Advancing Climate Justice, Equitable Finance and a People Centred Just Transition

KENYA CIVIL SOCIETY POSITION PAPER FOR ADVANCING CLIMATE JUSTICE, EQUITABLE FINANCE AND PEOPLE CENTRED JUST TRANSITION THROUGH AGROECOLOGY

COP31

ANTALYA, TURKIYE

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https://pelumkenya.net/

Convened by: Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Kenya, Kenya Climate Change Working Group (KCCWG), Christian Aid and Regional Schools and Colleges Permaculture (ReSCOPE) Networks

BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

As Kenya prepares for the 31st Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP31), coordinated civil society engagement is essential to ensure that climate negotiations respond to the realities and priorities of communities most affected by climate change.

Civil society organizations contribute evidence, community experiences and independent policy perspectives that can strengthen Kenya's negotiating position and inform Africa's collective climate agenda. Through a joint workshop convened by Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Kenya, the Kenya Climate Change Working Group, Christian Aid and Regional Schools and Colleges Permaculture (ReSCOPE) Networks, CSOs from across Kenya and thematic representatives consolidated their evidence, priorities and policy proposals on climate finance, adaptation, gender, just transition and agriculture.

This position paper presents their shared priorities and proposed actions for COP31. It provides a common framework for engaging the Kenyan Government, the African Group of Negotiators (AGN), international climate institutions and other stakeholders. Its central demand is that ***climate action must be adequately financed, socially just, inclusive and responsive to the needs of communities on the frontline of climate change.***

OVERALL POSITION

Kenyan CSOs call on Parties at COP31 to advance a just, inclusive and adequately financed climate transition that places people, equity and sustainable development at its centre.

COP31 must deliver meaningful progress on adaptation finance, loss and damage, affordable clean energy, gender-responsive climate action and resilient food systems. Developed countries must fulfil their climate finance obligations and provide predictable, accessible and predominantly grant-based support to developing countries. Funding mechanisms must enable local institutions and communities to access resources directly, while climate governance must ensure meaningful participation, transparency and accountability.

The transition must protect livelihoods, create decent work, strengthen social protection and distribute the benefits and costs of climate action fairly. Kenya's climate priorities and Africa's development needs must be reflected in international decisions and their implementation.

FIVE PRIORITY AREAS AND PROPOSED COP31 ACTIONS

Priority 1: *Secure Equitable, Accessible and Predictable Climate Finance*

Climate finance remains central to Africa's ability to adapt to climate change and pursue just, low-emission development. However, inadequate funding, complex application procedures, limited direct access and reliance on debt constrain the ability of vulnerable countries and local actors to implement climate priorities.

CSOs call on COP31 Parties to:

- ✓ Scale up adaptation finance and establish a credible delivery plan for the proposed tripling of adaptation finance to at least USD 120 billion annually, with clear baselines, timelines and accountability.
- ✓ Prioritize predictable public and grant-based finance, alongside appropriate concessional resources, without deepening Africa's debt burden.
- ✓ Simplify access procedures, strengthen local implementing entities and reduce intermediaries so that funding reaches communities, women and youth-led organizations, smallholder farmers, pastoralists, persons with disabilities and Indigenous Peoples.
- ✓ Mobilize new and additional finance for implementing Kenya's National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC).
- ✓ Strengthen transparency and accountability in tracking finance mobilized, disbursed and received, including its delivery to local implementers.

Priority 2: ***Operationalize Loss and Damage Finance***

Droughts, floods, pests and other climate-related shocks are causing losses across agricultural value chains, undermining livelihoods, food production and local economies. Vulnerable communities bear a disproportionate burden despite their limited contribution to global greenhouse gas emissions.

CSOs call on COP31 Parties to:

- ✓ Secure scaled-up, predictable public finance for the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD), supported by a credible long-term resource mobilization strategy.
- ✓ Simplify access arrangements and enable timely, equitable and direct support to affected countries and communities.
- ✓ Prioritize vulnerable farmers, pastoralists and other communities experiencing climate-induced livelihood losses.
- ✓ Strengthen accountability and sustained political attention to loss and damage while ensuring that its financing complements, rather than replaces, adaptation finance.

Priority 3: ***Advance a People Centred and Inclusive Just Transition***

The transition to low-emission development must address inequality, protect livelihoods and ensure that affected communities participate meaningfully in decisions. Energy transitions and critical-mineral extraction must not transfer environmental and social costs to local communities, while agriculture and food systems must be recognized as integral to a just transition.

CSOs call on COP31 Parties to:

- ✓ Advance implementation of the UAE Just Transition Work Programme and strengthen international cooperation to support nationally determined transition pathways.
- ✓ Expand affordable, reliable and sustainable energy through decentralized renewable energy, clean cooking and productive-use energy solutions, supported by technology transfer, skills development and local innovation.
- ✓ Protect community rights through meaningful participation, fair benefit sharing, labour protections and robust environmental and social safeguards in energy and critical-mineral investments.
- ✓ Promote decent green jobs, social protection and equitable access to transition opportunities.
- ✓ Ensure that women, youth, workers, Indigenous Peoples, persons with disabilities and other marginalized groups influence climate decisions and benefit fairly from climate action.

Priority 4: ***Strengthen Adaptation Implementation, Measurement and Gender Responsive Climate Governance***

Effective adaptation requires more than commitments. Countries and communities need adequate financing, appropriate indicators, technical capacity and inclusive governance to measure progress and direct resources towards locally identified priorities.

CSOs call on COP31 Parties to:

- ✓ Advance the operationalization of the Belém Addis Vision and the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) indicators through technically robust, regionally balanced processes.
- ✓ Support the contextualization and testing of indicators, with adequate financing and technical capacity to measure adaptation outcomes at national and community levels.
- ✓ Strengthen implementation of the Belém Gender Action Plan, including through gender-responsive climate finance instruments and policies across climate funds.
- ✓ Strengthen the capacity and role of national gender and climate change focal points through clear terms of reference, peer learning and technical support.
- ✓ Improve intersectional representation, accessibility and regional balance in climate governance, and assess women's actual influence in decision-making, not participation alone.

Priority 5: ***Put Agriculture, Food Systems and Smallholder Livelihoods at the Centre of Climate Action***

Agriculture and food systems underpin livelihoods, employment and food and nutrition security in Kenya. Yet smallholder farmers and pastoralists face escalating climate risks and increasing pressure to meet evolving environmental and carbon-related market requirements. Without adequate support, these requirements may create additional costs and barriers to market participation.

CSOs call on COP31 Parties to:

- ✓ Triple adaptation finance, technology transfer and capacity building for climate-resilient agriculture and sustainable value chains.
- ✓ Support drought-resistant crop varieties, locally produced biofertilisers and biopesticides, safer alternatives to hazardous pesticides and sustainable agricultural production.
- ✓ Strengthen local enterprises, market access and producer capacity to meet sustainability requirements without disproportionate economic burdens.
- ✓ Ensure that climate-related trade and environmental requirements do not unfairly exclude African smallholders from international markets.
- ✓ Address the livelihood and food security implications of agricultural decarbonisation, including mitigation measures affecting pastoral livestock systems. Recognition that food system is central to climate action and broadly accepted and SJWA extended with an implementation focus and a stronger mandate on the portal and coordination.

- ✓ Ensure that agricultural transition pathways protect livelihoods, strengthen resilience and safeguard food and nutrition security.

THREE CORE MESSAGES FOR COP31

1. **Climate finance must reach those who need it most.** COP31 must deliver adequate, predictable, accessible and predominantly grant-based finance, strengthen direct access for local actors and communities, and ensure that adaptation and loss and damage needs are met without deepening Africa's debt burden.
2. **A just transition must leave no one behind.** Climate action must protect livelihoods, create decent jobs, strengthen social protection and ensure meaningful participation and equitable benefits for women, youth, workers, Indigenous Peoples and marginalized communities.
3. **Climate action must empower communities and protect food security.** Affordable clean energy, technology transfer, locally led adaptation and climate-resilient agriculture must be adequately supported to strengthen livelihoods, sustainable development and food and nutrition security.

PROPOSED ADVOCACY AND FOLLOW-UP

Before COP31

- ✓ Validate the position with participating CSOs and agree on priority demands and spokespersons.
- ✓ Prepare concise advocacy briefs supported by evidence and community experiences.
- ✓ Engage Kenya's negotiating team, relevant ministries and the AGN to communicate CSO priorities.
- ✓ Coordinate messaging and build alliances with African and international CSO networks, including relevant gender constituencies.

During COP31

- ✓ Engage negotiators, climate finance institutions, donors and other decision-makers through targeted meetings and policy dialogues.
- ✓ Advocate for the five priority areas and track responses to CSO demands.
- ✓ Amplify community voices through side events, media engagement and coordinated advocacy.

After COP31

- ✓ Disseminate outcomes to CSOs, government stakeholders and affected communities.
- ✓ Monitor implementation of commitments, climate finance delivery and progress on national priorities.
- ✓ Document achievements and gaps, strengthen accountability and consolidate African civil society priorities ahead of COP32.

CONCLUSION

Kenyan CSOs call for COP31 to move beyond commitments towards equitable financing, accountable implementation and tangible benefits for communities. The success of climate action must be measured not only by decisions adopted, but also by whether resources reach those most affected, livelihoods are protected, energy access improves and communities become more resilient. A coordinated Kenyan civil society voice can help ensure that national and African climate priorities are heard, that international commitments respond to local realities, and that the transition to a climate-resilient and low-emission future is just, inclusive and sustainable.