

THE AFRICA YOUTH MARCH

CONCEPT NOTE

DATE: TBC

VENUE: NAIROBI

INTRODUCTION

The Africa Climate Week (ACW), Africa Climate Summit (ACS) and the Eleventh session of the Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa (CCDA) will be taking place in Nairobi Kenya from 31st August to 8th of September. This will be the first time that the three events are being hosted in the same country and at the same time offer a great opportunity to engage in and shape the agenda. The meeting brings together different stakeholders within the climate space ranging from governments, non-state actors, the private sector, faith leaders etcetera. The hosting of all these events and the commitment by the different heads of state (Considering that they are the main target) is a great opportunity to lobby and push for a strong inclusive airtight outcome to propel Africa to the new regional and global dispensation where climate solutions are assured to be achieved within our timeframe.

The Africa Climate Summit which is an additional space created through an AU decision that too mandated Kenya's Government to host the inaugural ACS. There are indications that the ACS may depart from its bidding, and any misdirected messaging from the Africa Climate Summit will have a ripple effect on Africa's organizing and engagements in the global climate spaces.

The non-state actors and NGOs play a key role of putting the governments on their toes and act as alternative representative voices to the communities where they are left out and when processes are not inclusive, this is considering that this is the norm when it comes to the welfare of the communities as far as natural resources are concerned.

RATIONALE

The organizers tasked to ensure that the Africa Climate Summit become a success have locked out Africa organizations and ignored requests for allowing them to enrich the process more and contribute to the Agenda making them feel left out. This conclusion is derived after a series of meetings held with the ACS secretariat with the CEO of the ACS attending the meetings promising to consider the prayers of the non-state actor only for their questions and prodding going unanswered. The continued silence leaves NGOs, CSOs, and non-state actors to seek alternative avenues to advance their interests. One of such avenues is through peaceful demonstrations and marches with messaging that will ensure their message is well articulated and picked up. Considering that the youth in Africa are the majority and projected to bear the brunt of climate change most, it is representative enough that they are the ones to lead the march.

It is for this reason that the non-state actors, NGOs, and CSOs across Africa in Solidarity with Africa's youth are desirous of hosting a march to present a petition to the organizers of the Africa Climate Summit consisting of the climate challenges and outcomes of the youth dialogue that will be held prior to the ACW and ACS. The main Agenda of the march is to ensure that the African youth's voice is heard and represented truly in a way deemed representative in response to their plea.

OBJECTIVE

1. To powerfully communicate the key messages from the alternative convening of youth and non-state actors in the form of youth and NSA's declarations
2. To expose any attempts to roll back the gains made in climate negotiations and negate the African position in climate negotiations.
3. To challenge the status quo and call for an inclusive dialogue that is Africa-centric and endogenous.
4. Relevantly, maintain greater visibility of issues relevant to young people and the non-state actors in climate discourse

EXPECTED RESULTS

1. An African youth petition to be presented to ACS high-level representative/Segment
2. Non-State Actors Declaration is presented to the ACS and its leadership
3. Increased visibility of core messages from youth and the non-state actors
4. A plan for engagement of young people post-ACS and in the build-up to the COP28 is developed and strengthen

Outputs

5. Over 1000 youth drawn from across Africa Marching for the climate.
6. Media outputs (Video, pictures, etc.)
7. A report of the March

METHODOLOGY AND APPROACH

The march is a crowning moment for the Non-State Actors Dialogues on ACS and the Road Map to COP28 under which young people will participate as a key constituent and in a parallel process aimed at consolidating key demands from the youth constituent. The march is intended to draw the attention of the wider public and the global community on issues at stake in global climate governance and as canvassed within the ACS.

Non-state Actors, led by youth will march on the streets led by a band procession, incorporating a main banner with targeted messages, placards, and branded t-shirts. We also intend to conduct sit-in vigils to pass our message whenever the proposals contravene the desires of Africa. The youth also intend to publish short brochures/ briefs with counter facts whenever there is a distortion of facts that may sway the African narrative.

PROGRAM

BUDGET