

AACJ ADVOCACY STATEMENT AT COP30, BELÉM, BRAZIL

A call for people-centred, inclusive, and rights-based action in pursuit of climate justice.

Introduction: Building on the Spirit from the Africa Climate Summit

As the African Activists for Climate Justice (AACJ) consortium gathers at COP30 in Belém, we stand on the shoulders of the powerful commitments made at the Africa Climate Summit II in Addis Ababa and the Call of Belém championed by President Lula da Silva. Our mission remains clear: to ensure that climate action is rooted in justice, equity, and solidarity, not in empty promises or extractive models of growth.

At ACS2, we rose to affirm Africa's collective demand for fair financing, inclusive governance, and systemic transformation. Here in Belém, we carry that call forward as a united front of African, Latin-American, and Global South movements demanding a new era of implementation, accountability, and shared prosperity.

Climate change is no longer a distant threat; it is a present catastrophe. Frontline communities continue to pay the price for a crisis they did not create. We, the peoples of the Global South, say with one voice: adaptation is not charity, but it is climate justice. Financing resilience is not optional; it is a global obligation.

About AACJ

The AACJ is a consortium of five leading African and global organizations working collectively to amplify the voices of frontline communities, empower women, youth, and Indigenous groups, and push for climate justice at national, regional, and global levels. The consortium partners are PACJA, FEMNET, Oxfam, Natural Justice, and Africa Youth Commission, each with strategic strengths in youth mobilization, women-led advocacy, resilient community building, amplifying African narratives, and locally driven adaptation initiatives. Our approach is grounded in African realities, informed by the wisdom of communities, and driven by the demand for systemic change to address the root causes of the climate crisis.

Our Vision for COP30: A New Global South Compact

We enter COP30 with one shared conviction: that the voices of women, youth, Indigenous peoples, and frontline communities must not only be heard but must shape the policies, finance mechanisms, and governance structures that determine the planet's future.



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the
Netherlands



The African Women's
Development and
Communication Network



Our engagement in Belém spans diverse themes, from women's leadership in climate policy, human-rights protection for environmental defenders, and the integration of climate-health indicators to energy access, carbon markets, and agroecology as pathways to food sovereignty. Together, these platforms reflect our holistic pursuit of climate justice as social, gender, and economic justice.

Our Core Demands for a Just COP30 Outcome

a. Deliver a Fair and Credible New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG)

The world's credibility rests on action. We call on COP30 to agree on an ambitious, grant-based NCQG that reflects real adaptation costs and channels resources directly to communities, not consultants or creditors.

- Commit to needs-based, predictable, and accessible financing for the Global South.
- Prioritize adaptation and loss-and-damage finance as equal to mitigation.
- Establish transparency and accountability mechanisms ensuring that 70 % of climate finance reaches local actors, especially women and youth.

b. Center Human Rights and Justice in Climate Action

From natural-resource extraction to carbon-market expansion, the climate response must never come at the expense of people's rights.

- Guarantee legal safeguards for environmental defenders, Indigenous peoples, and frontline communities.
- Recognize access to justice and community-led litigation as tools of accountability.
- Protect the right to land, water, culture, and a healthy environment in all adaptation and mitigation frameworks.

c. Advance Gender-Transformative Climate Action

We refuse to build a green future on the same structures that marginalize women.

- Embed gender equality across national and global climate policies.
- Directly fund women-led grassroots initiatives driving community resilience.
- Ensure women's equal participation and leadership in all decision-making processes.

d. Uphold Youth Leadership and Intergenerational Justice

Africa's and the world's youth are not the leaders of tomorrow; they are leading today.

- Institutionalize youth-inclusive negotiation spaces at COP30 and beyond.
- Increase direct investment in youth-led innovations and climate enterprises.
- Establish intergenerational knowledge partnerships bridging elders and youth movements.

b. Protect Community Rights in Carbon Markets

- Carbon markets cannot become a new scramble for Africa's land and sovereignty.
- Enforce human-rights and land-rights safeguards as non-negotiable.
- Guarantee equitable benefit-sharing and reject offset schemes that perpetuate historical injustices.
- Shift focus from carbon accounting to real emissions reductions and community resilience.

c. Redefine Development through Agroecology and Energy Access

Sustainable transformation means rethinking our food and energy systems.

- Recognize agroecology as a core adaptation and food-security strategy.
- Declare energy access a global climate goal, essential for equitable transition.
- Support community-based renewable solutions that empower rather than displace.

d. Our Call to Action

We urge world leaders, negotiators, and financial institutions gathered at COP30 to rise to this moral, economic, and political test:

- Protect life, not profits.
- Invest in justice, not charity.
- Deliver on promises, not pledges.

The time for symbolic declarations has passed. This is the moment of truth.

e. A Declaration of Partnership and Persistence

As AACJ, we stand ready to partner with governments, the COP30 Presidency, and civil-society allies across the Global South to translate moral urgency into measurable action.

We will continue to mobilize communities, influence policy, and hold power to account, until justice is not a slogan but a lived reality.