



## Africa Youth COP28 Declaration and Call to Action

As the youngest continent with the highest youth population in the world, People and communities all over Africa are experiencing the horrific conditions of multiple crises on top of long-standing injustices, inequalities and oppression.

The climate crisis is causing extreme weather events and disrupting ecosystems across the continent and around the world. Those already suffering impoverishment, discrimination and exploitation from the global south are the most vulnerable to this crisis, and have the least access to necessary resources to deal with its impacts. The climate crisis is also exacerbating other crises - furthering impoverishment and deepening inequalities. Millions of people have lost lives, homes, jobs and livelihoods. Billions are facing food and water scarcity, health risks, and unrelenting climate-induced loss and damage.

From November 30 to 12 December 2023, the 28th Conference of Parties (COP 28) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change will take place in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

We are painfully made even more aware of the failures of governments to meet their duties and obligations to uphold and protect the rights and welfare of their citizens and all of humanity. We especially denounce the maneuvers of Northern governments and global elites, corporations and banks to avoid the urgent actions that they must take to meet their fair share of responsibility to the already vulnerable people and communities to deal with the impacts and stop the climate crisis in its tracks.

Their share of responsibility for this crisis is proportionately as large as the wealth they have amassed in the process of perpetuating the capitalist and extractivist system that created the climate crisis. This same system relies on the unabated extraction of natural resources and ecological plunder everywhere but especially in the global south, damaging ecosystems, displacing and violating the rights of local and indigenous communities. It thrives on the exploitation of people's labor, creating geographical, racialized, gendered and class divisions, breeding inequalities across and within countries, marginalizing women (girls), workers, farmers, youth, indigenous peoples and disabled and differently abled people, and perpetuating racial discrimination. This system also creates and increases the historical, social and ecological debt of the Global North owed to the Global South.

As we intensify our climate struggles, we also raise critical global issues that are deeply connected to our fight for climate justice, foremost of which is the escalation of falsehood solutions in the name of greenwashing that are in favor of the Global North and further exploit



our communities. These very same governments are also the ones primarily responsible for the climate crisis and standing in the way of real solutions. There cannot be climate justice without human rights.

Rapid and profound changes in our societies are urgently needed to address the climate emergency - reach real zero greenhouse gas emissions and build a new world that is just, equitable, inclusive, sustainable and delivers on fundamental human rights. With the rapid intensification of the climate crisis, time is running short before the crisis becomes a planetary catastrophe. We need urgent actions now in the pursuit of Climate Justice. No more time can be wasted!

We are challenged to hasten and escalate our collective actions worldwide to fight for profound transformation of our societies. System change at all levels - local, national, regional and global!

We know that system change will only come about if we strengthen and grow our movements and fight fiercely and relentlessly for change through various forms of struggles in all arenas of contestation. We see COP28 as one important arena for our fights - for resisting dangerous, harmful and unproven solutions, for compelling governments to take action, for winning specific victories that may be limited but represent advances in our fight for real transformation.

We come together as African youth, communities, campaigners, advocates, workers and citizens. Together we will advance the global climate justice movement railing against profit and growth-oriented systems that abuse peoples and nature – fighting for the rights and interests of people and communities that have done the least to cause the climate crisis but suffer its worst effects. Together we mobilize to force elites, investors, corporations, banks, and governments to meet their responsibilities and obligations in line with the principles of fair shares, equity, justice, safety, social protection and reparations for historical and continuing harms and injustices.

**Together we raise the following urgent demands:**

**1. Rapid, just and equitable phaseout of all fossil fuels, including exploration, extraction, transportation, production and consumption, and a direct, rapid, equitable and just transition to democratic, renewable energy systems for people and communities that builds energy sovereignty;**



- 2. Fulfillment of obligations to deliver adequate, new, additional, non-debt creating, conditionality-free climate finance for mitigation and just transition, adaptation and Loss and Damage as part of Reparations;**
- 3. Cancellation of unsustainable and illegitimate debt being collected from the Global South;**
- 4. Immediate end to greenwashing and false, harmful and unproven "solutions" which serve as dangerous and deceptive distractions including geoengineering, carbon capture and storage technologies, and carbon markets;**
- 5. Building of just, resilient and sustainable food systems; upholding and protecting people's right to food and food sovereignty.**
- 6. Respect for and protection of human rights - of civil and political rights, of economic, environmental, social and cultural rights including the rights to public services and social protection for all and the right to clean, health and sustainable environment, the rights of all workers including migrant workers, the rights of peasants and fishers, the rights of women, the right to gender diversity, the rights of black, indigenous and people of color, the rights of youth and children;**
- 7. The fulfillment of gender justice as an integral part of climate justice; Advance on gender-equality and care economies that prioritize well-being, care and authentic education over profit and address ongoing economic disparities and social injustices resulting from colonial, capitalist and patriarchal legacies where socially constructed roles and sectors prevail;**
- 8. Defund and divest from the destructive and heavily polluting military industrial complex; and divest from police- and military-reliant climate policy, and invest in climate emergency care;**
- 9. Equitable and just transition from a capitalist and extractivist economic system to post-carbon local, national and global economic systems that are inclusive, sustainable, democratic and uphold all human and labor rights.**

**We call on all citizens, communities, movements, people's organizations, workers and civil society networks around the globe to come together for escalated actions for system change!**