Towards an African People COP that Responds to Priorities of the Young People in Africa and Future Generations

A Communique of the African Youth as generated in African Youth Conference on Climate Justice

Kigali, Rwanda, 22-23 June 2022

At the invitation of the Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance, young African climate leaders convened at Club House La Palisse in Nyamata, Rwanda, from the 22nd to the 23rd June 2022 for an African Youth Conference on Climate Justice.

The conference aimed to mobilize youth leaders, both male and female from across African Countries to level their understanding of issues at stake in climate change negotiations and their implications to Africa and its young people; build consensus on priorities for young people in Africa based on their realities and delineate key demands for ambitious and urgent action on climate change. The conference tracked progress on all key decisions and commitments made during and after the 26th United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of Parties (COP26) and further discussed in detail the emerging decisions from the just concluded discussions in SB56 in Bonn. The convening further assessed the aspirations of the existing NDCs in advancing priorities for young people, their status of implementation and whether the NDCs are ambitious enough to achieve the 1.5 Degree Celsius Paris Agreement goal and sufficient tracking mechanisms are in place. The conference placed emphasis on the need to scale up measures to address climate justice issues in order to avert climate crisis in Africa.

During the deliberations, participants discussed the worsening impacts of climate change, the regrettable lack of sufficient commitment from global political leaders, and apparent lack of interest to progress climate negotiations, especially on loss and damage and climate finance agenda items.

The following statement was issued after extensive and constructive deliberations from participants who were both physically and virtually present:

**Appreciating** the counties that have submitted their new and updated NDCs and that there was varied levels of youth involvement in the process of their generation.

**Concerned** that some African countries have not submitted their new and updated NDCs yet COP27 will be taking place on the African soil.

**Further concerned** by the lack of transparency and accountability in climate finance and investment. Young people are not able to access funding for advocacy, adaptation and mitigation projects. This acts as an obstacle to the improvement of livelihoods, particularly of those at grassroot levels, who are most affected by climate change.
Disturbed about slow technology transfer and access restrictions to renewable energy and relevant infrastructure which limit young people’s ability to contribute to the reduction in carbon emissions.

Dissatisfied by the poor representation of African young people in international climate conversations, which makes it difficult to ensure the adoption of youth-sensitive international policies.

Disappointed by the failure of global stakeholders to adopt binding instruments for key issues such as NDCs or loss and damage which leads to the incapacity to hold governments accountable in case of poor implementation.

Reflecting and premising our hope on the upcoming AMCEN and COP27 convenings to provide unique policy spaces for key decisions on climate justice.

We hereby demand the following from the Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC and the International Community.

1. We demand transparency and adequate access to sustainable and long-term funding for youth climate action/innovation, including green business. Mechanisms for enhancing transparency at all levels must be a core priority and well supported with leadership of young people.

2. We call for creation of a better mechanism for African youth to invest and benefit from the carbon markets, by ensuring access to timely information and less stringent conditions.

3. We demand a separate, easily accessible youth climate fund that supports youth projects.

4. We demand immediate measures to channel in a consistent manner investment and finance towards adaptation to climate change.

5. We demand rapid transfer of technology and facilitation of access to existing climate-resilient technologies for Africa.

6. We demand Loss and Damage to be considered as an urgent and priority agenda at COP27.

7. We demand meaningful participation and representation of African youth in international climate conversations, including but not limited to COP 27.

8. We demand the adoption of binding instruments during COP 27 on key issues such as loss and damage and the legal status of NDCs.

9. We demand young people to be rewarded for their efforts and in their stewardship on environmental and adaptation response measures instead of being viewed as volunteers.
Based on our reflections, we believe that the upcoming COP27 will provide a unique policy space to African youth to advance climate justice and youth-sensitive climate policies.

In our support towards the actualization of the above demands we, as youth of Africa commit:

1. To contribute to global goals on adaptation and mitigation through advocacy, research, education and community work among others.
2. We reiterate our availability to contribute to international policies designing, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting when involved.
3. We commit to document and publish the losses and damages happening in Africa with a view of raising international stakeholders awareness and provoke action
4. We commit to supporting and enhancing accountable and transparent climate finance practices through tracking its flow across all levels in order to maximize the return on investment channeled towards climate action.

This statement is signed off by representatives from the CSOs, Alliances, Youth Organizations and Movements as represented below:

Commonwealth Youth Climate Change Network, CYCN
Pan African Climate Justice Alliance
South South Youth Platform on Climate Justice
African Youth Initiative on Climate Change /AYICC
CAHOSCC Youth Network (Intrim Rep);
Afro-Caribbean Climate Alliance Network (ACCAN)
Women In agriculture Namibia
Action for Community Development
Botswana Climate Change Network
CAADP Youth Network
African Youth Initiative on Climate Change
FORUMCC
Conscious Generation
African Youth Initiative on Climate Change AYICC West Africa
African Youth Initiative on Climate Change /UNCCD Youth Caucus
Centre 4 Zero Waste & Development in Africa (CZWDA)
African Network for Policy Research and Advocacy for Sustainability /
AYICC Mauritius
Namibian Youth Coalition on Climate Change
Bakhita Radio,Juba South Sudan

Zimbabwe
Ethiopia
Namibia
Cameroon
Botswana
Zambia
Nigeria
Tanzania
Mozambique
Togo
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