



COP29
Baku
Azerbaijan

YANAYI HAKI AFRIQYA (CLIMATE JUSTICE AFRICA)

DEMANDS FOR COP29

Baku, November 2024

PREAMBLE

The Climate Justice Africa (Yanayi Haki Afriqya) organization advocates for a just and equitable response to the escalating climate crisis, particularly as it disproportionately affects African countries and the Global South. Vulnerable communities are increasingly exposed to extreme weather events, rising temperatures, and loss of biodiversity, resulting in widespread impacts on livelihoods, health, and well-being. Yanayi Haki Afriqya recognizes the critical need for equitable climate solutions, with a focus on providing justice for those most affected by the climate crisis, including women, youth, and indigenous groups.

At COP29, we are presenting demands that emphasize urgent action on loss and damage, climate finance, adaptation, mitigation, Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), gender and climate justice, and Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE). These demands reflect the voices of African communities and seek to ensure that the most vulnerable populations, including women and youth, are empowered to participate meaningfully in climate action processes. We call upon global leaders to prioritize Africa's unique challenges and support transformative solutions that address climate impacts equitably.

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Abbreviations

COP: Conference of the Parties

NDCs: Nationally Determined Contributions

ACE: Action for Climate Empowerment

CMA: Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement

WIM: Warsaw International Mechanism

NCQG: New Collective Quantified Goal

CBIT: Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency

UNFCCC: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change



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Introduction

The escalating climate crisis disproportionately affects the African continent and the Global South. Extreme weather events, rising temperatures, and biodiversity loss are increasingly threatening the

livelihoods and survival of vulnerable communities. As Yanayi Haki Afriqiya (Climate Justice Africa (YHA/CJA)), we call upon global leaders at COP29 to prioritize equitable solutions grounded in justice, ensuring that climate finance and adaptation efforts address the needs of those on the frontlines. As a climate justice organisation we have our key demands for COP29 on Loss and Damage, Climate Finance, Adaptation, Mitigation, NDCs, ACE, Gender and climate justice which are as follows;

Loss and Damage

- Recalling Decision 1/CMA.4 and Decision 2/CMA.4, which established and operationalized the Loss and Damage Fund, respectively, we demand the following:
 - The Loss and Damage Fund must be fully operationalized and adequately funded to address the urgent needs of vulnerable African communities.
 - A clear and equitable allocation mechanism should be established to ensure that funds reach the most vulnerable regions and communities in Africa.
 - African countries must have full control over the design and implementation of loss and damage initiatives, in line with the principle of country-driven processes.
- Recalling Decision 2/CP.19 (establishing the Warsaw International Mechanism), the following demands are crucial for advancing the implementation of effective, inclusive, and timely solutions in Africa:
 - a. African countries should designate Loss and Damage coordinators to assess technical needs, coordinate country-specific initiatives, and ensure alignment with national strategies, following the principle of country-driven processes outlined in the Paris Agreement.
 - b. In line with Decision 1/CP.25, which calls for broader stakeholder engagement, all documentation and communications on loss and damage must be translated into local languages. This will ensure inclusivity, enabling vulnerable communities to fully engage in decision-making processes.
 - c. In accordance with the establishment of the Loss and Damage Fund under Decision 1/CMA.4, it is essential that funding be disbursed by 2025 to address immediate climate impacts on communities. Transparent and expedited financial processes should be set up to ensure rapid relief and recovery.
 - d. Recognizing the increasing displacement and trauma from climate-related events and Decision 2/COP.22, which recognizes non-economic losses, to ensure that the mental health and social wellbeing of affected populations are prioritized in loss and damage frameworks, African countries should establish psychological and social support mechanisms.

Climate Finance

- Recalling Decision 1/CMA.3 and Decision 2/CMA.3, which emphasized the need to enhance the delivery of climate finance to developing countries and mobilize private sector finance, respectively, we demand the following:
 - African countries must receive grant-based climate finance to address loss and damage, avoiding debt traps and ensuring sustainable development.
 - The new NCQG framework must prioritize non-debt-inducing mechanisms to alleviate the financial burdens of African countries.
 - Climate finance must be allocated based on need and vulnerability, with a focus on supporting the most affected African countries.
- Recalling Decision 1/CP.16, which established the Green Climate Fund, it is imperative that African countries receive grant-based climate finance to address Loss and Damage.
- Recalling Decision 12/CMA.1, which established the modalities for accessing financial resources for climate adaptation, African countries must have simplified access to the Loss and Damage Fund established under Decision 1/CMA.4. This fund should be tailored to address specific local challenges, and application processes streamlined to avoid bureaucratic delays. Developing nations, particularly in Africa, must be able to rapidly respond to climate impacts, consistent with country-driven principles outlined in the Paris Agreement.
- Building on the discussions from COP26, climate finance must be clearly defined to exclude non-concessional loans and private investments that exacerbate the debt burdens of developing countries. Under the NCQG, African nations must ensure that the definition of climate finance reflects true adaptation and mitigation efforts. Finance should contribute to resilience-building without worsening existing debt challenges. Decision 1/CP.26 stresses that African countries' financial needs must be recognized, with finance delivered equitably and transparently, focusing on enhancing resilience rather than creating new debt.

Adaptation

- Recalling Decision 1/CMA.3 and Decision 2/CMA.3, which emphasized the need to enhance adaptation finance flows and prioritize ecosystem-based adaptation, respectively, we demand the following:
 - Developed countries must significantly increase their contributions to adaptation finance to meet the urgent needs of African nations.
 - African countries must have simplified access to adaptation funds, with streamlined application processes and technical support.
 - African countries must be empowered to develop and implement their own national adaptation plans, tailored to their specific needs and priorities.
- In line with Decision 1/CP.21 (Paris Agreement), developed countries must address the adaptation financing gap, ensuring that African nations receive the support needed to meet both immediate and long-term adaptation goals.
- Decision 5/CMA.3 highlights the importance of closing the financing gap to meet the urgent adaptation needs of vulnerable countries. Therefore, it is essential that developed nations significantly increase adaptation finance to support African countries' resilience against escalating climate impacts.
- Recalling Decision 1/CMP.3, which established the Adaptation Fund under the Kyoto Protocol, the fund must be reinforced to ensure that more projects in Africa are financed. The fund must prioritize addressing Africa's urgent adaptation needs, consistent with the Paris Agreement's goal to enhance resilience in developing nations.
- Furthermore, Decision 13/CMA.1 calls for enhanced support to the Adaptation Fund to bolster Africa's capacity-building efforts, disaster risk reduction, and ecosystem-based adaptation strategies.

Nationally-Determined Contributions (NDCs)

- Recalling Decision 1/CMA.3 (COP27) and Decision 2/CMA.3 (COP28), which emphasized the need to enhance the ambition and transparency of NDCs, we demand the following:
 - African countries must submit ambitious NDCs that align with the 1.5°C temperature limit and address the specific vulnerabilities of the continent.
 - Developed countries must provide adequate financial support to enable African countries to achieve their NDC targets.
 - NDCs must explicitly address loss and damage, ensuring that vulnerable communities receive the necessary support.

- Building on decisions related to loss and damage and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), particularly Decision 1/CP.21 and the guidance from the Katowice Climate Package, the following demand addresses the need for transparent and actionable financial planning in African nations' NDCs:
 - African nations' third-generation NDCs must explicitly outline the financial requirements necessary to achieve conditional targets, with a significant emphasis on loss and damage. This demand aligns with Decision 1/CMA.3, which encourages Parties to enhance the clarity and transparency of their NDCs. By incorporating detailed financial assessments, including the costs associated with addressing loss and damage, African countries can better communicate their needs to the international community. This transparency is crucial for mobilizing adequate support and ensuring that NDCs are not merely aspirational but backed by a concrete financial framework that acknowledges the unique challenges posed by climate impacts on the continent. Additionally, this aligns with Decision 2/CMA.2, which emphasizes the importance of integrating loss and damage considerations into national climate action plans, ultimately fostering a more comprehensive approach to climate resilience and adaptation.

Mitigation

- Recalling Decision 1/CMA.3 and Decision 2/CMA.3, which called for accelerating the phase-out of fossil fuels and enhancing climate ambition through NDCs, respectively, we demand the following:
 - Developed countries must provide robust support for African economies to transition to renewable energy sources, ensuring a just and equitable transition.
 - Developed countries must facilitate the transfer of clean technologies to African nations, enabling them to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.
 - African countries must receive adequate capacity building support to implement mitigation measures and develop sustainable energy systems.
- Recalling Decisions 1/CP.21 and 4/CMA.1, the following demand emphasizes the necessity for a collaborative approach in transitioning from fossil fuels:
 - Developed and developing nations must collaboratively establish a just and equitable transition plan from fossil fuels, ensuring robust support for African economies transitioning to renewable energy. This demand aligns with the principles of the Paris Agreement, particularly Article 2.1(a), which emphasizes the need for efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while considering equity and the need for sustainable development.
 - Moreover, it echoes the sentiments expressed in Decision 4/CMA.1, which calls for Parties to enhance cooperation and support for countries vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.

Such a transition plan should prioritize technology transfer, capacity building, and financial assistance tailored to the unique contexts of African nations, enabling them to move towards sustainable energy solutions without compromising economic growth. This approach ensures that all countries can participate equitably in global efforts to mitigate climate change, supporting a fair distribution of responsibilities and resources in line with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE)

- Recalling Decision 1/CMA.3 and Decision 2/CMA.3, which emphasized the need to enhance the participation of youth, women, and indigenous communities in climate decision-making and support the implementation of ACE initiatives, respectively, we demand the following:

- Youth, women, and indigenous communities in Africa must be meaningfully involved in climate decision-making processes.
- African countries must receive adequate capacity building support to empower these underrepresented groups and enhance their participation in climate action.
- Dedicated financial resources must be allocated to support ACE initiatives, ensuring that vulnerable communities have the necessary tools and resources to participate effectively.

- Recalling Decisions 1/CP.21 and 2/CP.23, the following demand highlights the essential role of inclusivity in climate decision-making:

- Recalling Decision 1/CP.21, International support must be prioritized to ensure the meaningful involvement of youth, women, and indigenous communities from Africa in climate decision-making processes.
- Furthermore, it echoes the commitments made in Decision 2/CP.23, which calls for enhancing the capacity of underrepresented groups to actively participate in climate governance. By providing targeted support—such as capacity-building initiatives, funding, and access to information—governments and organizations can empower these communities to contribute their unique perspectives and knowledge.

Gender and Climate Justice

- **Recalling** Decision 1/CMA.3 and Decision 2/CMA.3, which emphasized the need to enhance gender equality in climate action and address the specific needs of women and girls affected by climate change, respectively, we demand the following:

- All climate action initiatives must be gender-responsive, ensuring that women and girls are not disproportionately affected by climate change.
- Women must be empowered to lead climate action initiatives and participate meaningfully in climate decision-making processes.

- Dedicated financial resources must be allocated to support gender-responsive climate initiatives, ensuring that women and girls have the necessary resources to address climate challenges.
- Recalling Decisions 1/CP.21 and 3/CP.25, the following demand emphasizes the critical importance of recognizing women's contributions to climate action:
 - Recalling Decision 1/CP.21, the roles of women in addressing climate change must be acknowledged, with special consideration given to those affected by loss and damage.
 - It reflects the guidance provided in Decision 3/CP.25, which calls for enhancing the participation of women in climate negotiations and ensuring that their voices are heard in decision-making processes.
 - Recognizing and supporting women's roles is essential, particularly for those dealing with the impacts of climate-related loss and damage, as they often serve as key agents of change within their communities, providing targeted resources, training, and support, women should be empowered to lead initiatives that address climate challenges and foster resilience.

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