



CLIMATE JUSTICE IN A MULTIPOLAR WORLD: *A RADICAL CALL ON GOVERNMENTS BY NON-STATE ACTORS*

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; February 12, 2025

Non-state actors from across Africa drawn from diverse backgrounds - Civil society, Women, Youth, Indigenous people, smallholder farmers, faiths, pastoralists, and people living with disabilities - convened for a Consultative Review on the Outcome of COP29 & the Road to Belem in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on February 12, 2025, under the theme "Securing climate justice for Africa in a multipolar world in the Year of Reparations".

Disturbed by the evolving geopolitical dynamics and a persistent reconfiguration of national priorities that give a wide berth to the urgency of addressing climate change in Africa and other affected nations.

Troubled by the growing trend around the globe as many states recede to self as a time for us in the continent to also self-reflect and formulate strategies and approaches for enhancing resilience.

Aware of the proliferation of geopolitical tensions, characterized by a division between the G20 (plus Africa) aligned with the United States and OECD nations, and the BRICS coalition, comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa and its role in fragmenting climate action.

Alarmed by the prioritization of national and private sector interests over global obligations which will likely hinder collective efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the targets established under the Paris Agreement.

Affirming over US\$100 trillion the Global North owes the Global South in unpaid climate debts to compensate for harm caused and help communities adapt to the impacts of climate change, such as rising sea levels and catastrophic events.

Agitated by the stark reality of inadequate climate finance and markedly with over Two-thirds (2/3) of all climate financing being structured as loans further exacerbating the already precarious debt situation of African countries.

Traumatized by the implications of the unpopular 'drill baby drill' mantra of the USA President which will add an extra 4 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (GtCO₂e) by 2030, an equivalent of the combined annual emissions of the EU and Japan, or the combined annual total of the world's 140 lowest-emitting countries and that this would cause global climate damages worth more than \$900bn, based on the latest US government valuations.

Upset by the scramble for critical minerals in the continent, with regions endowed with these resources becoming new epicentres of bloody conflicts and the prospects for these minerals driving sustainable development for African people increasingly becoming a mirage.

Alive to the UNFCCC COP29 decisions on the NCQG that weakened the developed countries' commitments under the Paris Agreement, auctioning the delivery of this multilateral climate commitment to carbon merchants and Transnational Corporations through MDBs.



Professing that these contextual realities are imperative for Africa to reformulate its global engagement strategies, collaborate in a manner to transcend the geopolitical divides and emphasize shared responsibilities in combating climate change and renewed commitment to multilateralism.

Emphasising that reparations are not just about the past but also about the future climate reparations related to losses and damages, the cost of adaptation and foregone benefits in exploiting natural resources and complying with exploitative trade rules in light of transitioning demands.

Asserting that the global community must address these challenges through a lens of inclusivity and solidarity, ensuring that climate policies foster resilience and equity for vulnerable populations worldwide and that new solidarities with progressive players are feasible;

Affirming the necessity for leadership in climate action to push countries to prioritize the systemic changes required to meet the climate crisis head-on while promoting sustainable development pathways for current and future generations
Aware of the sliver-lining in these global shifts for Africa to rediscover its power, its true friends and reassert its position and forge mutually respectful partnerships supportive of its sustainable development imperatives;

Here declare as follows:

- a.** The right-wing-led, nationalistic, and self-serving inclination sweeping across developed countries should be seen as an opportunity for Africa to rediscover itself, foster honest and mutual partnerships and take the lead in repositioning its sustainable development agenda.
- b.** Africa needs not to only adapt to the changing global context, but emerge as a true advocate, leading bold stakeholders in shaping and advancing its interests and ensuring the continent is treated as a force to reckon with in the global geostrategic conversations.
- c.** As the road to COP30 in Belem, we refuse to be mere spectators and purveyors of solutions coming from elsewhere, striving to be strategic and lead architects of change, thus defining our own transition - that centres our people, against profit.
- d.** Affirm the principles of sustainability, equity, and justice, including just transition in addressing these contextual challenges, recognizing that climate change is a shared concern that transcends borders.
- e.** Utilizing the momentum provided by Africa mining Indabas, and particularly the *Alternative Mining Indaba, Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, Global Sustainable Development Congress; 4th Conference on Financing Development, 2nd World Social Summit and UNFCCC COP30 in Belem* to advance for just and socially inclusive development;
- f.** Asserting the power, we hold when we stand together and the need for a roadmap that strengthens our influence.



And call on:

A. Developed Countries:

1. As a bare minimum, regardless of domestic political shifts, global climate frameworks should be sustained and reinforced by all progressive States and Citizens.
2. Call on African governments to embolden their resolve as nations, galvanise their position and opposition to countries and economic blocs that backtracking on their commitments and responsibilities in climate action and are not supportive to Africa interests, notably the recognition of the continent as special needs and circumstances regions as the Convention.
3. Developed countries must reform the international financial architecture to prioritize accessible finance for Africa, ensuring that funds are allocated for climate action and sustainable development.
4. Lead in debt relief initiatives and reach out to other developed countries on the urgent need for comprehensive debt relief strategies for African nations, which will help release resources for climate resilience initiatives and sustainable development programs.
5. Developed countries should ensure that decisions made during COP30 are just and accountable, with a focus on securing the Global Goal of Adaptation alongside its means of implementation.
6. Call for a halt on the reckless extraction of our critical minerals by corporates from developed countries that are violating human and environmental rights and clawing back on progress towards sustainable development.

B. African Governments:

1. Urge African governments to enhance accountability mechanisms for climate actions at national and local levels, ensuring that commitments made translate effectively into tangible actions and resources.
2. Urge African governments, collectively to take a leadership role in pushing for reforms of the international financial system ensuring there is equitable access to funds for climate action, prioritizing adaptation, loss and damage, and development in under-resourced regions.
3. Call on African governments to join forces with non-state actors and other progressive forces globally in heightening the effectiveness of the Economic Justice Campaign in reforming global financial architecture, cancellation of debt, and call for global systems change aimed at bringing to an end the current debt crisis that constrains Africa's capacity to respond to climate change and deliver basic services.
4. Collaborate with African non-state actors and institutions of communities at the frontline of the climate crisis to boost their capacities to access climate finance and lead in the implementation of climate adaptation actions at the frontline while enhancing accountability for all players at all levels.
5. African governments to push for a binding agreement on climate finance and reparations, ensuring Africa's priorities are not just heard but acted upon.
6. Call on African governments to engage in the negotiations with a clear and coordinated position and reject distractions and weak compromises, ensuring our demands are not diluted by vague language or market-based distractions.
7. Urge African governments to invest in the capacity of negotiators replete with technical support mechanisms for effective engagement in negotiations. We are aware of existence of a pool of young people including progressive CSOs actors who can bridge this gap.



C. Intergovernmental Organizations (Africa Union Commission, UNECA and AfDB)

1. Lead Africa in collectivising its Africa's position in light of fast-evolving geopolitics and marshal efforts of all governments and other stakeholders in Africa in exerting the position of Africa on the global stage.
2. Under the auspice of the African Union Commission, convene a bold, consultative and inclusive Africa Climate Summit that truly reflects the interests and aspirations of African people, ensuring Africa's agenda is not hijacked by forces external to the continent while ensuring the theme of the summit this year reflects the most urgent priority of Africa, which is, mobilising finance for Africa's adaptation and Resilience.
3. Facilitate multi-stakeholder partnerships that enhance collaboration among governments, civil society, and the private sector to secure radical but coherent positions, reinforced by concerted and robust climate action strategies.
4. Foster stronger dialogues with political leaders across Africa to embed priority positions within global conversations on climate change to amplify Africa's voice on the international stage.
5. Advance frameworks that incorporate voices from civil society and marginalized groups into climate decision-making processes, ensuring that policies reflect the needs and priorities of frontline communities.

D. As Africa Non-State Actors, we commit to:

1. Work collaboratively to advance a unified voice advocating for social, climate, and economic justice, while emphasizing the importance of reforming financial agreements to deliver the much-needed funding for climate action and sustainable development.
2. Advance Africa's agenda by being propositional on the ideal policy position and strategies for securing Africa's interests, within and in the global conversations. To this end, we shall play a leading role in making our governments in Africa appreciate the evolving context and reposition within the context, taking advantage of its natural assets to optimize on economic returns.
3. Engage actively in global movements, such as the Economic Justice Campaign and the Jubilee campaign, to mobilize support for reforming the global financial architecture, while advocating for the cancellation of unjust debt impacting Africa's ability to respond to climate change and other developmental challenges.
4. We shall draw on our practical experiences with communities to enhance national and global commitment to the ideals of Locally-Led climate action principles by facilitating access to funding, technology, and capacity-building initiatives that empower communities to address climate impacts effectively.
5. Commit to initiate and strengthen our work on strategic litigation ensuring parties - individuals, corporations and public entities are held accountable for their climate and environmentally unjust actions and that state entities have stronger legal frameworks and mechanisms for their implementation.
6. We seek to deepen our outreach and consultations with policymakers across all African countries in the spirit of embedding Africa's position and priorities to enhance their effectiveness in global geopolitical interactions, particularly in the countdown to COP30.



As the momentum towards Belem picks pace, it must be different from what we have observed in the past. We must approach it with clear objectives, unity, and unwavering resolve. We emphasize the urgency for a collective and robust response to the intertwining challenges of climate change, socio-economic disparities, and structural injustices. To this end, we call upon all stakeholders—governments, intergovernmental organizations, and non-state actors—to deepen their collaborations in this essential fight for a just, equitable, and sustainable future for all.

The time for action is NOW!

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