

# AFRICA CLIMATE SUMMIT 2023

## Non-State Actors (NSAs) Demands and Redlines

This Statement outlines the perspectives of the Non-State Actors on what the African Climate Summit must accomplish, contentious issues African leaders should not compromise and the essential elements for the ideal Summit outcomes that reflects the desires and aspirations of the African people. It is informed by collective and profound reflections from diverse groups across the African continent, traversing language, cultures and regions. The Statement acknowledges the remarkable efforts of different Actors and groups both in government and civic spaces to advance a truly and legitimate Africa-driven, Africa-owned process at the Africa Climate Summit, and supports any initiative, whether inside or outside the process, which advocates for people-centred, inclusive and transparent outcomes of the Summit. A couple of days ago, a petition signed by hundreds of groups across Africa was sent to the Chair of CAHOSCC and the Host of the Africa Climate Summit, raising various concerns, some of them outlined in this statement. We join such groups and others to urge the Government of Kenya and the African Union to seriously reflect on the issues raised and accord them the attention they deserve!

As Non-State Actors, we are deeply concerned about the impacts of the climate crisis on our continent and its people. We are witnessing the devastating effects of climate-fuelled droughts, floods, cyclones, desertification, food insecurity, displacement, and conflicts. We are also aware of the historical and current responsibilities of the developed countries in causing and exacerbating this crisis and, in defiance to science and climate justice, their failure to provide adequate support to the most vulnerable countries and communities.

The Africa Climate Summit (ACS), scheduled for September 4 – 6, 2023 in Nairobi, Kenya, is a unique opportunity for the continent, through its leaders, to raise the urgency of addressing the climate emergency and protecting the rights and livelihoods of its citizens. It is also an opportunity to build momentum and solidarity for the African agenda at COP28 and beyond by highlighting African countries' common interests and aspirations in achieving a low-carbon, climate-resilient, and inclusive development.

We have been steadfast in advocating for a fair, ecologically-just and equitable transition to a low-carbon, climate-resilient future that respects the rights and dignity of all people. In the past several weeks, we held direct and indirect engagements with the Kenyan Government, the African Union Commission and the larger ClimDev-Africa Initiative under the auspices of an independent and voluntary Non-State Actors' Committee, which was established to ensure that the Summit reflects the voices and aspirations of African people. Despite these engagements and the evidence provided by the latest science, we are worried that the Summit may fall short of what Africans truly aspire as the outcomes to safeguard current and future generations.

We however believe that it is still not late, and President Ruto, the African Union and all leaders across Africa will put their heads down and keenly listen to their loud voices expressing concerns about some

aspects of the Summit. To this end, we have outlined a set of demands or redlines that we expect the African leaders to uphold and champion at the summit:

1. ***Stand by the principles of climate justice, human rights, gender equality, and intergenerational equity in all climate policies and actions.*** We reiterate that climate policies and actions measures should not only aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change but also to ensure that they are consistent with the principles of climate justice, human rights, gender equality, and intergenerational equity. Therefore, we demand that all conversations and ultimate decisions of the Summit must:
  - a. Respect, protect, and fulfil the human rights of all people, especially those left vulnerable and marginalised by the effects of climate change, such as indigenous peoples, women, children, persons with disabilities, and poor communities.
  - b. Promote fair, just and equitable distribution of the benefits and burdens of climate action, both within and between countries, taking into account historical responsibility, capacity, and different levels of development.
  - c. Empower women and girls as agents of change and leaders in climate action, ensuring their full, equal, and meaningful participation in decision-making processes at all levels and addressing the gender-specific impacts of climate change on their lives and livelihoods.
  - d. Secure the rights and interests of present and future generations, ensuring they have access to a healthy and sustainable environment, adequate resources, and opportunities to thrive in a low-carbon, ecologically-just and climate-resilient world.
  
2. ***Reject false solutions and narratives that undermine African communities' rights, interests and sovereignty, such as carbon markets, geoengineering, nuclear energy, and the deceitful principle of shared responsibilities.*** We caution African leaders that some proposals or actions claim to address the climate crisis. In reality, they either have no significant impact on reducing greenhouse gas emissions or, worse, have negative social and environmental consequences. These proposals are promoted by powerful interests that benefit from maintaining the status quo of fossil fuel dependence, and they divert attention and resources from the real solutions that are urgently needed. In this regard, we demand that African leaders and stakeholders must:
  - a. Critically examine the claims and evidence behind any proposed solution. They must make it a duty to the African people to ask questions such as: Who is promoting it and why? What are the assumptions and uncertainties involved? How does it affect the root causes and drivers of greenhouse gas emissions? What are the potential trade-offs and co-benefits for other environmental and social issues? Are they science-based or do they align with the principles of climate justice and human rights?
  - b. Press for and uphold transparent and participatory decision-making processes involving diverse stakeholders and perspectives; ensuring that the voices of those most affected by climate change and its solutions are heard and respected; and supporting the development and implementation of solutions that are based on sound science, local knowledge, and community empowerment.

- c. Show courage in confronting the systemic changes needed to address climate change effectively, recognising that false climate solutions often serve to maintain the status quo and protect the interests of powerful actors who benefit from the current system.
- d. Challenge the dominant narratives and paradigms that enable and justify false solutions, such as those denying historical responsibilities for the climate crisis, turning regional and global dialogues into investment forums, claiming equal or shared responsibility for climate action and dismissing African demands for justice as victim-playing.

**3. Reject the promotion of carbon markets that are not responsive and do not serve the climate justice imperatives for Africa.**

**4. *Commit to a just and equitable transition to renewable energy, ensuring that energy access is prioritised for the poor and marginalised and that community ownership and participation are guaranteed.*** We reiterate that Africa's just energy transition (JET) must be Africanised. We recognise that different countries and groups of people have different needs, capacities and aspirations in energy and that these must be considered in the design and implementation of energy policies and projects. We, therefore, demand that the summit upholds the following JET principles:

- a. Recognizing the diversity and heterogeneity of African countries and regions and respecting their sovereignty and self-determination in defining their energy pathways.
- b. Ensuring that the energy transition is aligned with the African Union Agenda 2063, the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement and contributes to poverty eradication, social justice, human development and sustainable industrialisation.
- c. Promoting a participatory and inclusive approach that engages all relevant actors, especially women, youth, indigenous peoples and marginalised groups, in designing, implementing and monitoring the energy transition policies and projects.
- d. Supporting the development of local capacities, skills and innovations and fostering regional cooperation and integration to enhance the competitiveness and resilience of African economies in the global energy market.
- e. Balancing the trade-offs and synergies between environmental, social and economic objectives and ensuring that the costs and benefits of the energy transition are equitably distributed among and within countries.
- f. Addressing the historical injustices and inequalities that have resulted from exploiting fossil fuels in Africa and drumming adequate compensation, rehabilitation and restitution for the affected communities and ecosystems.
- g. Enhancing the access, affordability, and reliability of modern energy services for all Africans, especially those living in rural and peri-urban areas, and prioritising decentralised, community-owned and managed renewable energy solutions.

- h. Strengthening the governance, transparency and accountability mechanisms at all levels and ensuring that evidence-based decision-making, human rights standards and the rule of law guide the energy transition.
4. ***Demand that developed countries fulfil their historical responsibility and provide adequate and predictable finance, technology transfer, and capacity building to support adaptation, mitigation, and loss and damage in Africa.*** We demand that the principle of Common But Differentiated Responsibilities must continue to guide global climate action and underpin the common African position. For this reason, we call on the summit to uphold the following priorities for Africa in its decisions and engagement with global and regional stakeholders.
    - a. Securing adequate, flexible, and predictable needs-based finance for adaptation, loss and damage and mitigation actions, especially from developed countries with historical responsibility for greenhouse gas emissions. Such finance must be primarily public-sourced, new and additionally to official development assistance and in the form of grants and other non-loan instruments. The Summit must aim to lay a foundation that will rally for the conclusion of the discussions on the New Collective and Quantified Goal on climate finance during the COP28 in Dubai.
    - b. Working to complete and adopt the framework for the Global Goal on Adaptation at COP 28. The summit must press for increasing adaptation finance to Africa by more than double and ensuring it is needs-based and reaches communities at the forefront of the climate crisis.
    - c. Enhancing access to transferred and homegrown technology and capacity building to enable African countries to implement low-carbon development strategies and cope with climate risks.
    - d. Promoting equity and justice in the allocation of emission reduction targets and the distribution of climate benefits, considering the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.
    - e. Supporting regional cooperation and integration to foster collective action and leverage synergies among African countries on climate issues.
  5. ***Continue to advance for shared and collective accountability in country's leadership in the implementation of AU Mandate.*** We call on African countries implementing AU mandate to pursue this in an inclusive and consultative manner and on AU to ensure the process of country (and sub-national and locally-led) leadership has sufficient inbuilt mechanisms of states and citizens participation. For avoidance of doubt, we emphasize that vision/s to guide such processes must be collective rather than individual. In this regard:
    - a. Expedite open consultations on proposed outcome document with all government entities for review, input and their contribution.
    - b. Promote to the greatest extent possible participation and sharing of all critical documents, including its draft resolutions.
  6. ***Put the African people above all personal and collective political and economic interests.*** We call on our leaders to listen to the voices of their people, especially the youth, women, indigenous peoples, smallholder producers, workers, and other vulnerable groups, who are bearing the brunt

of the climate impacts. We remind them they have a moral and legal obligation to protect our shared future and home. They must muster the courage to:

- a. Reject anti-African proposals that increase climate risks for people and transfer undue burdens of addressing the climate crisis to African countries and people already suffering the adverse impacts of the debts, global inequality in the distribution of wealth and other challenges.
- b. Resist attempts by the developing nations, through their corporate and non-profit agents, to hijack the African narrative and continue to define priorities and courses of action for the continent.
- c. Promote a collective African vision, informed by all stakeholders' aspirations, and resist any attempts by individuals to impose their narrow stance on Africa's place in the global climate dialogue on the rest of the continent.
- d. Advance for a Nairobi declaration, whose spirit and content will not compromise Africa's interests and position in global negotiations at any given time.

We remain committed to advancing the common good of Africa. We are eager to collaborate with the Kenyan government, the African Union Commission and other stakeholders to ensure that the Africa Climate Summit prioritises Africa's needs and promotes African leadership in tackling the international dialogues and global conversations on climate emergency.

**Nairobi Kenya, 17 August 2023.**

*Signed and Endorsed for the ACS Non-State Stakeholders Committee by:*

Name	Designation	Organisation	Signature
Dr Mithika Mwenda	Executive Director	PACJA	
Dr Augustine Njamanshi	Continental Coordinator	ACSEA	

*The Africa Climate Summit – Non State Actors Steering Committee (ACS-NSA) is a Platform that strives for advancement for a pro-African agenda in all key climate spaces. With its Secretariat supported by PACJA, and organized into clusters, the ACS-NSA draws its members drawn from regional CSOs, Indigenous People, Faith Actors, Trade Unions, African Private Sector, Farmer Organizations, Women and Gender Constituency, Academia and Research Institutions, Foundations and Finance Institutions, organizations working on Conservation and Nature Based Solutions or Youth organization*

