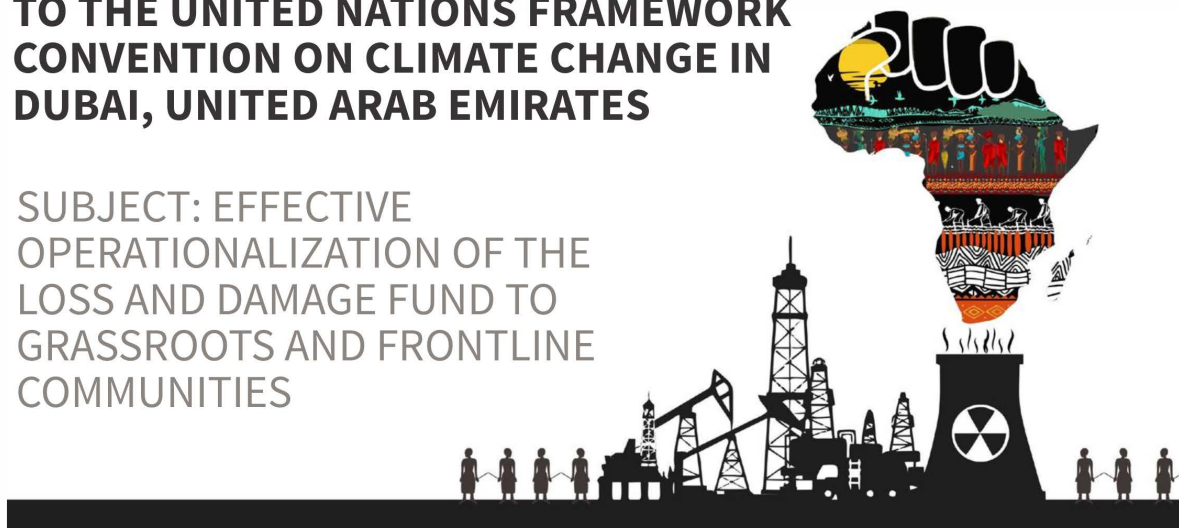


JOINT POSITION PAPER FROM CLIMATE JUSTICE CSOs IN AFRICA, TO GOVERNMENTS OF AFRICA COUNTRIES ATTENDING THE 28TH CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE IN DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

SUBJECT: EFFECTIVE
OPERATIONALIZATION OF THE
LOSS AND DAMAGE FUND TO
GRASSROOTS AND FRONTLINE
COMMUNITIES



BACKGROUND

Despite the persistent call for loss and damage as a subject of grave importance to Africa and the Global South, its delayed implementation is causing further crises for the people who contribute so little to climate change. Nowhere in Africa is immune to climate change devastations, from earthquakes in Morocco¹, flooding in South Africa², deforestation in Kenya³ and ocean acidification in countries along the coastline⁴, the continent might be on the brink of collapse.

The 2022 State of the Climate in Africa report revealed that over the last decade, the rate of temperature increase in Africa has accelerated, often being accompanied by weather- and climate-related hazards, yet Loss and Damage

funds agreed upon have remained only as promised on the paper. ⁵Given Africa's high exposure, fragility and low adaptive capacity, the effects of climate change are expected to be felt more severely. People's health, peace, prosperity, infrastructure, and other economic activities across many sectors in Africa are exposed to significant risks associated with climate change.⁶

For Africa to effectively respond beyond emergency support and false aid, loss and damage must be recognized as an essential tool for negotiation to reverse the triggers of climate change. Compensation for environmental infractions must cover both social and economic impacts such as damaged infrastructure and declining agricultural output, community

¹ <https://reliefweb.int/disaster/eq-2023-000166-mar>

² <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-66932959>

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<https://www.globalforestwatch.org/dashboards/country/KEN/>

⁴ <https://www.iaea.org/topics/climate-change/the-iaea-and-cop/cop27/ocean-acidification-adaptation-and-resilience-in-africa>

⁵ <https://public.wmo.int/en/our-mandate/climate/wmo-statement-state-of-global-climate/Africa-2022>

⁶ Africa suffers disproportionately from climate change | World Meteorological Organization (wmo.int)

displacement, biodiversity loss, cultural erosion, and everything in between.

As world leaders gather for yet another climate conference, It will only be strategic for the governments of the continent to project a harmonized position and engage the discussions speaking a ‘common language’ premised on effective climate and equitable operationalization of the Loss and Damage financing facility. This language should not fall short of placing a stronger emphasis on just and equitable short-term and effective climate policies and actions as shall be seen below from our aggregated demands.

OBSERVATIONS

Ranging from climate devastation, fading resilience, absence of government policies and corporate capture, people in frontline communities in Africa seem to have exhausted their coping or adaptive capacities. What continues to widen is the impact between people and policies that prioritize profit over and above people and nature.⁷

As African civil society organizations whose mandate is to promote climate justice through agroecology, corporate accountability⁸, and women and gender movements among others, we acknowledge the severity of these concerns and intend to leverage the 28th Conference of the Parties to yet again harmonize the demands as shared by frontline communities and prevail on responsible state

institutions to act in the best interest of the vulnerable. As regional advocates for climate justice, we have made the following observations over the years and think it is high time-critical actions are taken by African governments and the parties involved to address them:

1. Global warming is increasing at an exponential rate globally and Africa bears the biggest brunt as evidenced by the quantum of devastations observed in the continent annually.⁹
2. “Big Polluters are advancing a “net zero” climate agenda to evade liabilities and delay real and relatable action.”¹⁰
3. The most vulnerable segments in our societies are women and girls.¹¹
4. Global North countries are falling inexcusably short of their fair shares in climate action, including the delivery of their climate finance obligations but will rather advance corporate interests.¹²
5. The exposed attempts of the United States and its allies to house the Loss and Damage financing facility under the World Bank¹³ as a tool for control and influence over the natural beneficiaries is a further assault on the highly vulnerable.

⁷ https://corporateaccountability.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/The-Big-Con_EN.pdf Pg 11

⁸ <https://thepeopletribunal.org/>

⁹ <https://www.afdb.org/en/cop25/climate-change-africa>

¹⁰ https://corporateaccountability.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/The-Big-Con_EN.pdf

¹¹ <https://www.un.org/en/chronicle/article/women-in-shadow-climate->

[change#:~:text=Women%20are%20increasingly%20being%20seen,dependent%20on%20threatened%20natural%20resources.](#)

¹² <https://climatenetwork.org/2023/10/05/rich-nations-fail-to-scale-up-finance-at-green-climate-fund-pledging-summit/>

¹³ <https://www.climatechangenews.com/2023/10/20/world-bank-controversy-sends-loss-and-damage-talks-into-overtime/>

6. Genetically modified agricultural produce have found their way into the African market due to weak agricultural policies, weather unpredictability, ignorance and variations with damning consequences on public health, lives and source of livelihood.
7. Though Africa has yet another opportunity at COP28 to reject proposed false solutions under Articles 6.2 and 6.4, the struggling continent will have to contend with corporations that care less about the people.¹⁴
8. Africa has become a sacrificial zone where there is absolute disregard for nature and man but emphasis is given to false solutions like market mechanisms, REDD+ programs, etc as embedded in many of our NDC reports, to our detriment.¹⁵
9. African countries, along with less industrialized and poorer countries, are allowed to channel much of their resources to adaptation programs. In addition, the wealthier and more industrialized countries should commit to providing funding to support the implementation of national adaptation and mitigation plans in African countries.
10. African countries come out with actionable measures to limit greenhouse gas emissions in line with the timescales prescribed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) to prevent the climate emergency from spiraling out of control and resulting in irreversible anthropogenic interference with the climate system.

11. Africa mainstreams climate knowledge into formal education to raise climate change awareness for sustained mitigation and adaptation benefits and create adaptation policies or reviews where in existence to accommodate peculiar concerns and challenges.

OUR KEY DEMANDS

To ensure that the Loss and Damage Finance Facility is effectively operationalized, the following strategies were agreed on:

1. **Allocate a significant portion of the fund:** That monies be voted specifically for grassroots communities. This can be done by setting aside a dedicated fund or creating specific funding windows within the larger loss and damage facility. This ensures that resources directly reach the communities most vulnerable to climate change impacts.
2. **Participatory Approach:** Adopt a participatory approach that involves grassroots communities in the decision-making process. Engage local communities, civil society organizations, and community-based organizations in the design, implementation, and monitoring of projects supported by the fund. This ensures that the projects are aligned with the needs and priorities of the communities.
3. **Simplified Application and Reporting Processes:** Streamline the application and reporting processes to make them accessible and user-friendly for grassroots organizations. Simplified procedures reduce administrative

¹⁴ <https://mo.ibrahim.foundation/news/2023/africa-expects-increased-and-immediate-action-cop28>

¹⁵ <https://globalforestcoalition.org/forest-cover-68/>

burdens and make it easier for grassroots communities to access and utilize the funds effectively.

4. **Capacity Building and Technical Support:** Provide capacity building and technical support to grassroots organizations. This includes training on project design, proposal writing, financial management, and monitoring and evaluation. Enhancing the capacity of grassroots communities enables them to effectively access and utilize the funds, ensuring sustainable and impactful projects.
5. **Local Partnerships:** Foster partnerships with local organizations and networks that have established relationships and trust within grassroots communities. Collaborating with local partners helps in identifying community needs, reaching the most vulnerable groups, and ensuring effective implementation and monitoring of projects.
6. **Tailored Approaches:** Recognize the diversity and specific needs of different grassroots communities. Implement context-specific approaches that take into account local cultures, traditions, and knowledge systems. This ensures that projects are culturally appropriate and have a higher chance of success and community ownership.
7. **Communication and Awareness:** Conduct targeted communication and awareness campaigns to inform grassroots communities about the availability of the fund, its objectives, and the application process. Utilize local languages, community radio, and other relevant channels to reach out to the communities effectively.
8. **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Establish robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to assess the impact and

effectiveness of projects funded by the loss and damage fund. Regular monitoring helps identify challenges, learn from experiences, and adapt strategies to improve outcomes.

9. **Long-term Support:** Provide sustained support to grassroots communities beyond project implementation. This can include post-project support, mentorship, and networking opportunities to ensure the long-term sustainability of initiatives and to build resilience in the face of climate change impacts.

By employing these strategies, the loss and damage fund can effectively reach grassroots communities, address specific needs, and empower them to cope with and adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change.

ENDNOTES

- ¹ <https://reliefweb.int/disaster/eq-2023-000166-mar>
- ² <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-66932959>
- ³ <https://www.globalforestwatch.org/dashboards/country/KEN/>
- ⁴ <https://www.iaea.org/topics/climate-change/the-iaea-and-cop27/ocean-acidification-adaptation-and-resilience-in-africa>
- ⁵ <https://public.wmo.int/en/our-mandate/climate/wmo-statement-state-of-global-climate/Africa-2022>
- ⁶ Africa suffers disproportionately from climate change | World Meteorological Organization (wmo.int)
- ⁷ https://corporateaccountability.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/The-Big-Con_EN.pdf Pg 11
- ⁸ <https://thepeopletribunal.org/>
- ⁹ <https://www.afdb.org/en/cop25/climate-change-africa>
- ¹⁰ https://corporateaccountability.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/The-Big-Con_EN.pdf
- ¹¹ <https://www.un.org/en/chronicle/article/womenin-shadow-climate-change#:~:text=Women%20are%20increasingly%20being%20seen,dependent%20on%20threatened%20natural%20resources.>
- ¹² <https://climatenetwork.org/2023/10/05/rich-nations-fail-to-scale-up-finance-at-green-climate-fund-pledging-summit/>
- ¹³ <https://www.climatechangenews.com/2023/10/20/world-bank-controversy-sends-loss-and-damage-talks-into-overtime/>
- ¹⁴ <https://mo.ibrahim.foundation/news/2023/africa-expects-increased-and-immediate-action-cop28>
- ¹⁵ <https://globalforestcoalition.org/forest-cover-68/>