculture, which can be harmful to the environment, and funnel that money into agroecology. With the aim of strengthening access to climate finance, CIDSE also published in April the study: "[Civil Society's Limited Access to the Green Climate Fund](#)" (GCF) on the analysis of the Green Climate Fund policies, which includes recommendations for its effective implementation and transformation.

- ✓ Reacting to the despairing inequalities around the distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine, CIDSE Directors released [a statement](#) asking for an ethical and effective framework for global South countries and their poorest populations to access the vaccine.



# ACTING FOR CHANGE



Photo credit: CIDSE

## STORYTELLING

CIDSE has been experimenting with new forms of media over the years, to bring our perspectives and proposals to targeted audiences to challenge mentalities and open the way for fresh dialogue. Through the use of storytelling, we can envision new alternatives, we learn to articulate clearly our positions, and we express our connection to others and our common home.

Here are some highlights of CIDSE's storytelling work in 2021:

- ✓ The #ClimateTalk series, launched in October, feature two climate activists [Yeb Saño](#) (Philippines) and [Maryuri Mosquera](#) (Colombia). Through these interviews, they shared their struggle and how climate change is affecting their communities, as well as what drives them in their commitment for climate justice.
- ✓ Within the initiative "Change for the Planet - Care for the People", CIDSE produced the documentary "[The Future lies with youth](#)" released on 8 November for COP26. The 40' min. movie features young climate activists from Germany, Switzerland, Kenya, Italy, Spain and Portugal who open up about their engagement for climate justice, concretely showing activism in all its facets, with a strong spiritual dimension, inspired by *Laudato Si'*.
- ✓ All the enthusiasm around the CIDSE youth activities and engagement around this year's processes has been greatly showcased through the newly created "Change for the Planet - Care for the People" [Instagram account](#), connecting youth from our member organisations and like-minded organisations.

- ✓ On 8 March, we celebrated the 5th anniversary of our [Gender Equality blog space](#). Over the years, we have received a wide range of inspiring contributions. Those published in 2021 included "[Linking gender equality and food justice in the run-up to the United Nations Food Systems Summit](#)" and "[External debt and pandemic, a look at the role of women in society](#)".

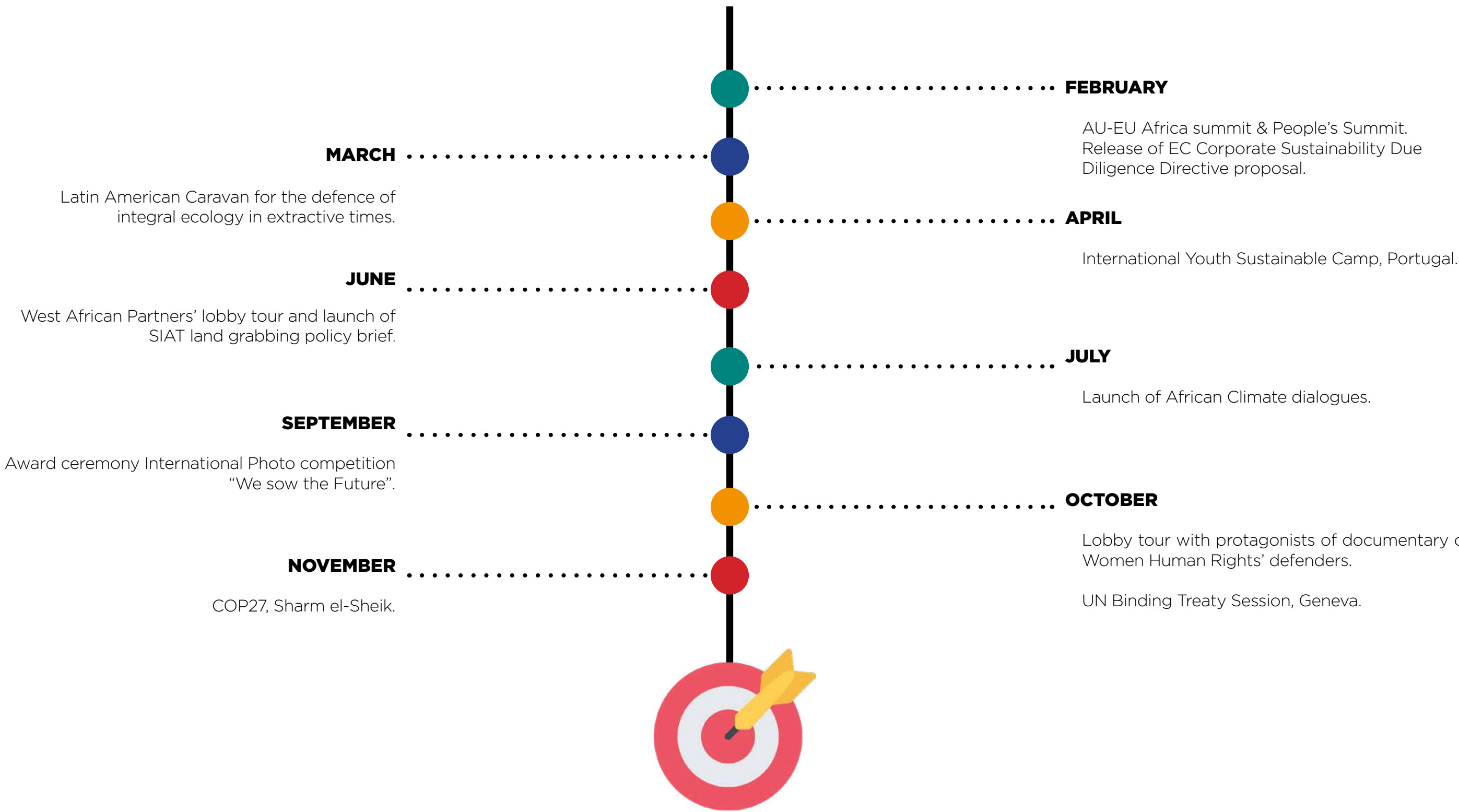
- ✓ In order to raise awareness around the unlivable situation in Gaza, we published the multimedia story "[Respecting Human Rights in Gaza - end the illegal blockade now!](#)" with video testimonies from locals and organised two webinars respectively on women and youth in Gaza.

- ✓ With the aim of making information around COP26 more accessible to a wider public we produced infographics on "[9 ways towards climate justice](#)" (targeting youth especially) and on "[Improving civil society's limited access to the Green Climate Fund](#)". In addition, all of our communications products and impact on media around COP26 were gathered in our "[CIDSE at COP26 - Communications and media report](#)".



# COMING UP

2022





# GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES



## Board of Directors

The Board of Directors is composed of the directors of the 18 Member Organisations. The Board meets twice a year and is responsible for the governance and strategic vision of CIDSE, particularly for reviewing current activities and formulating policies for the future.

In 2021, CIDSE paid farewell to Susana Refega (FEC/Portugal), Patrick Godar (Partage lu/Luxembourg) and Gianni Del Bufalo (FOCSIV/Italy) and welcomed their respective successors: Manuel Martins, Denise Richard and Paolo Chesani.

## Executive Committee

The Executive Committee is the implementing and supervising arm of the Board of Directors.

- President: Lieve Herijgers (Broederlijk Delen)
- Members: Ricardo Loy (Manos Unidas), Msgr. Pirmin Spiegel (MISEREOR), Alistair Dutton (SCIAF), Caoimhe de Barra (Trócaire)

- Ecclesiastical Assistant: Mgr. A. Tesfaselassie Medhin (Eparchy of Adigrat/Ethiopia)

- Interim Treasurer: Dunie Wijbenga (Cordaïd)

- Secretary General: Josianne Gauthier

*The Ecclesiastical Assistant, the Treasurer and the CIDSE Secretary General are non-voting members.*

## Working groups

CIDSE member agencies work together in working groups, platforms and fora on the issues defined in the strategic plan. The CIDSE Secretariat facilitates the working groups and ensures communication between the member agencies and the overall coherence of CIDSE's work.



# FINANCE

## Income 2021

The CIDSE network is funded by membership fees and additional resources from its members for special projects.

In 2021, CIDSE received external funding from:

- > The European Commission Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA) as part of the Framework Partnership Agreement: “Experience, Learning, Sharing through joint action and strategic planning to achieve global justice.” (2019-2023).
- > The KR Foundation, for the “Change for the Planet – Care for the People” initiative (2020-2022).
- > The Porticus Foundation, for the project “Transformative advocacy towards integral ecology - Development of a new Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) framework for CIDSE and its members” (2021-2023).

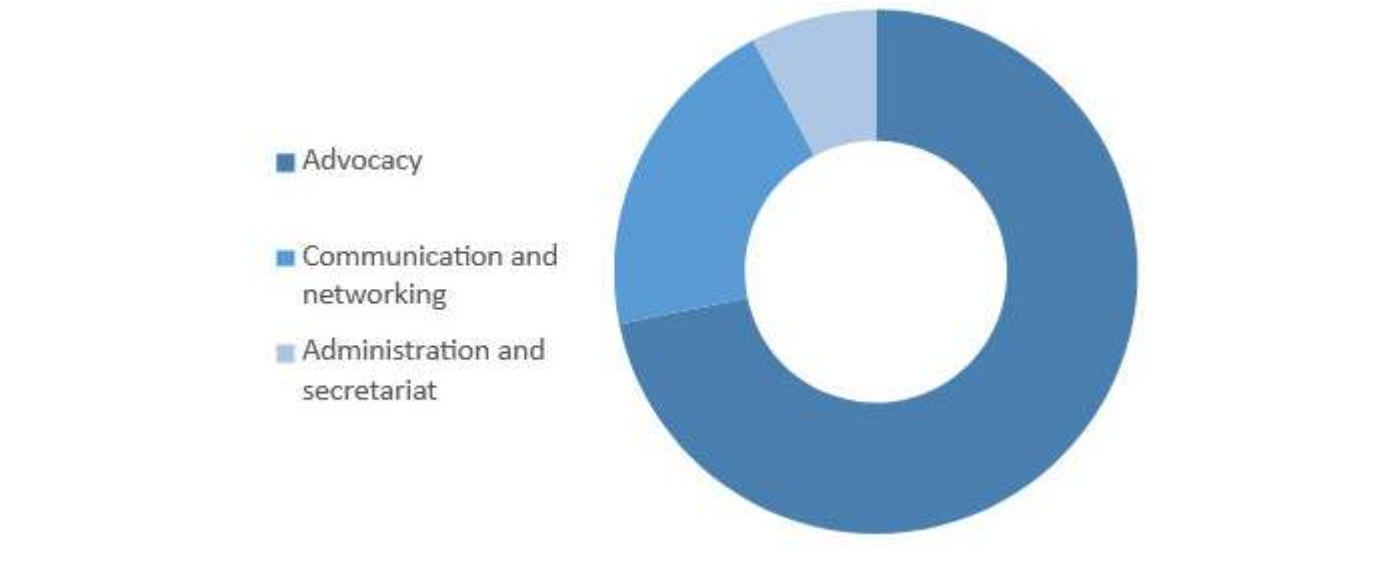
Membership fees.....	€ 1,036,435.00
European Commission Framework Partnership Agreement .....	€ 390,565.00
KR Foundation .....	€ 165,527.30
Porticus Foundation .....	€ 100,000.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b> .....	<b>€ 1,692,527.00</b>

CIDSE is grateful to all its network members as well as to the European Commission, the KR and Porticus Foundations who have made it possible to carry the work presented in this report.

CIDSE’s financial year begins on 1st January and ends on 31st December. The 2021 financial statements were audited by an external auditor, Clybouw Achiel, Andre & Co bvba, Belgium, in accordance with the financial reporting framework applicable in Belgium.

## Expenditures 2021

Advocacy*.....	€ 1,102,176.99
Communication and networking.....	€ 313,440.51
Administration and Secretariat.....	€ 119,311.15
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b> .....	<b>€ 1,534,928.65</b>



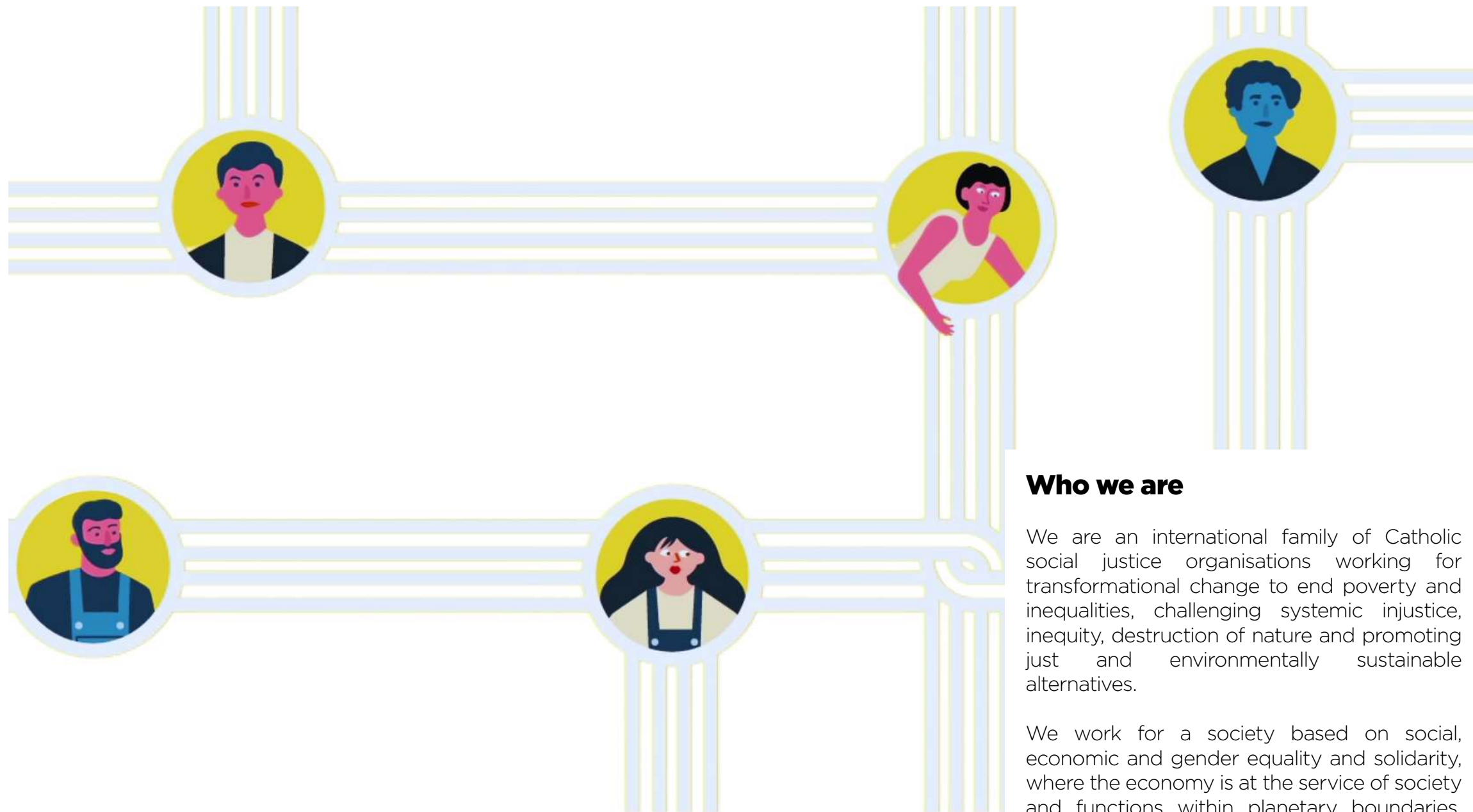
\*CIDSE’s advocacy work covers the following thematic areas: Systemic change, Communities regaining control over the commons, Facing climate change: Just and sustainable models for food and energy, sustainable lifestyles.

CIDSE also coordinates the following project:

Israel-occupied Palestinian territory .....	€ 59,159.18.
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# ABOUT CIDSE



## Who we are

We are an international family of Catholic social justice organisations working for transformational change to end poverty and inequalities, challenging systemic injustice, inequity, destruction of nature and promoting just and environmentally sustainable alternatives.

We work for a society based on social, economic and gender equality and solidarity, where the economy is at the service of society and functions within planetary boundaries. We aim at a fairer share of and limits in the use of global resources, and democratized governance where people regain control over their choices in economies based on the commons.

We work for reforms with transformative potential: to move away from fossil fuels and extractivism, to limit global temperature rise below 1.5 degrees, to promote the right to food and agroecology, to regulate business to enforce human rights, to secure sustainable finance and fair wealth distribution, to support local communities to speak for themselves, to confront gender inequalities, and to enable sustainable ways of living. Further information about our various areas of work can be found on the CIDSE website.

To make this happen we contribute to global movements and alliances of change, promote peoples' solutions and alternatives and advocate at the international level.

Watch our [institutional video](#).



## Our members



Austria



Belgium



Belgium



Canada



England and Wales



France



Germany



Ireland



Italy



Luxembourg



the Netherlands



the Netherlands



Portugal



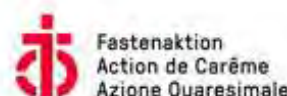
Scotland



Slovakia



Spain



Switzerland



USA

## Collaborators

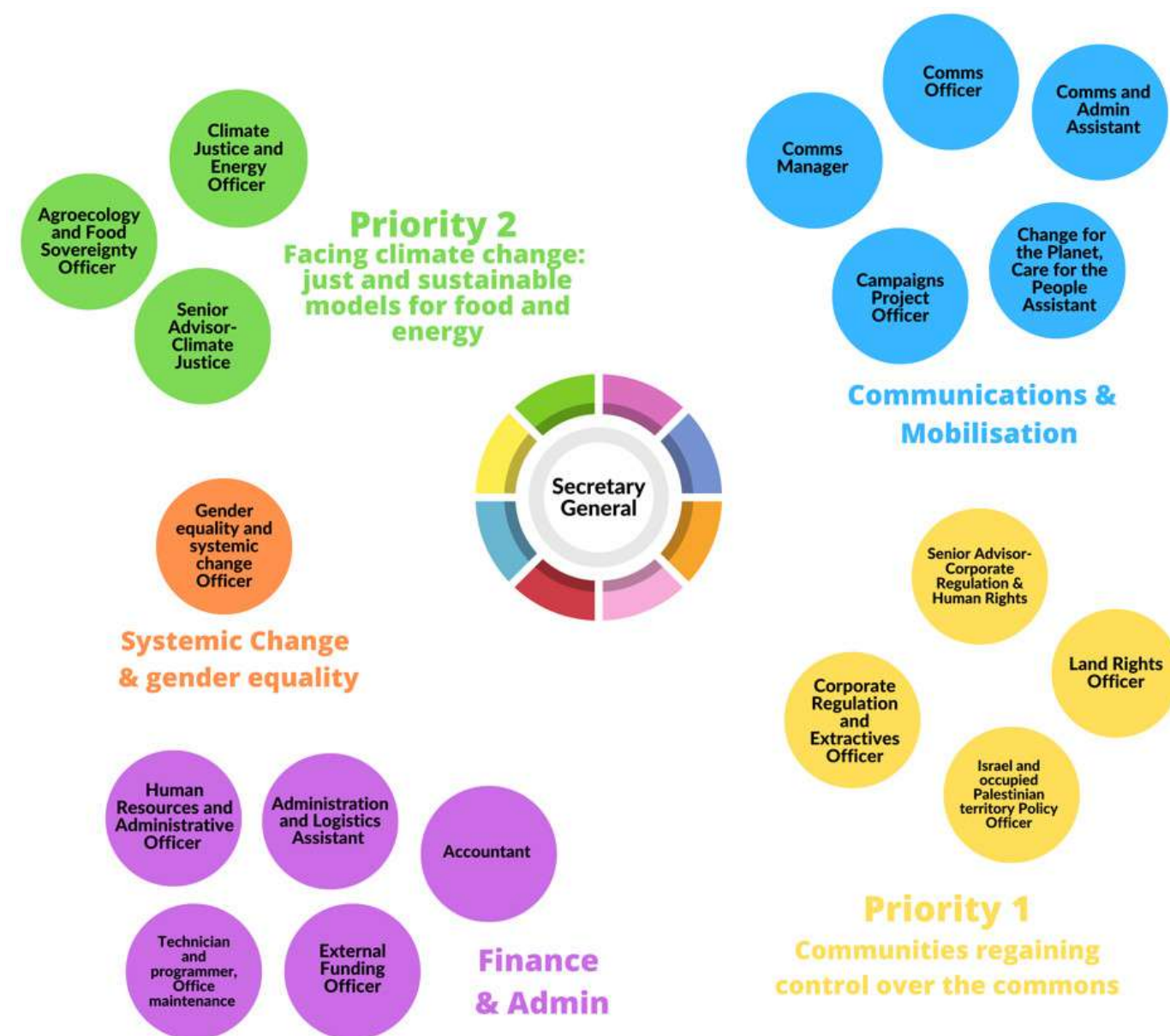
CIDSE works closely with diverse local and international alliances and organisations such as [Caritas Internationalis](#), [Caritas Europa](#) and [Franciscans International](#). It is a member of [Concord](#), [Climate Action Network-Europe](#), [Laudato Si' Movement](#) as well as a founding

member of the [European Laudato Si' Alliance](#) (ELSiA). During 2021, the Secretariat continued to strengthen its collaboration with other networks and alliances such as: [COMECE](#) (Commission of Bishops' Conferences of the European Community) and [JESC](#) (Jesuit European Social Centre); we hosted three interns through the JESC [European Leadership Programme](#).

## Secretariat staff

The [CIDSE Secretariat](#) facilitates and coordinates the common efforts of its members, represents CIDSE at the EU and international levels and undertakes

advocacy activities and other initiatives in collaboration with its members to contribute towards systemic change and global justice. The Secretariat is organised into teams that coordinate various working groups in order to achieve its objectives.



## External support

Wim Hendrix, Finance Consultant.  
Bea Lambrecht, Human Resources Consultant.

We thank Elise Bouget, Alessandro Cerri, Sladana Lovric, Dzhevid Mahmud, Chiara Martinelli, Mireille Nzuzi, Ida Paraskeva, Anya Verkamp and Madeleine Woerner for their valuable contributions to CIDSE's work and mission.



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[www.cidse.org/keep-in-touch-with-our-newsletter.html](https://www.cidse.org/keep-in-touch-with-our-newsletter.html)

