

AFRICA YOUTH CLIMATE ASSEMBLY (AYCA) 2025



ADDIS ABABA DECLARATION



5th - 6th

September 2025

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



Preamble

We, **the youth of Africa**, gathered through a series of regional consultations across the continent and the diaspora in preparation for the Africa Youth Climate Assembly (AYCA) and finally at the AYCA on 5th and 6th September 2025 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, united by our determination to secure a just, peaceful, and sustainable future for our generation and those to come.

Alarmed by the intensifying climate emergency, which in 2023 and 2024 was confirmed as the hottest years on record, with global average temperatures surpassing 1.45°C above pre-industrial levels, we recognize that Africa, contributing less than 4% of global emissions, remains the most climate-vulnerable continent. From recurring droughts in the Horn of Africa affecting over 23 million people, to devastating floods, to the shrinking of Lake Chad, and to wildfires and cyclones across Southern Africa, the cry of our people and ecosystems echoes louder than ever.



Acknowledging Africa's role as a climate stabilizer, with the Congo Basin sequestering 1.5 billion tons of CO₂ annually and vast renewable energy potential, yet recognizing that these global goods have not translated into equitable development for our communities, we reaffirm that climate justice must be at the heart of all global negotiations.

Conscious of the intersections between climate change, peace, and security, we highlight that climate-induced migration and competition over scarce resources fuel instability across the Sahel, Horn of Africa, and other vulnerable regions. Youth and other vulnerable communities are often deprived of alternatives, are left vulnerable to forced displacement, radicalization, and poverty traps.

Guided by the principle of intergenerational equity, we recognize that the choices made today will determine the survival and dignity of children, youth, and generations yet unborn. We affirm our responsibility to safeguard the rights and aspirations of future generations, ensuring that climate action delivers not only for today but for centuries to come.

Concerned by the unfulfilled policy commitments and decree pledges made to African youth, which, if honored, would unlock the vast potential of our generation to provide transformative solutions to Africa's challenges. We emphasize that youth empowerment is not charity but an investment one that can deliver innovations in science, drive policy change, and implement practical climate and development solutions for the continent.

Affirming that climate action must be grounded in a human rights-based approach, recognizing the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment as universal and inalienable. We emphasize that climate justice is inseparable from human rights, and policies must uphold equity, dignity, and non-discrimination for all, especially vulnerable groups.



Guided by Agenda 2063, the African Union Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy (2022–2032), AMCEN decisions, the Global Stocktake of the Paris Agreement, 4th International Conference on Financing for Development, and in anticipation of COP30 in Belem, Brazil and the upcoming G20, we situate African youth at the center of shaping a new global development and climate paradigm.

Recalling the decisions of the African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government, in particular Assembly/AU/Dec.723 (XXXII) mandating the convening of an Africa Climate Summit, and Assembly/AU/Dec.764 (XXXIII) reaffirming Africa's collective commitment to climate resilience and green growth, which culminated in the inaugural Africa Climate Summit in Nairobi (2023) that delivered the Nairobi Declaration and Call to Action, setting progress in Africa's unified voice in global climate negotiations.

Welcoming the African Union Youth Innovation Hub, first mounted at the inaugural Africa Climate Summit in Nairobi and further at ACS 2, to showcase and match-make youth innovators addressing climate challenges with investments and partnerships.

Further welcoming programs such as the Nairobi Summer School on Climate Justice (NSSCJ), which trains young people in policy, advocacy and climate justice and Africa Next Green Leaders Eccelerator (ANGLE), together with the African Youth Bootcamp for Climate that are providing the knowledge, skills, tools and investment portfolio management support to scale distributive climate solutions, green innovation and young climate leaders.

Further recalling the **inaugural Africa Youth Climate Assembly (AYCA 2023)**, held alongside the Summit in Nairobi, Kenya, which showcased the immense leadership of African youth in shaping climate solutions across science, innovation, technology, policy, and practice, and reaffirmed youth as indispensable partners in driving the continent's just transition.

We hereby, call upon Heads of State and Government of the African Union, Ministers of Environment, Finance and Youth, regional economic communities, the African Union Commission, intergovernmental organizations, development partners, civil society, faith-based actors, the private sector, academia, and all stakeholders to adopt the following shared positions and proposals:



Resolutions

And Recommendations



Institutionalizing Youth in Africa's Climate Governance

- Call for the full institutionalization of **AYCA as the continental platform for youth engagement in climate governance within AU frameworks**, ensuring structured representation in ACS and generally across AU Climate governance processes. Furthermore, we urge the AU and Member States to embed youth participation as a legal and political obligation across all climate-related decision-making frameworks.
- Call for the **formal inclusion of African youth representatives in national, regional, and continental climate negotiation teams**, including the African Group of Negotiators (AGN) and COP delegations, to ensure that intergenerational perspectives shape Africa's positions in global climate forums. Youth participation must go beyond observer status to full integration as negotiators, advisors, and technical experts.
- Call for the establishment of **a permanent Secretariat of the Africa Youth Climate Assembly (AYCA)**, mandated to coordinate youth engagement in the intersessional period between Africa Climate Summits, facilitate follow-up on the implementation of youth policy proposals, and hold stakeholders accountable to their commitments. The Secretariat should be institutionally anchored, capacitated with financial, technical, and human resources, with representation from all regions of Africa, and enabled to serve as the continental reference point for youth participation in climate governance.



Climate Finance and Dedicated Youth Climate Fund

- Recognize that current global climate finance flows are inadequate and inaccessible to grassroots youth initiatives and innovations. **We demand the establishment of a Fund, managed transparently at the continental level, to directly finance youth-led innovation, adaptation, mitigation, and resilience projects.**
- We call for the establishment of **Green Banks or their equivalence with a mandate to de-risk financing for youth-led climate initiatives and enterprises**, while also supporting other marginalized groups. The Banks should create flexible, transparent, and simplified financing instruments that meet the realities of youth entrepreneurship and innovation.
- Underscore the importance of global climate finance commitments, including **the full operationalization and capitalization of the Loss and Damage Fund, and the full and immediate implementation of a new collective quantified goal (NCQG) on climate finance** that is ambitious, transparent, and responsive to Africa's needs and a clear plan to achieve at least, US\$1.3trillion and US\$300 billion per year goals by 2035 with a clearly defined public finance component in grant equivalent terms. Such commitments need to include dedicated provisions for youth-led initiatives, ensuring that young people directly benefit from global finance flows while contributing to Africa's resilience and just transition.



Just Transition, Skills, and Green Jobs

- We echo the African youth demand for **universal access to clean and affordable energy, building on the progress made at the Mission 300 Conference in Tanzania**, which underscored the urgency of delivering 300 million new energy connections across Africa.
- We call for **youth to be at the center of expanding renewable energy infrastructure, last-mile delivery, and innovative financing models** to end energy poverty while creating millions of dignified green jobs.
- Advocate for large scale **youth skilling programs** in renewable energy, sustainable transport, and circular economies to support Africa's just transition to tap on the green jobs.
- Urge governments to **protect workers' rights in the green transition**, ensuring that young workers and vulnerable communities are not exploited in renewable energy, mining, or carbon markets.
- Support the **formal integration of climate and environmental education** into African curricula at all levels.
- Mainstream **gender-sensitive skills development** and guarantee equal access for women and marginalized youth.



Technology Acceleration and Innovation

- Prioritization of **technology transfer and the scaling up of African-led innovations** to address the continent's climate challenges.
- Call for the **amplification of the adoption of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and other emerging technologies to accelerate climate solutions** across Africa from predictive climate modeling and disaster risk reduction, to renewable energy management, sustainable agriculture, and biodiversity monitoring.
- Recognizing the precautionary principle, we emphasize that **such technologies must be governed with ethical safeguards to prevent exploitation, inequality, or ecological harm** and urge that African youth, as the most digitally connected generation, be placed at the driver's seat in designing, testing, and scaling these innovations, supported by investments in digital literacy, research, and innovation hubs that bridge technology with climate action.
- Emphasize **investing in Africa's digital infrastructure across the AI Stack data, compute, talent, use cases, and markets**, powered by renewable energy and optimized for efficiency, so that our digital transformation accelerates rather than hinders Africa's green transition. Equitable technology partnerships will be built on co-creation and mutual respect, with full protection of Africa's intellectual property.
- We further call for the establishment of **climate innovation hubs and bootcamps, accelerator programs and youth science hackathons** across the continent to connect ideas with resources, build a pipeline of African climate-tech entrepreneurs, and accelerate transformative solutions tailored to regional realities and local knowledge systems by investing in digital literacy, research, and innovation ecosystems that connect technology and climate action.
- We affirm that **climate justice also means technology justice**. We therefore call for global climate finance, concessional lending, and reforms to the carbon market to support Africa's digital infrastructure and innovation ecosystems as part of a fair transition. We call for creation of mechanisms to track progress on these commitments and ensure Africa speaks with one voice in global forums, shaping a future of climate technology rooted in justice, resilience, and shared prosperity.



Nature, Ecosystems, Food Systems, and Sustainable Cities

- Promote **Nature-Based Solutions as scalable African-led pathways**, including forest restoration, watershed protection, and indigenous knowledge systems.
- Support **youth-led innovations in sustainable cities and circular economies**, advancing African urban resilience and green infrastructure.
- Demand **investment in climate smart agriculture, agro-pastoral systems, and food sovereignty and security**, especially for communities vulnerable to desertification and drought, while addressing nutrition gaps especially to children.
- We call upon the African Union, Member States, regional bodies, and partners to **strengthen and accelerate the implementation of continental flagship initiatives on land and ocean restoration notably the Africa Great Green Wall and the Great Blue Wall**.
- We emphasize that African youth are a critical resource in delivering these projects through innovation, community mobilization, and skills deployment, and therefore urge **the establishment of dedicated youth programs, financing, and capacity-building windows to ensure their active role in scaling up restoration and resilience**, particularly in dryland regions and in African Island States facing existential risks from rising sea levels.

Climate, Peace, and Security

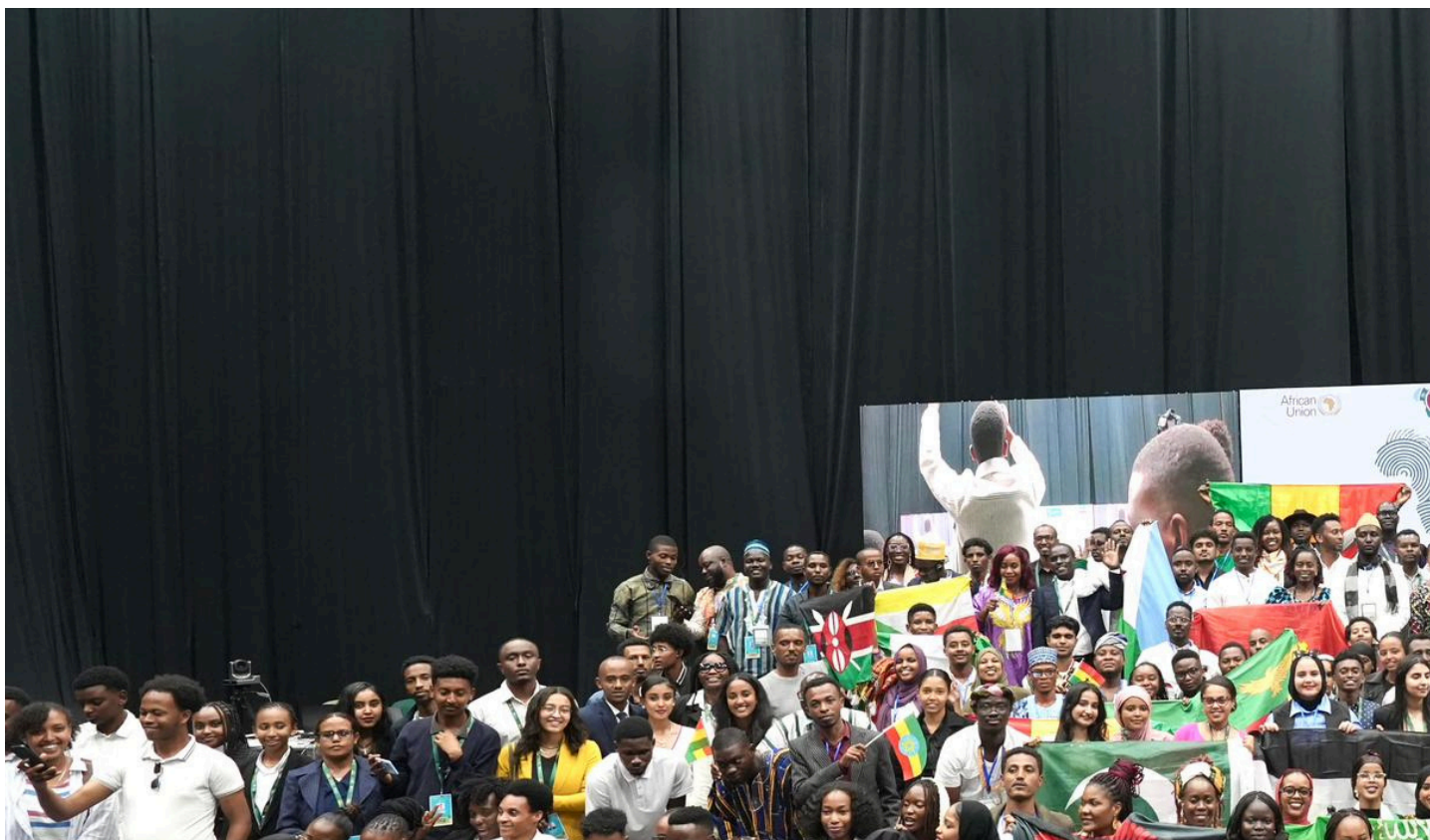
- Call upon AU Member States to **recognize climate as a security issue, integrating climate-security into peacebuilding strategies**, as well as fast track the adoption of the Africa common position on climate, peace and security to make Africa a model in providing leadership on this topic.
- Demand programs **addressing internal migration, displacement, and resource-based conflicts** with youth included as mediators, peacebuilders and solution-bearers,
- Call upon leaders to adopt **domestic laws and support global initiatives that are against the wanton destruction of the environment** in order to halt mass harm to nature and protect our natural world for us and future generations.
- Demand for **increased adaptation and mitigation funding for climate resilience, water, sanitation and hygiene, especially in fragile communities.**





Regional and Global Solidarity

- Insist that Africa's global climate diplomacy **prioritize loss and damage financing, debt cancellation, and a New Global Financial Pact** that is youth and justice-centered.
- With the G20, COP30, and AU–EU Summit in November, we request leaders to **report concrete follow-up on existing commitments** such as the G20 capital-adequacy reforms, the COP26 pledge to double adaptation finance by 2025, the Africa Development Fund and AU–EU Global Gateway targets on sustainable investment and youth mobility.
- We call for the **accelerated deepening of regional integration in an era where African youth are more connected than any other generation in history**. We urge AU Member States to advance the free movement of people, goods, and ideas, fostering deeper Pan-Africanism and enabling collective climate action.
- We emphasize that the **full implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) should integrate environmental and climate priorities**, ensuring that economic integration also delivers ecological sustainability, green jobs, and shared resilience. We stress that many of Africa's pressing challenges from food security to migration, renewable energy access, and environmental protection can only be effectively addressed through a regional perspective anchored in solidarity and cooperation.
- Call for **recognition of the Congo Basin as a global climate asset**, with transparent benefit-sharing for local communities.
- We further call upon the African Union to **develop an implementation matrix of the Africa Climate Summit (ACS) Heads of State Declarations** and track progress in an organized and transparent format including a framework for implementing Africa Youth Climate Assembly (AYCA) Declarations ensuring that youth policy inputs are not only adopted but acted upon with measurable timelines, accountability indicators and regular reporting to both Heads of state and citizens from across the continent



We, African youth, commit to:

- Fully supporting the Africa Youth Climate Assembly (AYCA) as the principal forum for youth participation in Africa's climate governance and as the formal youth engagement mechanism at the Africa Climate Summit (ACS). We pledge to strengthen AYCA as a legitimate, inclusive, and action-oriented platform that ensures structured youth representation within AU processes.
- Leading by example in green entrepreneurship and innovation, driving the adoption of renewable energy, promoting climate-smart agriculture and nature-based restoration solutions, and championing sustainable lifestyles for a resilient and low-carbon African future.
- Building a continental network of youth climate innovators, sharing knowledge and solutions across regions.
- Advancing youth-led peacebuilding initiatives that link climate resilience and human security.
- Holding our leaders accountable to the promises of Agenda 2063, the Paris Agreement, and AMCEN decisions.
- Continuing to play our role in implementing climate initiatives on the ground within our strained means, often relying on voluntary efforts, limited resources, and community solidarity yet demonstrating that Africa's youth remain a driving force of climate solutions in science, policy, and practice.





From Addis Ababa, the cradle of African unity, we declare that the time for incremental progress has passed. The science is clear, the impacts are devastating, and the cost of inaction is unbearable to the children, youth and future generations. We demand climate justice now, and we pledge to be the generation that redefines Africa's destiny, from vulnerability to resilience, from exploitation to equity, from crisis to hope.

**Adopted by the African Youth Climate Assembly, September 6th 2025
at Adwa Victory Memorial Museum in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.**



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