



Standing in solidarity with peasant and working-class women in Africa as they build a collective vision for a just and sustainable future!

In late July 2018, a group of feminists and climate justice activists met in Mogale, Johannesburg to discuss the global crises confronting us today and the kinds of deep social and economic changes needed to achieve a socially just and sustainable future.

We agreed that:

 A **just transition** is critical, but much of the thinking and proposals related to this have emerged from organized trade unions, and address job losses in sectors such as energy, agriculture and transport as a result of climate mitigation efforts and the energy transition.

 **Climate justice** is critical because it demands that the unjust capitalist system be dismantled to take care of the planet and provide redress for historical violations, but the concept needs deepening to address the relationship between patriarchy and climate injustice.

The groups who are on board in alphabetical order:

-  Development Studies, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University
-  Earthlife Africa
-  Friends of the Earth Africa
-  Friends of the Earth International
-  Friends of the Earth Mozambique/ Justica Ambiental
-  Friends of Lake Turkana
-  Just Associates (JASS)
-  Rural Women's Assembly
-  Society, Work and Development Institute, Wits University
-  WoMin African Alliance
-  World March of Women



Feminist perspectives on patriarchy, capitalism and the exploitation of women's bodies and women's labour are critical but they generally fail to address how these systems are also organized around the large-scale exploitation of nature alongside that of labour. This has resulted in ecosystem damage and climate change, the ultimate threat to the survival of humanity. An **ecofeminist perspective** is thus critical to imagining and advancing a genuine and deep development alternative for women, all people and the planet.



We have the right to say NO!

Peasant and working-class women in Africa bear the brunt of climate-destroying 'development' projects which grab, pollute and destroy their lands, water, and forests, undermine cultural and historical ties to territories, exploit their labour (paid and unpaid), and violate their bodies and health. Women form the core of struggles to defend the land, lives, livelihoods and future of their families and communities. Their struggle is one that defends a way of life and an existence that cannot be replaced. This is their development alternative. Yet women have limited voice and authority in decision-making about development at all levels of society.

These conclusions led to...

The birth of a process of building an African ecofeminist charter for a just transition



Nothing about us, without us!

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The Mogale Declaration:
Living the Future Now

Building a Just Transition Charter with Grassroots Women

How you can participate and contribute

The Mogale Declaration: Living the Future Now

15 July 2018



Preamble

The world is in crisis. Hunger, climate change, the depletion and destruction of our forests, water sources and ecosystems, economic inequality and energy injustice threaten the survival of the majority of humanity and the planet. Working class and peasant women across the world carry the heaviest burden of these crises. It is these women who stand on the frontlines of resistance to the resource grabbing, exploitation and violence associated with capitalist patriarchy. We note the ways in which African peasant and working-class women care for, replenish and reproduce nature and humans. They offer a living example of the principles which must shape a sustainable future for humanity and the planet.

We, women gathered here in Mogale, agree on the following principles that embody an African ecofeminist just transition for people and the planet. We will test, refine and build on these principles through a regional process that puts the voices, experiences and knowledge of poor and working-class African women at the centre. Together, we will define what just development and a fair transition from capitalist patriarchy to a different social and economic order would look like.

Principles/practices which characterise an African Ecofeminist Just transition

1. Ecological balance – a harmonious co-existence with nature
2. Social and economic justice for all
3. Food sovereignty
4. Socialised renewable energy, which benefits women
5. Clean air and water
6. Valuing and reclaiming African traditional knowledge
7. Living simply and sharing
8. Living Ubuntu in our relations with each other and nature – 'I am because you are'
9. Land, held as commons, to support human reproduction
10. Living well not better
11. Collective democratic horizontal leadership in our movements, organisations and collectives



- 12. Collective right to commons
- 13. No women should be left unorganised
- 14. Unifying struggles across rural & urban-walk together
- 15. Respect different forms of people's resistance
- 16. Acknowledging, valuing and redistributing care work
- 17. Participatory democracy
- 18. Individual and collective self-determination ' I am because we are'
- 19. Respect for community territories and customary rules of decision making/use
- 20. Right to basic services
- 21. Right to resources necessary for life (commons)
- 22. Respect for diversity
- 23. Solidarity with and between people in struggle
- 24. Right to say NO
- 25. Safe transport
- 26. Right to lives free of systematic violence

Building a Just Transition Charter with Grassroots Women

The declaration is a statement written by representatives of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), mainly NGOs and academia. It provides a working frame and a clear set of political demands, which can guide efforts in our organisations, networks and alliances, campaigns and universities. However, it does not and cannot speak directly to the interests and perspectives of most of Africa's women.

To support organising from below and to build a genuine grassroots driven perspective on just development alternatives we agreed to build a charter process with women in communities, people's organisations and movements. In answering the question 'what is the world you want?' or 'what do women in your community want from development' women would construct the content of the charter. The methods used would need to be creative, enabling voice and perspective through storytelling, testimony, theatre, poetry, drawing and movement. The different dimensions of conversation and proposal would be documented through photo, video, writing, voice recordings and so on. The methodology is in the process of development and we welcome collaboration in building out an approach. Women would need to lead the process of writing the charter and seeking endorsement from their peers across the continent.

How you can join:

If your organisation is interested in contributing to and supporting the Charter process contact trusha.reddy@womin.org.za