



THE ECO-FEMINIST MANIFESTO

“TIRED OF RHETORICS, TIME FOR ACTION!”

“HEAR THE VOICES AND DEMANDS FROM MORE THAN 300 YOUNG WOMEN AND GIRLS IN DIFFERENT DIVERSITIES.”

GIRLS FOR CLIMATE ACTION

Stand For Climate Justice

**BY GIRLS FOR CLIMATE ACTION
@2024**



Preamble

Girls for Climate Action (G4CA) stands at the intersection of resilience and urgency. As an embodiment of the collective aspirations of young women and girls in Uganda, our position is grounded in our lived experiences, realities, and determination as the most affected by the climate crisis – we are the frontline warriors hailing from diverse backgrounds, including women, adolescents, children, youth, indigenous peoples, young women smallholder farmers and gatherers.

Our voice emerges from a landscape where the echoes of the struggles of those at the forefront of the climate crisis reverberate louder than the relentless forces that seek to silence them. This position paper stands as a testament to the strength and resilience of those whose stories are often obscured by the overpowering narratives of fossil fuel giants and a fraction of governments whose interests align with the status quo.

As stewards of a sustainable future, we draw inspiration from the latest scientific reports by the IPCC, and our position is not merely a compilation of words; it is a culmination of insights, reflections, and statements from more than 300 youth / African Young Eco-feminists and Youths from across the continent. These voices, diverse and powerful, harmonize to create a symphony of demands for justice, equity, and meaningful action.

Our consultations with youth and young feminist-led organizations have been a journey of co-creation, where every idea, every concern, and every aspiration has shaped the contours of our bold vision. We recognize that in this critical juncture, our voices must be unwavering, our demands unapologetic, and our vision unbounded.

As Girls for Climate Action, we step onto the global stage, not as passive witnesses, but as active architects of change. Our priorities for climate justice embody the urgency of now and the foresight for a sustainable tomorrow. In solidarity with the frontline corps, we demand bold and transformative commitments that transcend rhetoric and lead to concrete, measurable actions.

This manifesto is not just a paper; it is a call to action. It is a declaration that our futures are non-negotiable, and our demands are not mere requests but imperatives. As we navigate the complexities of the climate crisis, we hold steadfast to the belief that true change is born from the collective will of the people.

Together, we stand resolute, ready to challenge the existing power dynamics, disrupt the narrative of inaction, and forge a path towards a climate-resilient and just future. Girls for Climate Action (G4CA), united and empowered, charts a course for a movement that is undeniably bold, unapologetically ambitious, and unwaveringly committed to the well-being of our planet and its people.

OUR PRINCIPLES

- We believe in the **transformative power of education** and action. A commitment to empower young women and girls through climate/STEM education, leadership training, and local-led solutions.
- Grounded in **the principles of intersectionality**, and recognizing the diversity of experiences of young women and girls, we want to ensure that the voices of all individuals, regardless of background, are heard and valued.
- We recognize the agency and potential of young women and girls as key drivers of climate action and the **Belief and Commitment to Gender Equality, Dignity, Respect and Observation of rights** for all particularly the vulnerable group.
- We reject all false solutions that compromise the well-being of people and the planet, and we defend the Commons **“people over profit!”**
- We stand to support Solutions that genuinely contribute to sustainable development and Climate Resilience in Africa. We are saying **no to the promotion of Carbon Markets in Africa.**
- Prioritizing renewable energy access for the marginalized communities while ensuring the **engagement of young women and girls, youth in the development and deployment of renewable energy solutions.**
- Developed countries should fulfill their historical responsibility by **investing resources in technology transfer, capacity strengthening for young women and girls** in their different diversities to support adaptation, mitigation and loss and damage.

1.0. ADAPTATION

Africa stands at the forefront, grappling with the disproportionate impacts of a changing climate. The intricate web of ecosystems, communities, and cultures woven across this vast continent faces unprecedented challenges relentlessly manifested in erratic weather patterns, rising temperatures, and extreme events. While the entire continent is navigating the impacts of a changing climate, it is the marginalized communities, often situated in the fringes of society, who bear the brunt of these adversities, that demand urgent and transformative adaptation measures. Women, girls and youth emerge as the unsung heroes and resilient custodians of their communities. They navigate the intricate dance between adaptation and survival, often with limited resources and in the face of deeply entrenched gender inequalities. It is imperative to center the discourse on the experiences of marginalized communities. Women, girls, indigenous peoples, smallholder farmers, pastoralists, and other vulnerable groups are not passive victims; they are dynamic agents of change who, with the right support, can drive sustainable and community-led adaptation initiatives.

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- Demand for the meaningful inclusion and engagement of young women and girls in the entire planning processes towards adaptation at the various levels of decision making. We demand that parties recognize the intersectional approaches that recognize the diverse identities and experiences of youth, young women and girls to shape actions towards adaptation and building resilience, ensuring that adaptation strategies are tailored to address multiple dimensions of identity.
- We call for prioritization of local and indigenous knowledge ensuring that marginalized communities have a direct say in the design and implementation of adaptation strategies and the adaptation funds. Local Led adaptation needs to be prioritized, and the processes should be just and fair so that the funds are accessible and flexible enough to meet the needs of these communities.
- A separate implementation/advisory group for young women and girls in the implementation of the NDCs, the adaptation funds need to be set up by and for young women and girls to center the various perspectives of young women and girls in their different diversities.
- Clear indicators on progress towards adaptation plans that explicitly consider the specific vulnerabilities, needs, and realities of women and girls in the face of climate change impacts.

Beyond the realms of adaptation and mitigation, loss and damage acknowledge the harsh reality that some losses are irreversible, and some damages demand justice, and financial redress. Communities are redirecting the meager resources to deal with loss and damage. The new loss and damage fund has weaknesses which include the weak language on sources of finances which fails to hold the historical emitters accountable and their need to support this fund, World Bank being the host of the L&D fund threatens the future generation given the background of loans from the same institution holding the fund. Communities at the frontlines need trillions and not billions towards loss and damage. We recognize the non-monetary damage that cannot be restored or replaced, and therefore as young women and girls, we boldly demand for: Adaptation is very important for communities in various settings especially for Uganda and Africa at large and therefore; We the young women and girls therefore towards COP29 and the various revisions of the NDCs at the country level;

- A clear institutional arrangement for Loss and Damage. We understand that countries are trying to work with the World Bank to clear all the doubts, but we still want to stand with communities and say; Loss and Damage funds should not be Loans.

• 2.0 LOSS AND DAMAGE DEMANDS

- The L&D fund should not be voluntary, if we base it on Principles of equity, and polluter pays principle, we call upon polluting countries who have been historically responsible for the current emissions to fund loss and damage. They should pay for the losses that communities at the frontlines are experiencing.
- Clear operationalization of the L&D fund should be clearly decided in Baku. We call upon African governments to have a clear channel for funds beyond the impunity in the government systems where money doesn't reach the people being affected. We demand that the people that need the fund most are centered in co-creating the implementation of the fund.
- We demand that the loss and damage policies specifically address the disproportionate impact of climate disasters on women and girls and ensure that gender-sensitive support mechanisms are put in place for recovery.
- The L&D fund should be gender-responsive and accessible to communities at the frontline of the climate crisis. It should also hold polluters fully accountable for their actions and clear guidelines for non-abiding member states. **PAY UP THE DEBT!**

• 3.0. CLIMATE FINANCE

Climate finance stands as the lifeblood of global efforts to combat climate change, providing the essential resources required to mitigate its impacts, adapt to shifting conditions, and transition towards a low-carbon future. At its core, climate finance recognizes the need for financial mechanisms that address the disproportionate burden faced by vulnerable communities, particularly women and girls, who find themselves on the frontlines of climate-related challenges. It is crucial to acknowledge the global commitment to mobilize funds, as evident in the Paris Agreement is taking place against a context in which Africa as a continent has fading optimism on commitments by the global communities to address the climate crisis, particularly in delivering much-needed climate finance and in grant form. The report also reveals that the adaptation needs are estimated to be USD 340 billion per year by 2030, which means that the costs could reach \$500 billion annually by 2050.

It's therefore crucial to provide urgent finance specifically dedicated to adaptation, loss, and damage to help countries prepare for future displacement, livelihood disruption, and losses. Despite the Green Climate Fund being created to finance climate action, partly because of the business approach of multilateral development banks (MDBs), including the World Bank, most of the finance provided by these institutions comes in the form of loans for disaster recovery and reconstruction, which is unjust.

Despite the slow flow, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has estimated that Africa may need up to \$86.5 billion annually by 2030 to adapt to climate change impacts, highlighting the urgency for measures that address the devastating effects of climate change on vulnerable communities.

Many developing countries, particularly in Africa, are facing a growing debt burden that adversely affects their economic growth and development. This debt burden makes it challenging for them to invest in crucial areas, such as health, education, and infrastructure. We therefore say that:

1. Billions are not enough, we need Trillions! The USD 100 Billion has not yet been achieved yet, developed countries need to deliver on their promises.

2. Funds should reach the communities in Africa at the frontlines of climate change and clear mechanisms to make this happen should be designed with those at the frontlines.

3. Stop growing the financial climate Debt in Africa and the negotiations and the entire process at COP29 should not worsen the debt portfolio.

4. The Green Climate Fund should have a special fund in grant form for young innovators and climate hubs, research and development and directly channel this fund to young women and girls leading on Local-Led climate solutions.

5. Discriminatory laws and customs need to be challenged to allow women access and own land to gain their financial stability and independence.

If we don't decisively cut down our greenhouse gas emissions by 43% by 2030, we will not keep the 1.5 degrees Celsius goal alive. Even if the international community were to stop emitting all greenhouse gases today, it would take decades for the climate to stabilize, and climate disruption is here to stay for the long haul. Therefore, the call for rapid, deep, and sustained cuts in greenhouse gas emissions to limit future climate change risks to those least responsible for climate action is louder.

Africa has 30% of global mineral reserves, however, due to governance challenges that Africa faces, we are at the verge of continuing to face the adverse effects of climate change. There has been a high spread of false solutions that include low carbon hydrogen, carbon capture, storage and the Carbon markets. Women in their different diversities and other marginalized groups are not well spoken about with regards to effects of a just transition or mitigation steps.

As Girls for Climate Action, we demand for:

1. Developed countries must phase out fossil fuels and not phasing down, the language used on this should be clear.

2. Countries should cut all the subsidies or limit subsidies for fossil fuel companies including permits and instead incentivize communities and ensure access to clean energy.

3. We need clear regulations, laws and policies that should be followed and implemented in areas where transitional minerals are being mined. We say no to human rights violations or environmental injustices in these communities. Groups that may be negatively affected by the shift are not clearly defined. The EACOP project in Uganda needs to center the rights of communities and biodiversity.

4. Clear compensation plans for communities that are displaced during the process of getting the transitional minerals.

5. An internationally standardized framework of indicators & guidelines of what a Just Transition is envisioned to look like should be mapped out, developed and actively implemented on a global scale.

6. Just Transition objectives should be embedded into economic policy and other such initiatives in relation to developing countries.

7. Development should not be at the detriment of people's lives. There should be a clear plan to develop without negatively impacting lives, **THERE IS NO PLANET B!**

8. We demand gender-responsive climate policies that prioritize the unique needs of women and girls in climate-vulnerable communities, ensuring that they are not left behind in the transition to a green economy.

9. We demand for dedicated funding for young women, girls and youth's climate adaptation and resilience projects, particularly for rural women and young women in vulnerable regions, to ensure equitable access to climate finance.

MITIGATION

1. The creation of gender-balanced national and international climate advisory boards to ensure youth and women's perspectives are embedded in all climate action strategies in Uganda and across the continent.
2. Immediate and ambitious national commitments to cut greenhouse gas emissions in line with the 1.5°C target, with specific targets for sectors where youth and women are disproportionately

affected, such as agriculture and energy should be prioritized.

3. Women, girls and youth need to be recognized as critical stakeholders in community-led mitigation efforts, with platforms to share their knowledge and innovations in reducing emissions at local and national levels.

4. We demand that international climate finance for mitigation be channeled equitably, with a dedicated portion allocated to women-led projects that directly contribute to emission reductions and climate resilience.

5. We demand a shift towards productive and sustainable agricultural practices that empower women farmers, reduce emissions, and increase food security, ensuring women have access to training, resources, and technologies.

6. We call for grants towards boosting green energy access to ensure the people from LDCs can adapt to the just transition.

Women, as primary caretakers of land, have deep-rooted knowledge of sustainable land management. Yet, they are often excluded from decision-making processes and land ownership.

We demand legal reforms that ensure women have equal access to land and natural resources. FAO data reveals that increasing women's access to land could increase agricultural output in developing countries by up to 30%, bolstering climate resilience and food security.

We call for the recognition and integration of indigenous knowledge as an essential pillar of agricultural resilience. Indigenous women, as custodians of traditional farming practices, offer invaluable insights that have sustained communities for generations.

We need to prioritize the documentation and dissemination of this knowledge is crucial for building climate-resilient agricultural systems, particularly as climate variability intensifies.

Call for a strong stand by countries to protect women's land and resource rights, particularly in the face of climate-induced displacement and migration.

This includes operationalizing legal frameworks that safeguard women's access to and control over land and resources, preventing further vulnerability in the wake of climate impacts.

Frontline communities, especially women farmers, must be equipped with early warning systems (EWS) that provide timely, actionable information on climate risks. Studies by the UNFCCC highlight that communities with access to EWS experience a 30% reduction in climate-related losses.

Therefore, it is imperative that governments invest in localized EWS to protect the livelihoods of smallholder farmers, prioritizing women and marginalized groups who are disproportionately affected by climate impacts.

6.0. CLIMATE CHANGE AND HEALTH

1. We demand that the Africa negotiators have a holistic position on health and building resilience of health systems and to consider health as one of the primary needs for people in Africa that is non-negotiable.
2. We demand for climate change to be fully integrated into local, national and international health policies in order to prepare healthcare systems for climate related health impacts.
3. Humanitarian aid/support in the wake of the climate crisis should center access to Sexual and Reproductive Health services for adolescents, women and girls, and youth and access to clean water and sanitation facilities. Innovative strategies to make local sunscreens for persons living with albinism.

CARBON MARKETS

Carbon Markets allow CDR technologies to bypass external regulations related to rights, safety and biodiversity. They provide an easy excuse for the fossil fuel industry, high-polluting businesses and governments to continue as normal. Carbon market advocates (economics-minded) and engineers (with huge gaps and limitations in their claims) steer the climate ambition conversation. It has been 20 years of carbon trading; it is clear that market-based mechanisms do not work.

7.0. CARBON MARKETS

1. We reject carbon markets, and their propagation as means for addressing Africa's climate finance needs for Africa as they are a false solution.
2. The UNFCCC should set aside a transparent group that should investigate the many land grabbing cases that have been as a result of carbon investments and carbon brokers. We reject green washing schemes.
3. We demand that the end goal with carbon markets should be building the resilience of African people especially the indigenous people.
4. We demand that REDD+ (Reducing of Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation) is implemented as a major solution to the climate crisis.
5. If at all the carbon market is to happen, we demand that it is confined in protected areas such as national parks, wetlands, forests etc not on private/individual lands.

8.0. GLOBAL STOCKTAKE

Global Stock take emerges as a pivotal performance and collective assessment of the world's progress in addressing climate change and reporting /evaluating their commitments to cutting emissions. Beyond the numerical metrics, our demands center on ensuring that the stocktaking process becomes a transparent process where leaders are as well accountable to including youth, women, girls in their actions in cutting down emissions.

GLOBAL STOCKTAKE KEY DEMANDS

- The bigger goal is known to everyone as the report shows, however we need governments to have national clear goals, indicators on cutting down emissions and adaptation.
- There has to be a clear channel between commitments and disbursements of the climate finance, loss and damage fund.
- We call for clear accountability.



OUR DEMANDS echo the urgent need for transformative, gender-responsive, and community-driven measures. The time for action is now, and our demands serve as a clarion call for a future where adaptation is synonymous with justice, equity, involvement of communities at the frontlines.