



African Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) Position Statement at SB62

Second Week of the Bonn Climate Change Conference - June 2025

**African People's Demands and Expectations for SB62 and
the Road to COP30**

Bonn, Germany - June 23, 2025

Parties must remain true to their commitments under the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities

As the second week of the 62nd sessions of the UNFCCC Subsidiary Bodies begin, African Civil Society Organisations—including grassroots movements, youth, women, Indigenous Peoples, faith communities, farmers, and frontline defenders—issue this statement to underscore our collective demands and concerns. We remind Parties, negotiators and observers that the success of SB62 must be measured by its responsiveness to the lived realities, vulnerabilities, and development priorities of African peoples, who continue to bear the brunt of a climate crisis they did not cause.

We reiterate that the climate emergency in Africa is a justice emergency Africa is facing a climate crisis of devastating proportions. Every year, climate impacts destroy homes, erase livelihoods, displace communities, and deepen cycles of poverty and inequality. According to the IPCC, Africa has already suffered annual losses of \$7 billion due to climate change between 2010 and 2019. Under a high-emissions scenario, this could rise to \$50 billion per year by 2040, wiping out up to 4% of Africa's annual GDP growth.

Despite contributing the least to global emissions, African countries are forced to navigate these escalating crises with limited support, inadequate financing, and unjust systems. This is not only scientifically indefensible but also morally untenable. We are confronting a deepening injustice at the heart of the global response to climate change.

Despite the urgency to act to save lives and communities, we are outraged that SB62 reveals the same old patterns of delay, division, and denial.

The first week of SB62 has offered little hope for meaningful progress. Negotiations were delayed over the adoption of the agenda itself, a clear indication that developed countries continue to resist addressing the core issue of climate finance, particularly their obligations under Article 9.1 of the Paris Agreement. This resistance is not procedural. It is political. It is a betrayal of the principles of equity and historical responsibility.

Stalling tactics, vague language, and voluntary pledges cannot be allowed to dominate the path to COP30 in Belém, Brazil. Africa cannot afford another cycle of negotiations that ignore its priorities or discount its suffering.

In light of the current state of negotiations and the road to COP30, African Civil Society Organisations demand the following:

1 We insist that adaptation finance must be needs-based, grant-based, and predictable

Adaptation is a matter of survival for Africa, not a development option. We, therefore, demand:

- A clear roadmap for achieving the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA), through indicators grounded in Africa's realities and local knowledge and means of indicators rooted in the principles of common by differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

- At least 50% of the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) earmarked for adaptation, disbursed as grants, not loans.
- Prioritisation of community-led and country-driven adaptation efforts through direct access modalities.
- Recognition of needs-based adaptation as the central organising principle of climate finance, not a peripheral concern.

2 We underscore that the Loss and Damage Fund must deliver real relief

We continue to welcome the operationalisation of the Loss and Damage Fund. But words must be followed by action. At SB62, we call for:

- A clear commitment to scale-up, grant-based, new and additional funding, not recycled ODA or market-based instruments.
- Accessible and inclusive finance for communities facing displacement, cultural loss, and irreversible damage.
- Governance arrangements that protect rights, ensure transparency, and enable direct access by frontline actors.

3 We request that the NCQG must be reviewed to reflect the true cost of climate action in Africa and the rest of the Global South

*The new climate finance goal must be ambitious and equitable. **We demand:***

- A needs-based floor aligned with scientific assessments of adaptation, mitigation, and loss and damage costs in developing countries.
- Clear separation of finance streams by purpose (adaptation, mitigation, L&D) and by instrument (grants vs loans).
- Binding obligations for developed countries anchored in equity and historical responsibility, not diluted by “burden-sharing” rhetoric.

4 We maintain that a just energy transition must respect Africa’s development rights

*Africa’s energy transition must reflect its realities: high energy poverty, industrialisation needs, and development aspirations. **We demand:***

- International support for diverse, nationally determined transition pathways— including renewable energy, grid modernisation, and decentralisation.
- Investment in people-centered solutions: jobs, skills, health, and gender-responsive policies, not just infrastructure.

- Rejection of externally imposed conditionalities or bans on transitional fuels that hinder energy access.
- Clear safeguards against new fossil fuel dependencies and support for African-led renewable energy development.

5 **We caution that Article 6 must not become a carbon colonialism tool**

*Carbon markets must not commodify African ecosystems or marginalise communities. **We demand:***

- Strong safeguards that uphold environmental integrity, Indigenous rights, and community consent.
- Prohibition of offset schemes that delay decarbonisation in high-emitting countries and shift the burden to poor, low-emitting countries.
- Direct access to finance for African actors engaging in verifiable, community-led mitigation efforts.

6 **We continue calling for inclusive and equitable participation in the UNFCCC process**

*The legitimacy of this process depends on the inclusion. **We demand:***

- Meaningful civil society participation in negotiation rooms, not symbolic side events.
- Increased access and support for African observers, including youth, women, and local organizations.
- Structural reforms to decision-making processes, ensuring transparency and equitable representation of the Global South.

7 **We demand justice-centred outcomes at COP30**

*As we move from Bonn to Belém, we urge all Parties to reject false solutions and recommit to a multilateral system rooted in climate justice. Africa's needs, voices, and solutions must be central to global climate action. **We call on:***

- African governments to show unity, ambition, and agency.
- Global South partners to build a common front on finance, equity, and development.
- Northern countries to meet their obligations, scale up finance, and enable African-led solutions. The road to COP30 must be one of justice, not delay. Let the outcomes of this process reflect not only what science demands, but what justice requires.

END