

## **PREAMBLE**

As this preamble is being written, climate change is set to inflict planetary-scale destruction of the ecosystem. With disproportionate impacts on the most vulnerable frontline communities, the unprecedented magnitude of the climate crisis undermines the human rights to life, food, water, equal protection, and a clean and healthy environment, for present and future generations. Despite notable progress made in recent years, it is clear that existing commitments and actions remain insufficient to meet the climate emergency, and we are dangerously off track towards achieving the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement. Confronted with this existential threat, Oxfam in Africa (OiA) convened Africa Group of Negotiators, Government representatives, civil society organizations, Regional Youth Networks, and communities from across the African continent under the theme *“Bringing together African Voices ahead climate conference”*. These climate stakeholders have united their voices and perspectives through the COP28 Collective Statement: Declaration for Climate Justice. This declaration synthesises the demands and aspirations of a generation that acknowledges its unique role and potential for transformative change both within and beyond the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

COP28 is a moment of historic significance, and the Africa Group of Negotiators Statement represents a landmark call to action for world leaders to step up to the existential challenge. We are the last generation that can take decisive action to keep 1.5C within reach and keep the planet in a safe and just operating space for current and future generations. Young people around the world are poised to lead, and we are ready to stand together to combat the climate crisis. With the fate of our planet hanging in the balance, we urge world leaders to join us: together, let us take immediate, systematic, and radical action for climate justice.

## **Our Demand**

### **1. Climate Finance and Markets**

- Ensure that climate finance negotiations, particularly dialogues under Article 2.1c, do not get stuck in the “UNFCCC Silo.”
  - Parties must prioritise a holistic international financial architecture transformation, offer debt cancellation for developing countries to enable sustainable and climate-resilient development, and substantially disincentivize polluting activities, including providing equitable pathways to phase out fossil fuels.
- Meet the USD 600 Billion goal climate finance total provisions before 2025; Building upon Decision 13/CP.17 and Decision 1/CP.16;
  - Parties must annually and cumulatively meet the USD 100 billion goal. Developed countries should have transferred USD 600 billion in total by 2025 as a base for mitigation and adaptation finance, with the USD 100 billion delivered as public-grants equivalent finance. Parties must also fulfil their commitments made at COP26 towards transfer-balanced adaptation finance, with the minimum of doubling adaptation finance;

- Update the New Collective Quantified Goal; Recalling Decision 1/CP.21, Para 53, and adding to Decision 9/CMA.3;
  - Finance under the NCQG must be predictable based on an operational climate finance definition of the SCF and the best available science, consider accumulated annual pledges, and be flexible and accessible taking into account countries and vulnerable community's needs. Grants-based and highly concessional public finance is crucial to address the needs.
  - Private sources, including innovative sources of finance (e.g., maritime, aviation, wealth and progressive pollution levies), need to be considered. The NCQG must include subgoals for Adaptation, L&D and Mitigation. The quality of these finance flows should be new and additional, transparent to avoid misallocation.
  - Parties must finalise ambitious climate finance objectives by COP29, building on the forgoing TEDs according to Decision 1/CP.21, Para. 53, and 9/CMA.3.
- Incorporate the principles of intergenerational equity in climate finance; Appreciating Decision 1/CP.27, Para 59, which recognizes the important role of children and youth and the importance of intergenerational equity;
  - Parties must ensure that climate finance amplifies youth engagement in the acceleration of climate action by substantially increasing provision and enhancing access to finance, ensuring their measurable contributions can be integrated in NDCs, NAPs and NBSAPs, and foster inclusive policies and targeted capacity-building.

## **2. Climate Justice and Human Rights**

- Recognise that ensuring intergenerational climate justice requires meeting the 1.5°C guardrail; Emphasising Decision 1/CP.27, Para 7 and Decision 21/CP.27, Para 7, that recognises the critical differences between the 1.5°C and 2°C targets;
  - Parties must explicitly recognise that further State inaction or insufficient action to preserve the planet for current and future generations by failing to meet the 1.5°C guardrail violates human rights and the principles of intergenerational climate justice
- Work collaboratively and equitably with children and youth in decision making processes; Affirming Decision 1/CP.27, Para 59 that explicitly recognises the role of children and youth as agents of change;
  - Parties must create Youth Advisory Boards at the local and national level and implement Youth Climate Delegate programmes for their national delegations. Parties must also recognise and amplify children and youth as key mobilisers of climate action by allocating dedicated funds to youth-led climate justice projects and climate litigation involving youth.

## **Background**

The Pre COP 28 meeting, organized by Oxfam in Africa (OIA) and its partners, aimed to establish a unified position for COP 28. Attended by diverse stakeholders such as The Africa Group of Negotiators (AGN), Least Developed Countries (LDC) representatives, government negotiators, civil society organizations, youth networks, and communities, the gathering focused on sharing perspectives and recommendations for the COP28 agenda and beyond. With the theme "Bringing together African voices ahead of the climate conference," OIA sought to collaborate with AGN, align messages, and influence negotiators to prioritize the needs of climate-vulnerable populations in Africa. Deliberations covered continental progress on climate goals, the importance of a collective voice for COP 28, and reflections on loss and damage, emphasizing an inclusive approach to climate action.

## **Statement**

- This statement acknowledges that climate change is a critical issue for Africa, exacerbating challenges like poverty and hunger.
- It highlights the disproportionate impact of climate change on developing countries, emphasizing the inequity in establishing a loss and damage fund.
- The urgency of climate justice is underscored by the imminent famine threat for millions in East Africa and extreme hunger in the Sahel.
- Concerns about a projected six-degree Celsius temperature rise by 2050 and its severe effects on food security and conflict are noted.
- The link between climate change and resource-driven conflicts, affecting peace and security, is recognized.
- Barriers to climate change control efforts in Africa, including fund diversion and capacity constraints, are regretted.
- The need for a policy shift towards community-focused solutions is stressed,
- The dissatisfaction with the outcomes of the transitional committee's meeting is expressed.
- Despite challenges, the statement appreciates country-led initiatives and emphasizes the necessity of a unified African voice for achieving climate justice.

## **Position for COP 28**

1. Support the AGN Statement of Technical Dialogue 1.3 of 10th June 2023 on Adaptation and Loss & Damage.

- 1.1 Collectively, there is increasing ambition in plans and commitments for adaptation, but there also remains an implementation gap, in that plans are implemented inadequately, unevenly, and incrementally.
- 1.2 When adaptation is informed and driven by local contexts and priorities, both the adequacy and the effectiveness of adaptation action and support can be enhanced and can promote transformational adaptation.
- 1.3 Support for adaptation and funding arrangements for averting, minimizing, and addressing loss and damage can be rapidly scaled up from expanded and innovative sources, and financial flows can be aligned with climate-resilient development to meet needs in different contexts.
- 1.4 With increase of evidences from the best available science including IPCC and WMO, climate change impacts change is pushing our nations communities to limits of adaptation and compromising our development gain. More than before it has become vital to see enhanced response to addressing loss and damage based on the agreed principles of the Convention.
2. Support the AGN Statement from the Technical Dialogue 1.3 of 9th June 2023 on Finance.
  - 2.1 Creating a clear burden sharing mechanism between developed countries in relation to their provision of financial support.
  - 2.2 Clear linkages between our temperature goal, needs assessment and the scale of finance to be provided by developed countries so we can avoid low ambition finance that would lead to limited delivery from developing countries.
  - 2.3 Four concrete areas based on the needs-based approach needs to be taken and this entails addressing four areas critical for equity considerations covering the quantum of finance:
    - 2.3.1 The development context.
    - 2.3.2 Reforms to global finance systems.
    - 2.3.3 Indispensability of international cooperation.
    - 2.3.4 Trust building for meaningful outcomes of the process.
  - 2.4 Increased flows of finance from the Multilateral Development Banks (MDB) and Direct foreign Investments (DFI) systems are to be multiplied by three within five years, from US\$60 billion to US\$180 billion, including through increased liquidity backed by Special Drawing Rights.
  - 2.5 Bilateral official development assistance (ODA) for climate should be doubled by 2025 from its 2019 level, from US\$30 billion to US\$60 billion, building on the G7 Carbis Bay commitments and the Bridgetown Initiative.
  - 2.6 In addressing areas that were deemed priority by developing countries, i.e., adaptation and loss & damage, target increasing adaptation finance to US\$200-250bn by 2030 and loss & damage finance to US\$200-400bn.
  - 2.7 Curbing illicit flow of funds through promotion of transparency in the global financial system, automatic exchange of tax (AEI), double tax avoidance agreement (DTAA) and policies to curtail Illicit financial outflows from Africa.

2.8 Disinvesting from existing fossil fuels and not financing new operations in the global South without taking corresponding actions to end fossil fuels in the global North.

2.9 Ensuring additionality and avoiding of double counting and rebranding of existing funding for development, humanitarian support and ODAs as climate finance.

Having an agreed definition on climate finance and Article 2.1.c will prevent this kind of greenwashing.

### **Further recommendations**

We call of the AGN to increase these nuances:

- Varied demographic groups experience distinct effects, underscoring the importance of recognizing the differential impacts based on gender and marginalization.
- Deliberate discussions on debt are imperative as this is an urgent and contemporary African problem.
- Enhance the execution of post-COP initiatives to fortify the impact of COPs and sustainability.
- Establish a formal and cohesive connection between the Africa Summit and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties (COPs).
- Bilateral official development assistance (ODA) for Humanitarian Work, which is the result of climate change needs to be predictable.