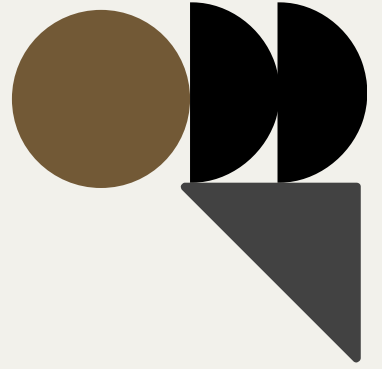




United Nations
Climate Change

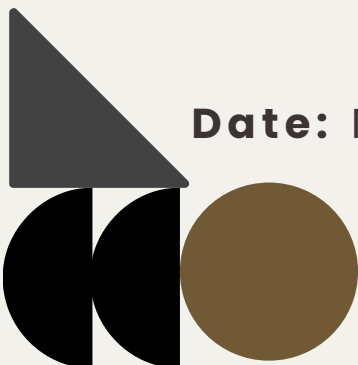
COP30
BRASIL
AMAZÔNIA
BELÉM 2025

YHA COP30 YOUTH POSITION PAPER

From Sub-Saharan Africa to the Amazon:
Youth Voices for Climate Justice and a Just
Future

Prepared by:
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Executive Summary

As COP30 convenes in Belém, Brazil, Africa's youth present a unified call for justice, ambition, and implementation. Africa contributes less than 4% of global emissions yet faces the most severe consequences of the climate crisis, floods, droughts, migration, and economic disruption. Drawing from six Yanayi Haki Afriqya Dialogues, this paper reflects the lived realities and policy perspectives of young Africans. It aligns with the Paris Agreement (2015), the Glasgow Climate Pact (2021), the Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan (2022), and outcomes of the Global Stocktake (2023). We call for a Global Just Transition toward 100% renewable energy, an ambitious New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) on climate finance, and full operationalization of the Loss and Damage Fund. COP30 must be remembered as the Implementation COP, where words translate into results.

Youth Vision for COP30

We envision an Africa powered by renewables, nourished by sustainable food systems, protected by biodiversity, and governed by equity and rights. Youth are not observers but implementers. Our vision mirrors the COP30 Action Agenda, structured around six pillars:

1. Just Energy Transition
2. Natural Resource Stewardship
3. Agricultural Transformation
4. Urban Resilience
5. Social Development
6. Enabling Innovations

Negotiation Track	Youth Position
Implementation of Agreements	Deliver fully on the Paris Agreement Articles 4 (mitigation), 7 (adaptation), and 9 (finance). COP30 must move from pledges to measurable implementation.
Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA)	Establish indicators reflecting African realities, water, food, and livelihoods, guided by Decision 2/CMA.5 and ensuring youth participation.
Climate Finance	Set an ambitious, needs-based NCQG as per Decisions 1/CP.21, 14/CMA.1, 9/CMA.3, 5/CMA.4, 8/CMA.5, and 1/CMA.6. Guarantee equitable access for developing countries.
Just Transition	Establish an International Mechanism for Just Transition (IMJT) to ensure fairness in the global shift to 100% renewables, consistent with paragraph 36 of the Glasgow Climate Pact.
Global Stocktake (GST)	Implement GST recommendations with youth in monitoring and review processes to keep the 1.5°C target within reach.

4. Thematic Priorities and Policy Asks

I. Transitioning Energy, Industry and Transport

Africa has 40% of global solar potential but 600 million people without power.

Youth Asks:

1. Adopt a clear timeline for phasing out fossil fuels consistent with 1.5°C.
2. Establish an International Mechanism for Just Transition under the UNFCCC.
3. Invest in youth-led renewable energy enterprises and sustainable transport.
4. Ensure mandatory processing of natural resources like Lithium within Africa and finished products exported globally.
5. Investment more on green jobs/strengthening African youth Capacity on renewable energy for industrial revolutions.

II. Stewarding Forests, Oceans and Biodiversity

The Congo Basin, absorbing 1.5 billion tonnes of CO₂ annually, is the planet's second lung.

Youth Asks:

1. Support Indigenous and community-led conservation through research and direct funding.
2. Integrate biodiversity protection and the blue economy into NDCs and adaptation plans.

III. Transforming Agriculture and Food Systems

Agriculture employs 60% of Africans yet faces yield losses of up to 20% by 2050.

Youth Asks:

1. Scale up agroecology and organic agriculture.
2. Secure land, credit, and digital tools for young women, youth, local farmers and small business holders.
3. Promote food sovereignty to reduce Africa's USD 35 billion annual food import bill.
4. Establish a binding pact/treaty to limit the exportation of GMOs to Africa
5. Promoting green jobs as an alternative to addressing African youth unemployment.
6. Subsidizing the prices of sustainable equipment to be affordable by local farmers through taxation-free policies

IV. Building Resilience for Cities, Infrastructure and Water

By 2050, 60% of Africans will live in cities exposed to floods and heatwaves.

Youth Asks:

1. Increase adaptation finance for urban resilience and green infrastructure.
2. Launch an African Cities Resilience Initiative under the UNFCCC.
3. Advance integrated water management and nature-based solutions such as wetlands and mangroves.
4. Funding innovative ideas in Africa for climate adaptation and mitigation.
5. Pay for loss and damage through Housing and Land Property (HLP) for the marginalized communities.

V. Climate Justice for Africa: Linking People, Rights and Resilience

Climate change threatens health, equality, and human dignity.

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6. Conclusion

The Yanayi Haki Afriqya Dialogues embody Africa's youth commitment to transform vision into reality. From the Sahel to the Amazon, we carry a message of solidarity and urgency:

“Protecting Africa is protecting the planet.”

COP30 must deliver justice through implementation, ambition, and accountability by ensuring that no community is left behind in the transition to a sustainable future.

Signatory

