

Africa Civil Society Position Paper for COP30

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1. Introduction and Context

As the world prepares for COP30 in Belém, Africa's civil society is uniting to shape a clear, justice-first position rooted in the realities of the continent and the aspirations of its people. The Pre-COP30 African Civil Society Convening, held on the 21st and 22nd of October 2025 in Nairobi, Kenya, brought together a diverse coalition of Africa's voices, including youth, women, grassroots organisers, faith actors, and policy experts to consolidate civil society perspectives and strengthen Africa's unified voice ahead of COP30.

The convening reaffirmed Africa's disproportionate vulnerability to climate impacts despite contributing the least to global emissions, underscoring the continent's moral authority and right to climate justice. Participants emphasised the importance of anchoring Africa's engagement at Belém within the continent's established negotiation structures, including the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC), the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), Africa Climate Summit 2, and the Africa Group of Negotiators (AGN), while recognising the complementary role of civil society in grounding these processes in justice, inclusion, equity, and community realities.

The convening called for Africa to speak in one strong, coordinated voice, moving from advocacy to influence, from isolated projects to systemic resilience, and from framing climate change as an environmental concern to advancing it as a core development imperative. Delegates affirmed that COP30 must be the moment Africa shifts from negotiating frameworks to delivering tangible results for its people.

2. Africa's CSOs Key Priorities and Demands for COP30

2.1. Climate Finance

Africa remains deeply concerned about the widening gap between climate finance commitments and delivery, and the global shift from public to profit-driven private finance instruments. The direction of current mobilisation efforts under the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) on Climate Finance risks further entrenching these inequities. With limited fiscal space and mounting debt, many African nations face serious constraints in advancing climate action. Achieving equitable and just climate finance requires reaffirming the principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities, ensuring that new finance is public, grant-based, and accessible. Addressing climate justice alongside tax justice, including through initiatives such as the UN Tax Convention, is essential for achieving sustainable, people-centred development.

On Climate Finance, we, the Africa CSOs, therefore demand:

- **Baku-Belém Roadmap:** That the Baku-Belém Roadmap must move beyond procedural outcomes to deliver tangible, time-bound, and binding financial commitments consistent with Article 9.1 of the Paris Agreement. These commitments should be rooted in the principle of Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC) and prioritise the urgent needs of African nations by ensuring climate finance is scaled up, equitable, accessible, and transformative.

- **Climate Finance Definition and Transparency:** That climate finance must be clearly defined, transparently structured, and anchored in climate justice principles to ensure it supports rather than undermines debt sustainability. Concessional finance should address disparities in capital access and avoid practices such as misclassification of market-rate loans and the exacerbation of debt distress. Robust, publicly accessible tracking systems should monitor both the volume and use of funds, verifying that resources are genuinely directed toward climate action in developing countries, with data disaggregated by source, instrument type, and beneficiaries.
- **Distinction from Official Development Assistance (ODA):** Climate finance must be distinct from traditional Official Development Assistance. It must constitute new, additional, and predictable resources, provided at a scale proportionate to developed countries' historical responsibility for emissions, with contributions linked to a fair share of their GDP.
- **Enhanced, Flexible, Community-led Access:** Climate finance must be enhanced, flexible, and predominantly grant-based to support National Adaptation Plans, community-led resilience initiatives, and Africa-based agricultural and food systems. Accessibility processes must be radically simplified to ensure resources reach affected communities quickly and directly. Financing mechanisms such as the Green Climate Fund, Adaptation Fund, Funding Arrangement for Addressing Loss and Damage, and the Global Environment Facility should be redesigned to prioritise speed, transparency, and community ownership, grounded in inclusive, people-centred, and human rights-based approaches that uphold the dignity, agency, and participation of affected communities.
- **NCQG Targets:** In their operationalization, the current NCQG targets of USD 300 billion and USD 1.3 trillion, must allocate significant shares to adaptation and loss and damage outcomes in developing countries.
- **Climate and Tax Justice Link:** That COP30 recognises and acts upon the intrinsic link between climate justice and tax justice by supporting the establishment of a UN Tax Convention that democratises global tax governance, ensures multinational accountability, and empowers developing countries to reclaim resources lost through tax abuse and illicit financial flows. All climate finance and tax-related reforms must be grounded in equity, justice, and the needs of the people marking COP30 as a turning point where climate and tax justice are jointly pursued as central pillars of a just transition and sustainable development.

2.2. Loss and Damage

Addressing loss and damage is an urgent priority for Africa, which continues to bear the brunt of climate impacts it did not cause. From devastating floods to slow-onset events such as sea-level rise and desertification, communities are experiencing irreversible harm that goes beyond what adaptation efforts can address. The global response must therefore ensure that mechanisms for loss and damage are adequately financed, accessible, and grounded in justice, equity, and human rights.

On Loss and Damage, we, the Africa CSOs, therefore demand:

- **Operationalization of the The Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage:** The Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage must be fully and swiftly operationalised, with financing provided primarily in the form of grants and through simplified direct-access modalities for vulnerable developing countries. It should include a dedicated financing window for slow-onset events and climate-induced displacement, ensuring that support is timely, adequate, and equitable for affected communities. Mechanisms for rapid and efficient disbursement must also be established, including direct cash transfers to affected populations, budgetary support to

national and local governments, and swift emergency financing channels to enable immediate response and recovery following climate-related disasters.

- **The Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM):** The Warsaw International Mechanism should be strengthened and made fit for purpose through the ongoing review process. This review presents a critical opportunity to enhance coordination and coherence among all loss and damage entities, ensuring alignment with international and human rights law. It should also lead to the development and adoption of a **Loss and Damage Gap Report** to identify and address persistent knowledge, capacity, and financing gaps, improving the effectiveness, accountability, and rights-based delivery of loss and damage responses.
- **The Santiago Network for Loss and Damage:** The Santiago Network for Loss and Damage must have sustainable, predictable and sufficient resources - financial, technical, and human - to enhance the capacity of countries to respond to loss and damage caused by the changing climate. We emphasize the need for enhanced complementarity and coordination across the work of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism, the Advisory Board of the Santiago network and the Board of the Fund for responding to Loss and Damage
- **Economic and Non-Economic Costs of Loss and Damage:** We reiterate the urgent need to develop standardised methodologies for assessing both the economic and non-economic costs of loss and damage. These methodologies are essential to support countries in planning processes and in preparing robust technical and funding proposals.

2.3. Adaptation and Resilience

Africa faces escalating climate impacts, from prolonged droughts and erratic rainfall to rising sea levels and ecosystem degradation that threaten lives, livelihoods, and development gains. Adaptation is therefore not a choice but a survival imperative. Yet, adaptation finance remains grossly inadequate and disproportionately skewed towards mitigation. To achieve the balance envisioned under the Paris Agreement, COP30 must deliver concrete commitments that scale up adaptation finance, strengthen institutional capacity, and embed locally led, gender-responsive, and rights-based approaches at the heart of global resilience efforts.

On Adaptation and Resilience, we, the Africa CSOs, therefore demand:

- **New Post-2025 Adaptation Finance Target:** COP30 must establish a new, robust post-2025 adaptation finance target that addresses the growing adaptation gap and needs.. Developed country Parties must commit to **at least tripling** adaptation finance by 2030, while ensuring that this finance is needs-based, predominantly grant-based, and sourced from new and additional public funds. Additionally, parties must agree on a robust process that will set a longer term needs based commitment that is in line with the Global Goal on Adaptation targets ahead of 2030.
- **Robust Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) Indicators:** The Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) framework must include strong and measurable indicators on the Means of Implementation (MoI), as determining factors for accountability and alignment with Articles 9.1, 10, and 11 of the Paris Agreement. These indicators should comprehensively assess both action and support provided to developing countries measuring access to, quality of, and the scale of adaptation finance in line with the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities.
- **Baku Adaptation Roadmap (BAR):** Parties should adopt and operationalise the *Baku Adaptation Roadmap* (BAR) as a comprehensive and forward-looking mechanism for guiding

adaptation actions and support in the post-GGA period. The BAR should serve as a blueprint for coordinated, adequately financed, and accountable implementation of adaptation priorities.

- **National Adaptation Plans:** Developed countries and multilateral funding bodies must accelerate access to enhanced, new, and additional grant-based finance for developing countries, enabling all Parties to develop and implement country-driven, gender-responsive, participatory, and transparent National Adaptation Plans by 2030, in line with decision 2/CMA.5.

2.4. Just and Inclusive Energy Transition

Progress on phasing out fossil fuels since COP28 has been slow, with many countries backtracking and reinvesting in fossil energy. Meanwhile, the global shift toward critical minerals presents new challenges for Africa, where the costs and social implications of the transition are poorly addressed. Without frameworks that reflect African realities, the transition risks deepening debt and inequality rather than delivering justice. Human rights, energy access, and labour protections remain neglected, even as communities lose livelihoods tied to traditional energy sectors. A just transition must therefore be inclusive, equitable, and responsive to Africa's social and economic context.

On Just and Inclusive Transition, we, the Africa CSOs, therefore demand:

- **Just Transition Work Programme:** COP30 must deliver a breakthrough under the Just Transition Work Programme, moving beyond dialogue to concrete, actionable steps for implementation. The proposed Belém Action Mechanism (BAM) for Just Transition presents a critical opportunity to establish a permanent platform that strengthens coordination, enhances capacity building, facilitates technology transfer, and fosters sustained collaboration. BAM should serve as the driving force for national implementation of just transition efforts at the scale and urgency this moment demands.
- **Fossil Fuel Phase-out and Energy Transition Support:** COP30 decisions must establish clear timelines and milestones for the phase-out of fossil fuels and the elimination of fossil fuel subsidies, with developed countries taking the lead and providing support to developing nations in their transition. Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and long-term strategies should serve as key platforms for setting ambitious targets and policies. Developed countries must also invest in expanding energy access through decentralised renewable energy systems that create local jobs, empower women and youth, and deliver clean power to off-grid communities. Public finance should take the lead in driving this transition to prevent the accumulation of unsustainable debt, and these commitments must be firmly embedded within the Baku to Belém Roadmap.
- **Implementation of the Global Stocktake (GST) Outcome:** Parties at COP30 must reaffirm their commitment to, and accelerate the implementation of, the Global Stocktake (GST) outcome, with particular emphasis on advancing the just energy transition as outlined in paragraph 28. This includes translating commitments into concrete national actions that ensure equity, inclusivity, and ambition in achieving global climate goals.
- **Financing and Technology Support for a Just Energy Transition:** Developed countries must provide new, additional, adequate, and appropriate financing and technology support to developing countries to enable economic diversification and an equitable energy transition. Public finance must take the lead to prevent the accumulation of unsustainable debt, with these commitments fully integrated into the Baku to Belém Roadmap. We further demand that historic polluters fund Africa's transition fairly, as a matter of climate justice and rights, not charity or carbon offset arrangements.

- **Framework for Equitable International Cooperation:** Parties must establish a framework for equitable international cooperation to drive low-emission, climate-resilient development transitions. This framework should ensure commensurate financial flows that match the scale of transformation required and uphold the principle of equity, grounded in Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC).
- **Guarantee Community Ownership and Food Sovereignty:** Parties must guarantee community ownership and participation in all energy and food transition plans, ensuring that decisions are made *with* people, not *for* them. This includes protecting and promoting food sovereignty across Africa by prioritising support for smallholder farmers, fisherfolk, pastoralists, and Indigenous communities. Transition strategies should advance agroecology and resilient local food systems over corporate-controlled and industrial agricultural models, reinforcing justice, inclusion, and sustainability at the community level.
- **Integration of Basic Income in the Just Transition Framework:** COP30 must integrate Basic Income into the Just Transition Work Programme and the Belém Action Mechanism as a key instrument for social protection and inclusion. Unconditional cash transfers provide a direct, scalable, and rights-based solution to support workers, Indigenous Peoples, women, youth, and marginalised communities during the energy transition. Basic Income must be publicly financed and recognised as an expression of climate justice not charity to ensure equitable participation and strengthen community resilience throughout the transition process.

2.5. Biodiversity, Nature-Based Solutions and Ecosystem Restoration

Africa's natural ecosystems from tropical forests and savannahs to wetlands and mangroves are vital for global climate stability, biodiversity, and community livelihoods. Yet, they are under increasing threat from deforestation, land degradation, and unsustainable exploitation. Preserving and restoring these ecosystems is essential not only for mitigation and adaptation but also for advancing justice, food security, and resilience. COP30 must therefore deliver an actionable global framework that halts biodiversity loss, reverses land degradation, and channels finance directly to those safeguarding nature on the frontlines.

On Biodiversity, Nature-Based Solutions and Ecosystem Restoration we, the Africa CSOs, therefore demand:

- **Global Framework to Halt and Reverse Deforestation:** COP30 must adopt a concrete global framework to end deforestation, forest degradation, and ecosystem conversion while promoting equitable and sustainable land use. This framework should be underpinned by increased international finance for high-integrity Nature-based Solutions that reward restoration efforts, strengthen monitoring and reporting capacity, uphold the rights and roles of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, and protect biodiversity.
- **Recognition and Direct Financing for Indigenous and Faith-Based Climate Leadership:** Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women, and faith-based actors are at the heart of Africa's ecological action. Their traditional knowledge, cultural values, and moral leadership drive justice, stewardship, and restoration. COP30 outcomes must recognise and elevate these voices as central to global climate and biodiversity solutions. We further call for at least 30% of all climate and biodiversity finance to be channelled directly to Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and faith-based organisations implementing Nature-Based Solutions and ecosystem restoration on the ground, including through Conservation Basic Income models that reward their vital role in ecosystem stewardship and forest protection.
- **Integration of Nature-based Solutions into National Frameworks:** Nature-based Solutions must be placed at the centre of Nationally Determined Contributions, National Adaptation Plans, and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans. Parties should adopt clear, context-specific indicators and metrics to track progress and outcomes, while strengthening

synergies between climate and biodiversity frameworks to align with both the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the Paris Agreement..

- **Recognition of the Congo Basin and Africa-led Initiatives:** COP30 must recognise the Congo Basin as a vital global climate asset and ensure equitable finance flows to its protection and sustainable management. It should also support Africa-led initiatives such as the Great Green Wall and AFR100, integrating forest targets into African NDCs and strengthening the link between climate and biodiversity agendas through Nature-based Solutions.

2.6. Article 6

International cooperation is critical to achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement, and Article 6 presents a significant opportunity to mobilise much-needed climate finance and enhance global ambition through cooperative approaches. However, current implementation pathways risk undermining workers' rights, weakening environmental integrity, enabling greenwashing, and unfairly shifting the mitigation burden onto developing countries.

Africa reaffirms that Article 6 must be guided by the principles of equity, environmental justice, and Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities. Developed countries must recognise their historical responsibility and ensure that cooperative approaches do not compromise national climate ambition, override domestic priorities, or violate the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities who form the backbone of carbon markets and ecosystem stewardship.

On Article 6: Upholding Equity, Rights, and Environmental Integrity in International Cooperation we, the Africa CSOs, therefore demand:

- **Protection of Human Rights and Community Well-being in Article 6 Implementation:** All Article 6 mechanisms (6.2, 6.4, and 6.8) both market and non-market must be implemented in ways that fully respect and protect the rights of workers, Indigenous Peoples, and local communities involved in or affected by carbon offset projects and their value chains. Parties must establish and enforce robust social and environmental safeguards, accessible grievance mechanisms, and clear requirements for Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC). Cooperative approaches must never come at the expense of human rights, labour protections, or community well-being but should instead strengthen social justice and equitable participation across all levels of implementation.
- **Equity and CBDR-RC in Article 6 Implementation:** COP30 must ensure that the implementation of all Article 6 mechanisms is firmly grounded in the principles of Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC). Developing countries must not bear disproportionate mitigation responsibilities, and cooperative approaches must not undermine national climate ambition or override domestic development priorities. Instead, Article 6 activities should deliver real, additional, and verifiable emissions reductions while promoting sustainable development and ensuring equitable climate finance flows to African countries.
- **Integration of Diverse Knowledge Systems:** Article 6 mechanisms must actively integrate diverse forms of knowledge including scientific, technical, Indigenous, and local knowledge systems to ensure environmental integrity, broad stakeholder participation, and climate justice. Failure to do so risks creating weak methodologies that undermine global climate goals and jeopardize the rights and well-being of Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

- **Transparency and Stakeholder Participation:** All project developers and designated national authorities must commit to full, real-time public disclosure of all Article 6 activities, including project documentation, corresponding adjustment decisions, and sustainable development assessments. This information should be made available through a centralized, user-friendly registry to ensure transparency, accountability, and public oversight. In addition, mandatory, transparent, and ongoing stakeholder consultation must be conducted throughout the entire lifecycle of any Article 6 activity, from design to crediting, ensuring that local communities, especially the most vulnerable, have the capacity and resources to participate effectively.
- **Prioritization of Article 6.8:** COP30 must provide dedicated and scaled-up funding and technical assistance for the work programme on non-market approaches (Article 6.8), recognising its potential to deliver high-quality, non-credit-based cooperation that supports transformational change, adaptation, and sustainable development outcomes.

2.7. Gender Justice and Intergenerational Inclusion

Gender justice and intergenerational inclusion are fundamental pillars of effective climate action. Guided by the Enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender and the Gender Action Plan, Africa CSOs call for all climate policies and finance mechanisms to be gender-responsive and inclusive, ensuring that women particularly those in rural and marginalised communities have equitable access to resources, decision-making, and leadership opportunities in climate governance.

On Gender Justice and Intergenerational Inclusion we, the Africa CSOs, therefore demand:

- **Enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender and the Gender Action Plan:** Gender justice and intergenerational inclusion must be recognised as fundamental pillars of effective climate action. Guided by the Lima Work Programme on Gender and the Gender Action Plan all climate policies and finance mechanisms should be gender-responsive and inclusive, ensuring that women particularly in rural and marginalised communities have equitable access to resources, decision-making, and leadership opportunities in climate governance. Furthermore, the upcoming new Gender Action Plan under the Enhanced Lima Work Programme must explicitly incorporate the principles of equity, responsibility, and differentiated capabilities, aligned with the Rio Principles, especially Principle 7 and the concept of Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities. The new GAP must also reflect the intersections between gender justice and climate justice, acknowledging historical responsibility, capacity disparities, and diverse development contexts
- **Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) and Youth Inclusion:** Recognizing the commitments under the ACE framework, African CSOs urge Parties to institutionalize youth and marginalised gender participation in national climate governance at COP30. This includes establishing meaningful youth- and gender-responsive engagement mechanisms, supporting youth-led innovation, and integrating climate education that promotes intergenerational learning, accountability, and empowerment in climate action.
- **Capacity Building (CB) and Gender-Disaggregated Reporting:** Demand a well-resourced, inclusive, and context-specific capacity building (CB) and Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) strategy for country-specific Gender Action Plan (GAP) implementation. Call on Parties, the UNFCCC Secretariat, and related bodies to institute a mandatory reporting system requiring gender-disaggregated data on all attendance, participation, and intervention slots (both in-person and virtual) across intergovernmental meetings, workshops, trainings, side

events, negotiations, and other governance processes under the UNFCCC and its related mechanisms.

2.8. Climate Justice and Systemic Reform in Africa

The climate crisis is not only an environmental emergency but a manifestation of deep systemic injustice economic, social, and political. For Africa, climate justice means addressing historical imbalances, dismantling exploitative financial structures, and reclaiming decision-making power from global systems that perpetuate inequality. As the world approaches COP30, African civil society demands a just and transparent global climate architecture that upholds accountability, centres human rights, and delivers real transformation for people and planet alike.

On Climate Justice and Systemic Reform, we, therefore demand:

- **Mandatory Transparency on Climate Finance:** All COP partnerships and public-private initiatives must publicly disclose contractual conditions, complete finance breakdowns (grants versus loans), risks, and social or environmental impact assessments before being announced. This level of transparency is necessary to end the era of hollow multi-billion-dollar pledges that lack accountability and meaningful outcomes for developing countries.
- **Ban Corporate Capture:** Implement strict conflict-of-interest safeguards that prohibit fossil fuel companies and other corporate sponsors from influencing negotiators. Parties must restrict lobbyist access to negotiation floors to ensure that genuine climate commitments are not undermined by vested interests or corporate greenwashing.
- **Public Accountability with Teeth:** Require that all declarations and commitments made at COPs are backed by independent audits, human rights criteria, and enforceable accountability mechanisms. COP outcomes must move beyond publicity and pledges to verifiable action that benefits communities and ecosystems.
- **Recognize and Pay the \$36 Trillion Ecological Debt:** Operationalise the Belém Action Mechanism to formally acknowledge that wealthy nations owe Africa a \$36 trillion ecological debt. This should prioritise debt cancellation as a prerequisite for meaningful climate action and establish justice indicators such as locally created jobs, expanded access to essential services, and rights protection, as measures of success rather than the volume of financial pledges

As Africa's civil society, we stand united in demanding that COP30 deliver transformative, people-centred outcomes rooted in justice, equity, and human rights. Climate action must move beyond pledges to address the structural injustices that keep Africa vulnerable ensuring finance is grant-based, adaptation and loss and damage are prioritised, and local communities are recognised as leaders in climate and biodiversity solutions.

We reaffirm our commitment to building a strong, unified African movement for climate justice, one that bridges grassroots action with policy spaces, amplifies African agency, and holds global leaders accountable. From Belém onwards, climate ambition must be measured not by promises made, but by justice delivered to those who have long borne the burden of inaction.

7. Endorsements and Signatories



