

**PRESS STATEMENT BY AFRICAN NON-STATE ACTORS (NSAS) AT THE OPENING OF COP30
BELEM, BRAZIL | NOVEMBER 10, 2025**

Africa's Message to the World: COP30 Must Mark a Turning Point for Climate Justice and Global Solidarity

As the 30th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP30) opens in Belém, Brazil, African non-state actors, representing over 10,000 voices from civil society, youth, women, faith groups, labour, academia, and frontline communities, stand united behind one message: **this must be the COP that delivers justice, resources, and equitable action.**

COP30, rightly called the People's COP, recalls the spirit of the 1992 Rio Conventions. Yet, it unfolds in a world strained by overlapping crises: climate, debt, inequality, and geopolitical fragmentation. For Africa, these crises define daily reality for millions whose livelihoods, health, and security are already under siege.

Today, we reaffirm Africa's resolve to lead boldly, speak truth to power, and demand outcomes that reflect our realities and uphold our rights.

Our Core Expectations and Demands

1. Climate Justice and Equity Are Non-Negotiable

Africa comes to COP30 united behind the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. Climate justice and equity must anchor every decision. The continent's right to development and to eradicate poverty cannot be traded away in the name of ambition defined elsewhere.

2. Adaptation Must Come with Means of Implementation

The Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) cannot stand on indicators alone. Without financing, indicators are empty promises. Africa demands a tripling of adaptation finance by 2030—delivered as grants, not loans—and prioritizing locally led adaptation, women, and youth at the centre of decision-making.

3. Climate Finance Is a Right, Not Charity

The Baku–Belém Roadmap must deliver on its \$1.3 trillion annual target by 2035, starting with a \$300 billion annual goal that prioritizes adaptation and loss and damage. This finance must be new, additional, predictable, and grant-based. Loans are not climate finance; they are climate debt.

4. Reform Global Finance Architecture for Justice

We call for deep reforms in global finance systems to end Africa's debt crisis, cancel illegitimate debts, and democratize multilateral institutions. Climate finance must not reinforce dependence but expand fiscal space for just, people-centered transitions.

5. Operationalize the Loss and Damage Fund for Frontline Communities

After decades of delay, the Loss and Damage Fund must become fully operational: accessible, simplified, and grant-based. Voluntary pledges equate justice to charity, a departure from the spirit of the Paris Agreement. Climate reparations must flow directly to affected communities, protecting livelihoods, workers, and children displaced by disasters.

6. Support Africa's Just Transition as a Global Public Good

Africa's just transition is central to global stability. We reject extractive models and unilateral trade measures such as the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism that punish African economies. Instead, we call for investment in local value addition, decent green jobs, and regional governance of critical minerals.

7. Recognize Energy Access as a Climate Goal

With 630 million Africans still without electricity, energy access is both a moral and climate imperative. COP30 must formally recognize access to affordable, clean energy as part of the global mitigation framework and support Africa's goal to add 300 GW of renewables and reach 300 million people by 2030 under Mission 300.

8. Gender Justice Is Integral to Climate Justice

Women and girls bear the heaviest climate burdens. Their leadership must be recognized, resourced, and protected. Climate action that ignores gender equity is unjust and unsustainable.

9. Anchor Just Transition in Social Protection and Decent Work

A just transition for Africa must create jobs, protect workers, and build inclusive economies. Every climate finance instrument must include labour safeguards and support for retraining and youth employment in green sectors.

10. Defend Multilateralism and Solidarity

At a time when nationalism and climate denial threaten collective progress, COP30 must renew faith in multilateralism. The Global North must show good faith by honouring commitments, rebuilding trust, and working in partnership, not paternalism.

Our Call to Action

Africa's message to COP30 is clear: **We do not seek sympathy; we demand solidarity.**

We are not victims of the crisis; we are co-authors of the solution. But justice requires that those responsible for the problem shoulder their fair share of the response.

Let COP30 in Belém mark the moment when the world chose fairness over delay, partnership over pity, and justice over convenience.

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