

African women's movements and women-led organisations, and our allies in the region and around the world, call on our governments, the United Nations, and African Union to act on the climate crisis to save our people and our planet!

The death and destruction accompanying Cyclone Idai, which made landfall in Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe just 6 days past, continues as rainfall and flooding endures, hampering rescue efforts in countries with wholly inadequate infrastructure and resources. The number of confirmed fatalities keep rising and, at the time of writing, is well into the high hundreds with Mozambique estimating a death toll there alone of more than 1000 people. Infrastructure has been destroyed, whole families have been washed away by the flooding, and mass burials are being prepared. [Hundreds of thousands](#) more have been injured and displaced, and close to 3 million people have been [affected](#) across the three countries. Rescue organisations report, five days post the Cyclone, of survivors on rooftops and palm trees still awaiting rescue as floodwaters continues to rise.

This tragedy, which the World Meteorological Organisation is referring to as likely the worst tropical cyclone on record in the Southern Hemisphere, is unfolding in countries ranked amongst the poorest thirty in the world. Now inundated with water, these countries have endured drought since 2014, with [ReliefWeb](#) estimating that about 10.8 million people in southern Africa faced severe food insecurity at the end of 2018, a trend forecast to extend into 2019. These countries, and southern Africa, live the realities of unfolding climate crisis with little capacity, funds or supports from the rich global North and parts of the global South for climate mitigation and adaptation.

This is a great disaster and tragedy, but it is not “natural”; it is human-made and certainly not by all humans in this planet's history. Bar Nigeria and South Africa, the other 52 countries in Africa have collectively contributed only [5.7% to total accumulated greenhouse gas emissions](#) since 1850. Compare this to the largest single emitter, the United States of America (18.6%) and the latest contender, China, estimated at 11.6% in 2010. Those who have contributed least to the climate crisis, are the ones carrying the greatest burden. Sub-Saharan Africa is projected to be most impacted by climate change. Any average temperature increase beyond 1.5 degrees, which the distinguished Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reports we are on track to achieve in less than 12 years without radical efforts to cut fossil fuel emissions, would cut corn yields in parts of Africa by half, result in the extinction of 50% of Africa's birds and mammals by 2050, and will transform more than 86 million Africans into “climate migrants” in the same period.

And it is African women who are already carrying and will continue to carry the burden of climate change. In Africa, 80% of the food produced comes from peasant farmers, the majority of whom are women. Ill-health arising from heat stress, malaria, malnutrition and diarrhoea, estimated to result in more than 250 000 additional deaths each year during the period 2030-2050, will be a burden of women who carry the main responsibility for care. Migration puts women at particular risk of exploitation, abuse and sexualised violence. And they will face increased [risk of domestic violence](#), a trend recorded in South Africa, China, India and the US, as families struggle with the stresses of water, food and income shortages.

Fossil fuels energy - oil, coal and natural gas – is responsible for more than 25% of global greenhouse gas emissions, closely followed by the transport sector (25%) and large-scale industrial agriculture, which contributes over 11% of global emissions. The climate crisis is fuelled by the overproduction and overconsumption of goods in the global North and small pockets of the global South. This production require raw materials, water and energy to feed mostly unnecessary needs created by the trillion-dollar marketing and advertising industries. More and more raw materials have to be

extracted to feed this system and this only creates more crisis for people, and accelerates climate change. The logic of profits and the fixation on economic growth, which requires the ever-expanding use of finite natural resources, is driving the planet and its people to extinction.

Corporations and rich governments, and some parts of the scientific community, undermine what is needed – an end to fossil fuels extraction, the deindustrialisation of agriculture, and rapidly reduced consumption in the developed parts of the world – in favour of false solutions to climate change. Once again, the rich and the powerful try to control the forces of nature by seeding clouds for rain, depositing iron filings in the seas to absorb sunlight, and injecting aerosols into the atmosphere to cool the planet instead of cutting the carbon emissions.

To maintain this unsustainable model of development, a combination of military and private security forces routinely use threats, violence, and sexualised violence, targeting women and girl children, as weapons against communities where extractives activities are taking place. Those who stand in the path of profit by resisting dispossession, dislocation, and the violent denial of livelihoods, wellbeing and life itself, confront extreme violence.

The rich and the powerful continue to lie, obfuscate and distract from the real solutions as the planet burns and people – the poor, women and people of colour – die. These are people that, in the greater logic of the machinery of profit and preservation of privilege, are expendable!

The climate crisis is a crisis for women across the world, and women in Africa in particular. This is why we, women's movements and women-led organisations across the African continent, are unifying to say NO – ENOUGH IS ENOUGH! We stand up in defence of our people, our continent and the planet as a whole! We are strong, and we are united and we will not be stopped!

We call on our governments, organised under our Pan African body, the African Union, to take a clear and unwavering stand on the climate crisis. We need you to stand with the majority of your people, and women in particular, who are dying and will continue to die in ever-increasing numbers while the rich countries and the development banks which they control fail to do the needed.

We also call on our governments to put in place and properly resource disaster management plans. Extreme weather events – droughts, flooding, and cyclones – are part of the landscape which lies ahead for Africa. Rich governments are liable and should be placed under pressure to pay for adaptation, mitigation and rehabilitation.

We call on our representative states to put their individual interests aside and act in a unified block, at the UNFCCC negotiations, in other multilateral spaces, and in bilateral negotiations on trade and investment, in defence of the continent and its people. This is what you have promised to your people and we have trust and confidence that you can and will take the stand that is needed.

We call on the United Nations to stand with the weaker nations in pushing rich governments to act on the banks and corporations, registered in their jurisdictions, which continue to invest in dirty energy and extractives projects which are the direct cause of the climate and ecological crisis.

Our women's organisations and movements are unifying in Africa and beyond, and we will continue to grow our numbers and our strength. This is our promise and our commitment to the planet and all peoples!

Signed by:

1. WoMin African Alliance, regional network

2. World March of Women, Africa-wide and global
3. Rural Women's Assembly, Southern Africa
4. Justicia Ambiental, Mozambique
5. Quote This Woman+ NPC, South Africa
6. Our MMR-Mozambican Rural Women Movement, Mozambique
7. Kebetkache Women Development & Resource Centre, Nigeria
8. Women Initiative on Climate Change, Nigeria
9. Ahoada League of Queens Farmers, Nigeria
10. Rural Health and Women Development, Nigeria
11. Development Research and Synergy Initiative, Nigeria
12. Centre for Media Development Communications, Nigeria
13. Gbolekekro Women Organization, Nigeria
14. Egi Human Rights Environmental Initiative, Nigeria
15. Centre for Natural Resource Governance, Zimbabwe
16. Southern Africa Campaign to Dismantle Corporate Power
17. Women Concerns Centre, Kenya
18. Alternative Information Development Centre (AIDC), Cape Town, South Africa
19. Namibia Rural Women's Assembly (NRWA)
20. JASS Southern Africa
21. International Rivers Africa Program
22. GenderCCSA
23. African Centre for Biodiversity, regional
24. #UniteBehind, movement Western Cape of South Africa
25. Wacam, Ghana
26. West Africa Human Rights Defenders Network (ROADDH/WAHRDN), Togo
27. Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM), Uganda
28. Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Kenya
29. Institute for Culture and Ecology (ICE), Kenya

30. Community Action for Nature Conservation (CANCO), Kenya
31. CFFA, Senegal
32. Pietermaritzburg Economic Justice & Dignity Group
33. Justice and Peace Department of the Uganda Episcopal Conference
34. Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in West Africa (FECCIWA / ACCEAO), Togo
35. Déborah Network, Benin
36. Trust for Community Outreach and Education (TCOE), regional network
37. Inyanda National Land Rights Movement, South Africa
38. CRSFPC/USOFORAL (le comité régional de solidarité des femmes pour la paix en Casamance), Senegal
39. Association des Organisation Professionnelles Paysannes aux Mali (AOPP), Mali
40. la Fédération des Unions de Coopératives de Producteurs de Riz du Niger (FUCOPRI), Niger
41. Eastern and Southern Africa Small Scale Farmers' Forum, Uganda
42. National Association of Professional Environmentalists (NAPE), Uganda
43. La Coalition Burkinabe des Défenseurs des Droits (CBDDH), Burkina Faso
44. Centre for Alternative Research and Studies on Economic, Social and Environmental issues (CARES), Mauritius
45. Women's Coalition of Zimbabwe
46. Better Poverty Eradication Organization, Kenya
47. Rita Edwards Collective, South Africa
48. Women Initiative on climate change, Nigeria
49. Action for Community Development, Cameroon
50. Coalition of Women Living with HIV/AIDS, Malawi
51. SOFFLECO/Femmes debout, DRC
52. Synergie des Femmes pour les Victimes des Violences Sexuelles (SFVS), DRC
53. Rwanda Women's Network
54. Women's International for Peace and Freedom DRC Section
55. Duterimbere ONG, Rwanda
56. Igiti cy'Ubugingo Center, Rwanda
57. HAGURUKA NGO, Rwanda

58. Friends of Lake Turkana, Kenya
59. Femmes Solidaires (FESO), Kinshasa, DRC
60. SOFEJEP (Solidarité des organisations des organisations des femmes et jeunes producteurs agricoles). DRC
61. ATK-Maniema (Association Tujenge Kwetu Maniema), DRC
62. AFELMA (Association des Femmes Eleveuses du Maniema), DRC
63. SAFI Maniema (Soutien aux Actions des Femmes Indigentes au Maniema
64. IFDH (Initiative Féminine pour la défense des droits Humains et le Développement), DRC
65. SAFECO (Synergy of Congolese Women's Associations), DRC

Worldwide

1. Climate & Energy Group - MAUSAM, India
2. INDIA-CLIMATE-JUSTICE platform
3. Both ENDS
4. Frontline Defenders, global
5. Ecologistas en Acción, Spain
6. Observatorio Boliviano de Cambio Climático y "Desarrollo" Trenzando Ilusiones (un espacio para la transición) – Bolivia
7. La Asamblea Veracruzana de Iniciativas y Defensa Ambiental (LAVIDA) – Mexico
8. Comité para la Abolición de las Deudas Ilegítimas - ABYA YALA (CADTM – AYNA), Argentina
9. The Global Alliance for Green and Gender Action (GAGGA) that is led by Fondo Centroamericano de Mujeres (FCAM) with Both ENDS and Mama Cash
10. Asociación Interamericana para la Defensa del Ambiente (regional organization in Latin America)
11. Alianza de Comunidades en defensa de los ríos Bobos-Nautla y Tecolutla, A. C. Mexico
12. Modelo Hidráulico para la cuenca baja del río Nautla-Bobos, A. C., Mexico
13. Transnational Institute, global
14. Global Campaign to Reclaim Peoples Sovereignty, Dismantle Corporate Power and Stop Impunity (stopcorporateimpunity.org)
15. Friends of the Earth Sweden
16. CCFD-Terre Solidaire, global network
17. FIAN International, international
18. Latin America Peoples Dialogue
19. Gender Action, Washington DC, United States of America