

AFRICAN CIVIL SOCIETY POSITION STATEMENT AHEAD OF COP30 CONCLUSION

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As COP30 enters its final stretch, African Non-State Actors on climate justice, under the umbrella of the Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance, stand united in calling for an outcome that protects our societies and economies, strengthens resilience, and advances a fair and development-centred global transition.

Africa did not create the climate crisis. COP30 must ensure Africa does not pay three times: first through climate impacts, second through unfair or underfunded global responses and thirdly through continued exploitative appropriations of Africa's critical minerals and forest resources for advancing an alien just transition agenda.

Below, we set out our core issues, positions and demands.

1. Africa's Special Needs and Circumstances

The Issue

Africa enters every COP with structural vulnerabilities. It is a region with the highest exposure to climate impacts, lowest emissions contribution, limited fiscal space, large youth population needing jobs, industries at risk from new global regulations, huge adaptation and energy access gaps, etc. This is why African negotiators and African civil society insist that Africa's Special Needs and Circumstances must form principle guide to all decisions at COP30.

Our Position

Africa's Special Needs and Circumstances (SNCs) must be the guiding framework for all COP30 decisions—including finance, transition pathways, response measures, and implementation.

Our Demands

We, therefore, demand:

- Explicit recognition of Africa's special needs and circumstances across all final decisions.
- Flexibility for African countries in applying global rules and reporting requirements.
- Priority access to finance, technology and capacity-building.
- Guarantees that Africa will not be penalised economically for a crisis it did not create.

2. Finance: Delivering Article 9 With Precision, Predictability, and Justice

The Issue

Finance is the centre of gravity at COP30. The current draft includes five pathways for delivering Article 9, but only a merged Option 1 and 2 offers clarity, accountability, and real support for African implementation.

Our Position

A legally mandated, two-year Belém Work Programme for Delivering Article 9 is essential to shift climate finance from vague promises to measurable delivery.

Our Demands

We, therefore, call on Parties to:

1. Make Article 9.1 obligations real

- Developed countries must provide predictable, public finance, primarily grants and concessional lending.
- Adopt a binding workplan with annual reporting and accountability.

2. Establish four workstreams tailored to African needs

- Support Pathways: clear targets for public finance and adaptation shares.
- Mobilised Finance (Art. 9.3): protect the separation between obligatory public finance and non-obligatory private mobilisation.
- 1.3T / 300B Delivery: translate global financial goals into actual country-level flows.
- Quality & Access: reduce cost of capital; expand direct access; simplify bureaucracy; prioritise Africa, LDCs, and SIDS, and, more importantly, advance the reforms of the global financial architecture

3. Hold an annual High-Level Ministerial Dialogue

- Maintain political pressure and spotlight delivery gaps.

4. Establish the “Belém Facility for Access & Implementation”

- Strengthen national institutions and project pipelines.
- Complement—but never replace—Article 9.1 public finance obligations.

3. Response Measures: Protect the Mandate, Defend Africa’s Economies

The Issue

Several proposals at COP30 threaten to dilute the Response Measures agenda, weaken accountability, and delay adoption of the 2026–2030 workplan. Without a strong system, African economies will be exposed to the negative socio-economic impacts of global climate actions such as Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanisms, rapid phaseout rules, or shifting industrial standards.

Our Position

Response Measures must remain a tool to protect livelihoods, jobs, industries and exports, not a vehicle for softening obligations or expanding mandates in confusing ways.

Our Demands

- Reject vague terminology that broadens scope, weakens accountability, or shifts focus away from socio-economic impacts.
- Adopt the 2026–2030 workplan immediately, anchored in equity, CBDR-RC, and national circumstances.
- Maintain the Katowice Committee of Expts on the Impacts of the Implementation of Response Measures (KCI) balance: the KCI must remain a technical body; political authority stays with the Forum.
- Prioritise assessment and dialogue structured within the multilateral process of unilateral trade measures (including CBAM) and their impacts on African economies.
- Guarantee participation of workers, women, youth and local communities in shaping response measures.

4. Fossil Fuels, Just Transition, and Energy Access

The Issue

The global debate on fossil fuel phaseout risks ignoring Africa's development realities. A rigid, rushed, poorly financed phaseout could undermine industrialisation, energy access, job creation and economic diversification across the continent. Justice in climate action would ordinarily demand that those who have exhausted their global carbon budget lead in the transition. Unfortunately, this is not the case.

Our Position

Just transition must be defined not as a transition away from fossil fuels but as a transition into prosperity, anchored in equity, energy access, and economic opportunity.

Our Demands

We demand, therefore:

- A fair, sequenced or differentiated, and well-financed phaseout roadmap aligned with Africa's development needs.
- Recognition of Africa's right to transitional energy solutions, including time-bound, Paris-aligned natural gas use.
- A stronger Just Transition Work Programme supporting skills, jobs, industrial policy, and diversification.
- Guaranteed linkages between JT finance and priorities such as critical minerals, manufacturing, and green industrialisation.
- Formal recognition of energy access as a climate goal, unlocking resources to serve households, rural economies and social services.

5. Adaptation, Loss & Damage, and Protection of Lives and Livelihoods

The Issue

Special circumstances of the continent, compounded by Loss and damage are already eroding economies and destroying livelihoods. As such Africa faces the world's largest and fastest-growing adaptation gap. COP30 must deliver real solutions, not vague aspirations.

Our Position

Adaptation and Loss and Damage finance must be needs-based, matching the scale and urgency of Africa's climate risks

Our Demands

We demand:

- More than triple adaptation finance by 2030, with a clear public-finance pathway.
- A fully capitalised Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage with new, additional, predictable finance, and as a guarantee mobilized from public sources.
- Fast-track support for resilient agriculture, water and health systems, coastal protection, and community adaptation complimented with early warning systems.

6. Gender

The Issue

Gender remains marginal, not systematically integrated across mitigation, adaptation, finance, and loss & damage. African women and their organisations are underrepresented in negotiation spaces and decision-making. Lack of accountability mechanisms to track progress on gender commitments.

Our Position

Gender equality is central to effective climate action, not an add-on. The renewed Gender Action Plan must be practical, resourced, and measurable, with strong means of implementation and mainstreamed across all UNFCCC agenda items. African women and grassroots organisations must be recognised as key climate actors.

Our Demands

- Adequate, predictable, accessible gender finance, including direct access for African women-led and feminist groups.
- Mandatory gender integration across mitigation, adaptation, finance, L&D, and technology, with clear indicators.
- Accountability and monitoring, including reporting on gender commitments and resource allocation.
- Meaningful participation, ensuring African women, especially young, frontline, and marginalised groups hold decision-making power, not token roles.

7. A Call to COP30 Leaders

Africa needs a COP30 outcome that matches ambition with delivery. Ambition in the context of Africa means funding, not any other superficial rhetoric. Anything less would be a failure of leadership and a betrayal of the world's most climate-vulnerable region.

We therefore call for a final COP30 package that includes:

- A strong Article 9 decision rooted in the Belém Work Programme.
- Scaled, predictable adaptation and loss & damage finance.
- A robust Response Measures workplan that protects African economies.
- A fair, equitable transition roadmap that supports energy access and industrialisation.
- Full operationalisation of Africa's Special Needs and Circumstances.

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