



Africa
Can't
Wait

INTERFAITH VOICES FOR
JUST CLIMATE ACTION

Petition for the Africa Interfaith Climate Campaign Towards COP32

AFRICA CAN'T WAIT: A PETITION FOR JUST AND RIGHTS-CENTRED CLIMATE ACTION IMPLEMENTATION

To:

African Heads of State and Government, African Union Institutions, UNFCCC Parties, Climate Finance Institutions, Development Partners, and Global Leaders Convening Towards COP32 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Our Call

We, the undersigned faith leaders, faith communities, civil society organisations, youth movements, traditional leaders, women leaders, academics, private sector actors, and citizens of Africa and the world, unite in a shared call for **just and rights-centred implementation of climate commitments**.

As COP32 approaches, once again to be held on African soil, we recognize that the world has made numerous climate commitments. However, for millions of people across Africa, these commitments remain largely unrealized. Communities continue to face severe droughts, floods, loss of livelihoods, displacement, hunger, and escalating climate-related disasters. African countries are already spending 4-10% of GDP annually on climate response.

The challenge before us is no longer a lack of promises. It is a lack of implementation.

We Believe

Climate justice demands that implementation of climate agreements and commitments must be:

1. Equitable

Those least responsible for the climate crisis must not bear its greatest burdens. Climate policies, investments, and actions must prioritize vulnerable communities and countries already experiencing devastating climate impacts.

2. Locally Led

Communities, local institutions, indigenous peoples, women, youth, and faith actors must be empowered to shape, implement, and monitor climate solutions that affect their lives.

3. Rights-Centred

Climate action must uphold human dignity and protect the rights of affected communities, ensuring meaningful participation, transparency, accountability, and social inclusion.

4. Inclusive

Effective climate action requires collaboration among governments, faith communities, civil society, the private sector, traditional leaders, and local communities as equal partners.

Our Demands

Ahead of COP32, we call upon governments, international institutions, climate funds, and development partners to:

1. Deliver on Climate Finance Commitments

- Increase the scale, accessibility, and predictability of climate finance for African countries.
- Simplify access to climate financing for local actors.
- Recognize faith-based and community-led institutions as credible delivery partners for climate finance.

2. Strengthen Adaptation and Resilience

- Prioritize investments in locally led adaptation.
- Support communities facing drought, floods, food insecurity, and climate-induced displacement.
- Ensure adequate support for addressing Loss and Damage.

3. Advance a Just Transition

- Accelerate renewable energy access across Africa.
- Invest in clean cooking technologies and decentralized energy systems.
- Ensure that climate transitions create decent jobs and leave no one behind.

4. Protect Nature and Communities

- Promote rights-based restoration of forests, wetlands, mangroves, and ecosystems.
- Respect indigenous knowledge and community stewardship of natural resources.
- Prevent environmental exploitation that undermines local livelihoods and rights.

5. Ensure Accountability

- Establish transparent systems to track climate commitments and implementation.
- Include civil society, faith actors, women, youth, and indigenous communities in monitoring progress.
- Report publicly on actions taken and results achieved.

Our Commitment

As faith communities and partners, we commit to:

- Mobilizing our networks for climate justice.
- Raising awareness through advocacy, education, and storytelling.
- Promoting environmental stewardship rooted in faith values and ethical responsibility.
- Showcasing successful community-led climate solutions across Africa.
- Holding leaders accountable for the promises made to vulnerable communities.

The Time is Now

Africa is not merely a victim of climate change. Africa is a source of solutions, resilience, innovation, and hope.

As the continent prepares to host COP32, we call upon leaders to move beyond declarations and negotiations toward meaningful, measurable, and just implementation.

Africa cannot wait. Communities cannot wait. The planet cannot wait.

Let COP32 be remembered as the moment when climate commitments became climate action.

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