



The African Women's  
Development and  
Communication Network

# **COP26 must Engage Women and Girls to Save the Earth!**

**A Communique' by Pan-African  
Feminists to COP26**

31st October 2021



**W**e, pan-African feminists speaking out for Africa's women and girls ahead of the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26), want unequivocally inclusive climate actions on the needs and priorities of Africa's women and girls to ensure climate justice.

We, pan-African feminists, from the world's second largest and second most populous continent reiterate the urgency for a more comprehensive COP26 where Africa's population of 1.3 billion people is equally prioritized. Even more specifically is Africa's most vulnerable community of women and children who largely continue to suffer the brunt of climate change.

**Unless COP26 focusses on Africa's women & children, the pursuit for Climate Justice will remain a mirage.**

As Africa's women and children, we categorically direct this statement to global heads of state, policy makers and implementers, researchers and civil society meeting in Glasgow without fear of contradiction; *there can never be Climate Justice without gender justice; gender equality and women's rights must be the heart of COP26.*

For the last twenty-six years, global efforts to address climate change have been somewhat lethargic towards Africa's inclusive participation, special needs and special circumstances and more specifically, towards Africa's women and girls.

We the pan-African feminists, addressing the sitting COP26 today declare these global deliberations and subsequent ones to follow as null and void UNLESS the voices and needs of Africa and Africa's women and girls are taken into serious and inclusive consideration.

The four COP26 goals fall right into the thrust of the survival of Africa's women and girls as well as the larger African population. It will therefore be foolhardy for this global conference to entirely ignore this fact.

*African women and girls want real climate solutions in an inclusive and just COP26. They not only want increased numbers of their participation, they demand inclusion on the higher echelons of decision-making within the negotiations and centering demands and aspirations of continent because when it comes to climate action, Africa matters a great deal!*

**Therefore, we, the pan-African feminists hereby proclaim to the unfolding COP26 that:-**

- 1. Greater proactive investments on renewable energies and mitigation options must be a priority focus towards Africa if "Real Zero Emissions" is to be achieved.**

The success of this real-zero emissions aspiration can only be achieved if the polluters phase out all fossil fuels, cut their emission to real zero and direct investments towards Africa to curtail deforestation and to increase the consumption and use of renewable energies. Investments in mitigation must translate to strengthening the capacities of women of Africa who carry the burden of climate injustice.

We, pan-African feminists therefore declare that it is not only prudent but certainly wise to invest on Africa's women for the real-zero emissions goal to be realized.



**2. Inclusive unity of purpose in COP26 will go a long way in strengthening global solidarity against the devastations of climate change and increase the longevity of an earth that is severely under threat.**

Inclusive unity must ensure that ALL the voices, in all their diversities, are heard and their pleas prioritized. This is the time when the world fully acknowledges and embraces the unity in the diversity of humankind. In this regard, marginalized voices such as the voices of women and girls in all their diversities must be amplified and strengthened in their resolve for a safe and secure future.

Countries in their collectiveness, must FINANCE and implement the Gender Action Plan (GAP) in full and consistently report on the progress.

**3. Africa's rich, diverse and expansive indigenous eco-system must be jealously guarded and preserved for humanity's posterity.**

The knowledge hubs and skills custodians of this eco-system are mostly African women. We the pan-African feminists have been born, weaned and bred under the rich diversity of traditional knowledge and skills of preserving and nourishing planet earth – a crucial aspect to be incorporated in climate action on protecting communities and natural habitats.

As the cradle of humanity, Africa's rich and diverse indigenous knowledge and eco-system holds vast untapped remedies to today's climate challenges that ought not to be ignored or devaluated in favor of whitewashed false narrative and solutions.

We, pan-African feminists therefore urge that COP26 must focus on INVESTING on African women and girls' knowledge, skills and capacities towards climate justice.

**4. Developed countries MUST increase climate financing to Africa and especially to Africa's women and girls who suffer the weight of this climate devastation.**

COP26 must be substantive in compelling developed countries to deliver on their promise to mobilize at least *\$100 Billion in Climate Finance per year and close adaptation gap*. Climate financing in Africa will only be felt if it trickles directly to the access of women under whose direct responsibility the burden falls. This must go hand-in-hand with clearly outlined gender-responsive financial tracking mechanisms that will ensure the finances reach the women. *The money must trickle down to African women and girls!*

**It is a fact that Africa is suffering because of the carbon emissions and carbon prints by big emitters, colonialists, and climate hypocrites.**

**5. COP26 must be the architect of compressive mechanism to address loss and damage** with new and additional financial commitment with gender conscious to address realities of the devastation of the ravaging impact of climate crisis.

We, pan-African feminists, knowing only too well the importance of the political understanding of data now append our affirmation to this statement.

We want to be counted so we can be accounted for in the global pursuit for cleaner sustainable climate action.

We declare our uttermost allegiance to the demands of this Communique and urge that the deliberations of the COP26 incorporate these important issues in its outcomes and our African governments and negotiators to champion climate justice agenda for Africa women and the continent. ■





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