

Africa Women and Gender Constituency and Partners

An illustration featuring three women at the bottom, smiling and raising their fists in a celebratory gesture. The woman on the left is wearing a brown hijab and a brown garment. The woman in the center is wearing a yellow top. The woman on the right is wearing a purple tank top. Behind them is a large, stylized globe with green landmasses and blue oceans. The globe is surrounded by a white circular border. Outside this border, there are decorative elements including yellow flowers, orange fruits, and green leaves. The background is a light beige color with abstract, hand-drawn patterns in white and yellow.

AFRICA CLIMATE SUMMIT 2:

8th to 10th September 2025

7th September Pre-session: From Ground to Global: African Women's Power in Climate Action

African Women are here, Again!

We, African women and girls, the custodians of the land, nurturers of life, keepers of our communities, and guardian of knowledge, have gathered here today, for the second time to assert our collective and resolute commitment to safeguard our continent, our countries, our communities, and our planet from the devastating impacts of the climate crisis. We are gathered here to demonstrate our power and leadership and claim our rightful place in decision-making processes.

Collectively, we refuse to be confined within colonial boundaries, and we are here as Africans to assert and embrace the ideals of Pan-Africanism. We stand together in our diverse identities, representing women from the hills and mountains to those from the savannah and islands, women from farming to pastoral communities, from government to civil society, and academics, encompassing the young, the old and those with differing abilities. We recognize that patriarchal social structures, exploitative economic models, and existing political structures, with their colonial legacies, disproportionately affect us, underscoring the urgent need for every voice to be heard and every struggle to be acknowledged and amplified. We are here to do just that.

In this space, on this day, we send a clear and resounding message to our African governments, the African Union, and their allied institutions: African women's voices should NEVER be an afterthought. We refuse to be tokenized, brought in to adorn panels, or utilized to fulfill inclusivity quotas. African women constitute the majority of the people on this continent; therefore, climate debates, discussions, decisions, and actions must be led by us, for us, and with

us, not dictated by corporations or so-called developed imperialist partners and their agencies. The systematic exclusion and marginalization of African women's voices and their agenda on their own land by their own institutions is unacceptable. We stand here, organized at the margins of this summit for the second time, to demonstrate our concerns and to hold the global North and climate polluters accountable. African women are watching them closely. The only role they should have in the Africa Climate Summit here in Addis is to commit to fulfilling their responsibilities, providing their fair share of grant financing, and refraining from promoting destructive market-based schemes in the name of climate solutions.

For those who still doubt the reality or severity of the climate crisis, we are here to share the stories of how it is affecting African women, our societies, our livelihoods, our well-being, and our economies today. It affects our health, our cultures, our heritage, and our traditions. The struggles of young women in small island communities, women small-scale farmers grappling with unpredictable weather patterns, women living with disabilities in the face of climate emergencies, or women residing in urban poor communities are stark testimonies of the impacts, losses, and damages experienced today, on this continent. The voices of these communities must be at the center of the climate summit agenda.

For those who assume that African women are mere helpless victims waiting to be rescued by white missionaries, we are here to assert and own our complex realities. Yes, we are among the most affected by the climate crisis, and yet, we are also the creators of real, sustainable, and gender-just climate solutions. Today, we amplify these solutions, from our knowledge of maintaining seed systems, biodiversity, and soil nutrients for regenerative urban farming to women-led renewable energy enterprises. African girls employ modern technologies to raise awareness about the climate crisis and promote recycling. We are equally here again, to offer well-crafted, evidence-based analyses and framing of the state of the climate crisis in Africa, accompanied by practical and ambitious policy solutions designed to address the climate crisis and its intersecting challenges.

As we gather here, our collective demands are clear:

To our African governments:

Commit to center African women's leadership in climate actions. Africa has the least representation of women in global climate change policy processes. African

governments must intentionally support the participation and engagement of women in all aspects of climate policy, from design to implementation and monitoring, and ensure that they are contextually applicable to their experiences and lived realities.

Commit to champion the adoption of a robust and ambitious Gender Action Plan at COP30 in Belém. Ensure that African Gender Negotiators are fully supported, resourced, and empowered to engage meaningfully and provide leadership in shaping and deciding the new Gender Action Plan that will guide gender-responsive climate action for the next nine years.

Stand firm and united in demanding delivery of climate finance in the form of grants and public funding, guided by the principles of collective but differentiated responsibilities (CBDR), filling up the Fund for Loss and Damage to cover economic and non economic losses and damages and a stronger commitment to replenish adaptation fund to scale and speed needed to support gender responsive adaptation programming in global majority countries and communities.

In Belém, continue to provide strong leadership in the Adaptation negotiations to ensure that the Global Goal on Adaptation is equipped with robust, measurable indicators that track real progress. These must include dedicated gender indicators to drive inclusive and gender-responsive adaptation planning, design, implementation, and monitoring. In parallel, work collaboratively with partners to advance and deliver a Just Transition Mechanism that upholds equity, justice, and resilience.

Champion African-led, gender-just climate solutions by supporting the ingenuity of African youth, women, and communities who are already delivering practical, affordable, and scalable responses to the climate crisis. Provide them with the resources and enabling policy environments that foster innovation, while safeguarding their knowledge systems and intellectual property rights. At the same time, firmly reject externally imposed technofixes that risk maladaptation and divert resources away from African priorities.

Reject false solutions on our land that are designed to create private profit and legitimize the lack of ambition in cutting emissions by the global north. Net zero is not real zero, and carbon markets and geoengineering are false solutions that harm our land and people.

Actively and systematically engage African citizens and communities in climate change awareness programs and climate actions to ensure community

ownership of climate actions, especially in adaptation, just transition, and disaster risk reduction efforts.

To the Global North and Polluters:

Cut your emissions by phasing out fossil fuels NOW.

Provide your fair share of grant and public financing, NOT loans and private market-based financing.

Step back from the colonial era mindset. Multilateral spaces must embrace the ideals of collective leadership and end the overt and covert dominance of the global north. African governments and other global south governments have the right to equal decision making power in the multilateral process.

We, African women, commit to stand in our power to free ourselves and our communities from the exploitation of existing economic and social systems that have contributed to the crises we are currently fighting. Let our voices be heard, and let our power be a beacon of hope for a sustainable and just future for all.



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