

#AACJ2025GCM COMMUNIQUE

AFRICAN ACTIVISTS FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE (AACJ) 2025 GLOBAL COORDINATION MEETING



24-26 FEBRUARY 2025

Theme

Powering Pathways for Sustainable Climate Actions

We, the participants of the 3rd edition of the African Activists for Climate Justice (AACJ) 2025 Global Coordination Meeting (GCM-25), having convened in Johannesburg, South Africa, from the 24th to the 26th of February 2025, adopt this communiqué.

ARTICLE 1: PREAMBLE

The **African Activists for Climate Justice (AACJ)** is a consortium-led initiative driving climate justice across Africa through movement-building, advocacy, policy influence, and advancing deep community solutions. Since its inception in 2021, AACJ has strengthened grassroots climate movements, mobilised communities, elevated their solutions, and amplified African narratives, policymakers, and civil society organizations to advance climate justice at all levels.

The **Global Coordination Meeting (GCM)** serves as a strategic platform for AACJ partners and stakeholders to reflect on progress, share lessons, evaluate impact, and strategize for the future. The **2025-GCM**, convened under the theme "Powering Pathways for Sustainable Climate Actions," marks a pivotal moment as the project enters its final phase. It is a space for consolidating lessons, refining sustainability strategies, and reinforcing the collective resolve to ensure that AACJ's impact extends beyond 2025.

The meeting was held under the following objectives:

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- To develop a strategic roadmap to guide AACJ in achieving its key targets by project completion
 - To refine the sustainability framework and exit strategy to secure the long-term impact of AACJ's initiatives
 - Strengthen policy advocacy strategies by formulating an action plan to influence the 2025 NDC review
 - To enhance Southern-led leadership in climate justice through long-term collaboration, resource mobilization, and policy influence at all levels.

ARTICLE 2: CONTEXTUAL NOTE

- **RECOGNIZING** the progress made by AACJ in amplifying climate justice movements, fostering locally led actions, and influencing policies across Africa, while also valuing the role of North-South cooperation in strengthening these efforts.
- **COMMITTED** to deepen impact by strengthening grassroots movements, advancing inclusive climate policies, and ensuring the sustainability of AACJ's achievements through long-term strategies and partnerships.
- **CONSCIOUS** of the urgent need to address climate injustices driven by systemic inequalities, weak policy implementation, and inadequate climate finance, and reaffirming the central role of frontline communities in leading climate action
- **AWARE** of the growing influence of extreme right-wing movements and their lofty opposition to the imperatives of climate justice and progressive climate action; **RECALLING** the commitments made in the 2024 GCM to enhance sustainability, integrate inclusive climate policies, and strengthen evidence-based advocacy ahead of the 2025 NDCs review in countries.
- **FURTHER RECALLING** the gains made in building strong climate movements, amplifying African narratives, and increasing political will for climate justice, emphasizing the need to sustain and scale these efforts.
- **ACKNOWLEDGING** the growing momentum for climate justice in Africa, driven by collective action and multi-stakeholder engagement, while recognizing the need for continued investment in grassroots leadership.
- **DESIRING** to ensure AACJ's impact extends beyond 2025 by securing sustainable funding, expanding partnerships, and strengthening Southern-led leadership in climate justice.

NOW, THEREFORE, #AACJ2025GCM Delegates Commit to the 7 Strategic Imperatives for Sustainable #ClimateJustice Action Beyond 2025

Commitments | Catalysts | Calls

ARTICLE 3: FINISHING STRONG—HARNESSING OUR COLLECTIVE SKILLS, AGENCY, AND COMMITMENT

As the AACJ project nears completion, we recognize the need to consolidate efforts, maximize impact, and ensure a seamless transition toward sustainable, community-led climate justice initiatives. By leveraging our collective expertise, advocacy power, and commitment, we will drive lasting policy influence, strengthen grassroots movements, and foster people-driven, rights-based, resilient climate action across Africa. We commit to:

- Advance collaborative advocacy to ensure project commitments translate into sustained climate action
- Mobilize women, feminists, youth, and indigenous groups to lead and take action in shaping climate justice policies and solutions.
- Develop and implement an exit and sustainability strategy that sustains climate justice movements, secures financing, and sustains policy engagements beyond AACJ's lifecycle.

ARTICLE 4: ADVANCING A UNIFIED FRONT IN GLOBAL CLIMATE ADVOCACY

Global climate negotiations and policy forums present critical opportunities to push for just, rights-based, and transformative climate action. To maximize impact, we must approach these spaces as a collective, armed with unified advocacy messages that amplify African voices and demands. By strategically engaging in key global events such as COP30, G20, CSW, GIMAC, IUCN, UNEA7, and other high-level forums, we will drive stronger commitments on human rights-based approaches (HRBA), just energy transitions (JET), climate finance, reparations, and the protection of environmental defenders. We commit to

- Develop and deploy unified advocacy messages that reflect the priorities of African communities, ensuring strong, consistent representation on global platforms.
- Engage global spaces as a collective force to push for ambitious climate policies, holding leaders accountable for their commitments to justice and equity.
- Systematically document our processes and results from these global strategic events and build long-term influence in international climate governance.

ARTICLE 5: DOCUMENTING AND COMMUNICATING OUR 5 YEARS OF IMPACT

To sustain and scale the progress made, we commit to capturing and amplifying the transformative impact of AACJ's five-year journey. By effectively documenting lessons, success stories, and policy wins, we will shape future climate justice advocacy, influence stakeholders, and ensure that African narratives continue to drive global climate action. We therefore further commit to:

- Develop gender-responsive impact stories that highlight key policy wins, movement-building successes & community- solutions
- Leverage digital platforms and media to amplify African climate justice narratives
- Develop a comprehensive endline evaluation and an exit strategy to ensure the sustainability of AACJ's impact, outlining clear pathways for continued advocacy and movement-building beyond the project's lifecycle.

ARTICLE 6: SUSTAINABLE LOCALLY LED CLIMATE ACTION

Building on AACJ's commitment to community-driven and people-owned solutions, we reaffirm that locally led climate action is the foundation of sustainable climate justice. By ensuring that frontline communities have the resources, agency, and decision-making power, we can drive transformative change that is responsive to local realities, people's aspirations, and global challenges. To catalyse this, we shall

- Continue to support community-led and gender-responsive climate solutions and ensure long-term resilience and adaptability.
- Support advocacy towards institutionalisation of locally-led action within national and sub-national climate policies
- Scale up climate solutions by documenting and replicating successful locally driven innovations at national and regional levels.

ARTICLE 7: STRENGTHENING ADVOCACY FROM THE LOCAL TO GLOBAL LEVEL

For climate justice to be effective, advocacy must bridge the gap between grassroots realities and high-level decision-making. AACJ commits to amplifying the voices of women, youth, and marginalised communities and ensuring they influence policies at every level, from sub-national to national, regional, and global. We will catalyse this through:

- Supporting local-to-global advocacy strategies & equipping frontline activists with tools to confidently and effectively engage duty-bearers
- Enhance engagement in global climate policy interactions such as COPs; NDC reviews conversations and related processes to ensure African priorities shape international climate commitments.
- Strengthen coalition-building among civil society, broader non-state actors, governments, & intergovernmental agencies for a united front for climate justice and climate action.

ARTICLE 8: FOSTERING NORTH-SOUTH COOPERATION FOR SUSTAINABLE, DATA-DRIVEN CLIMATE ACTION

For climate action to be truly just, fair, and effective, North-South cooperation must be rooted in equity, accountability, and shared responsibility. The Global North must honour its commitments by supporting Southern-led leadership, dramatically increasing climate finance, and ensuring that climate policies are shaped by evidence and lived realities. We call for:

- The expansion of transparent data-sharing mechanisms to ensure that climate policies are evidence-based and reflect the needs of frontline communities.
- Equitable partnerships that empower Africans, leveraging Northern resources for greater climate impact.
- Accessible climate finance mechanisms to sustain locally led, scientifically informed climate solutions

ARTICLE 9: OUR ADVOCACY FOR SUSTAINABLE, ACCOUNTABLE LEADERSHIP AND POLICY REFORMS ON CLIMATE ACTION

The fight for climate justice requires bold, sustained advocacy to ensure that global commitments translate into real action. Governments, corporations, and international institutions must be held accountable for them to deliver on climate commitments, sustainable economic development, and climate-sensitive paradigms that do not harm people or the planet. We call on the global community to:

- Implement global climate commitments, including NDCs, gender action plans, climate finance pledges, & just transition policies.
- Repeal and/or relentlessly resist right-wing policies that obstruct climate action & undermine multilateral cooperation.
- Adopt climate-sensitive production and consumption systems that safeguard ecosystems, protect women, youth and vulnerable communities, and uphold ecosystem integrity

The End