



20 years
IN SOLIDARITY
FOR CHANGE

GLOBAL YOUTH CLIMATE JUSTICE STATEMENT COP30 — BELÉM, BRAZIL





Your Excellencies, distinguished delegates, dear friends of the planet,

Our presence here today is living proof of our shared commitment: working together to protect the only home we share, our planet Earth.

The climate crisis is not a distant threat. It is already reshaping our lives, lands, and communities. As young people responsible for both the present and the future, we are witnessing the devastating consequences of climate inaction. We are inheriting a world where ecosystems are degraded and communities are uprooted as they lose their lands to drought and erratic rains, suffer from climate-related diseases, are swallowed by rising seas, and are displaced by intensifying floods. Even amid these impacts, we continue to protect forests, rivers, and grasslands, living in harmony with nature, while our rights and ways of life are violated. But it is also a world where our voices, creativity, and commitment to justice can drive real solutions. The urgency is undeniable: climate change is a matter of justice, survival, and dignity. Youth are not passive observers; we are leaders, innovators, and defenders of the Earth, carrying both ancestral knowledge and modern insight into decisions that will shape our collective future.

This Global Youth Climate Justice Statement emerged from the Global Youth Forum of Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendant Peoples, and local communities, convened by the Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI) in July 2025 in Bali, Indonesia. It brings together young voices from across the Global South who are confronting the urgent realities of climate injustice. Drawing from our lived experiences in Africa, Latin America, and Asia, this statement highlights the disproportionate impacts of climate change on our peoples, who are increasingly losing land, livelihoods, and cultural heritage. More than just an expression of our daily realities on the ground, this statement calls for a transformative approach to climate action rooted in ancestral knowledge, youth leadership, and community-driven solutions. Now, as the world gathers for COP30 in Belém, Brazil, we hope that our vision and demands outlined here will be met with urgency and conviction.



OUR SHARED VISION

We envision a world where planetary stewardship is rooted in justice, reciprocity, dignity, and ecological harmony. We envision a world where our communities are treated as central actors in climate solutions, not sidelined by corporate-driven development or inappropriate policy frameworks. We envision climate action that uplifts ancestral wisdom, protects land and cultural rights, and ensures that we, the youth, will inherit the world we have for so long imagined. And with that, we simply imagine a world where everyone gets to live a life free from the exploitation, oppression, and poverty caused by climate injustice.



KEY YOUTH DEMANDS

Our demands are structured around five priorities identified by youth at the Global Youth Forum. We urge state parties, international organizations, and decision-makers gathered here in Belém at COP30 to urgently implement these demands to ensure a just, equitable, and effective climate response.

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- 1. Land and Human Rights:** Guarantee the collective rights and territorial protection of Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendant Peoples, and local communities, ensuring Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) as a non-negotiable principle.
 - 2. Climate Justice:** Advance climate action rooted in justice, reject false solutions, and promote community-based renewable energy and solidarity economies.
 - 3. Education and Indigenous Knowledge:** Mandate intercultural, decolonizing environmental education that uplifts ancestral knowledge and youth leadership for a sustainable future.
 - 4. Youth Leadership:** Invest in political, technical, and spiritual training spaces for young Indigenous, Afro-descendant, and local community leaders to ensure meaningful participation in climate governance.
 - 5. Financing Youth Initiatives:** Ensure direct, transparent, and accountable climate financing for communities, youth, women, and Indigenous Peoples without intermediaries.

CALL TO ACTION

We, the global youth, call on world leaders at COP30 to move from promises to urgent action—governments and UNFCCC Parties must implement these 10 demands now to ensure a just, equitable, and effective climate response.



1. Center Indigenous, local community, and Afro-descendant youth as equal partners in all climate decision-making spaces, including COP30 negotiations and implementation processes.
2. Treat the climate crisis with political urgency and allocate adequate budgets for mitigation, adaptation, and community resilience.
3. Reorient climate strategies to be community-driven, recognizing Indigenous Peoples' guardianship and youth leadership as essential for real solutions.
4. All signatory nations must honor and strengthen their commitments to the Paris Agreement, urgently reducing emissions in line with the 1.5°C target.
5. Include specific clauses for youth, women, and sustainable technological innovation in each revision of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), in accordance with the Paris Agreement.
6. Ensure that each revision of countries' NDCs includes specific provisions for youth, women, and Indigenous-led solutions.
7. Build and strengthen solidarity among global youth movements, fostering cross-regional alliances grounded in reciprocity, kinship, and peacebuilding.
8. Immediately stop financing harmful climate projects and redirect resources toward Indigenous and youth-led restoration, biodiversity protection, and renewable energy solutions.
9. Embed intergenerational justice and accountability into all climate policies to safeguard the rights of current and future generations
10. Establish robust, independent monitoring and accountability systems to track implementation, rights violations, and environmental impacts.

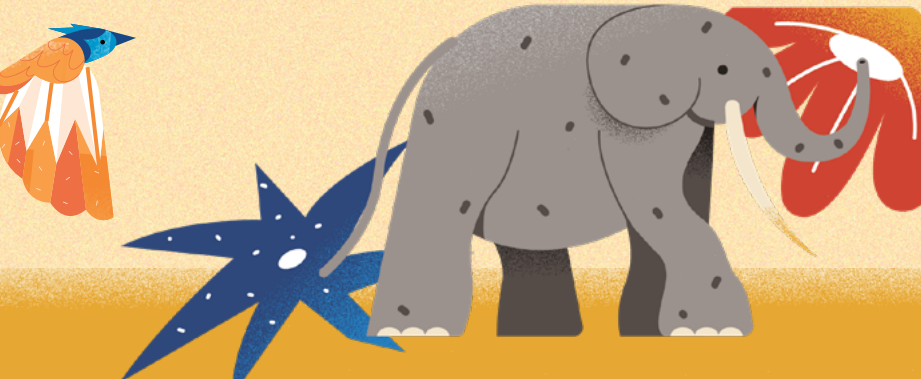
Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendant Peoples, and local communities are not victims; we are guardians of the planet. Young people are not observers; we are leaders and heirs of the Earth. We walk alongside those who came before us and those who will come after us, because our struggle does not begin or end with a single generation. Our voice is not optional: it is essential to building a just, diverse, and sustainable future.

ENDORSED BY

1. Action pour le développement communautaire
2. Afro-Ecuadorian Social and Cultural Development Foundation
3. Alianza Mesoamericana de Pueblos y Bosques (AMPB)
4. Aliansi Masyarakat Adat Nusantara (AMAN)
5. Alliance malagasy de la jeunesse pour le climat, la biodiversité et la lutte contre la Désertification (AIKA)
6. Alliance nationale d'appui et de promotion des Aires et territoires du patrimoine autochtone et communautaire (ANAPAC)
7. Articulação das Comunidades Negras Rurais Quilombolas (CONAQ)
8. Asia Indigenous Youth Platform (AIYP)
9. Asia Young Indigenous Peoples Network (AYIPN)
10. Asociación de Comunidades Forestales del Petén (ACOFOP)
11. Asociación de Mujeres Afrodescendientes del Norte del Cauca (ASOM)
12. Asociación Interétnica de Desarrollo de la Selva Peruana (AIDESEP)
13. Association des femmes autochtones Pygmées
14. Association des femmes peuples autochtones du Tchad
15. Barisan Pemuda Adat Nusantara (BPAN)
16. Barisan Pemuda Adat Nusantara (BPAN Bali)
17. Center for Environmental Information and Sustainable Development (CIEDD)
18. Community Land Action Now! (CLAN!)
19. Confederación de Nacionalidades Indígenas de la Amazonia Ecuatoriana (CONFENIAE)
20. Coordinadora Andina de Organizaciones Indígenas (CAOI)
21. Federation of Community Forestry Users Nepal (FECOFUN)
22. Global Alliance of Territorial Communities (GATC)



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- 23.** Indigenous Peoples of Asia Solidarity Fund (IPAS)
 - 24.** International Forestry Students' Association (IFSA)
 - 25.** Kaum Muda Tanah Air (KATA)
 - 26.** Kenya Indigenous Youth Network
 - 27.** Network of Indigenous and Local Populations for the Sustainable Management of Forest Ecosystems in Central Africa (REPALEAC)
 - 28.** Organisation congolaise des écologistes et Amis de la nature (OCEAN)
 - 29.** Organización de Desarrollo Étnico Comunitario (ODECO)
 - 30.** Organización de Pueblos Indígenas Amazónicos de Colombia (OPIAC)
 - 31.** Organización Nacional de Mujeres Indígenas Andinas y Amazónicas del Perú (ONAMIAP)
 - 32.** Organización Nacional Indígena de Colombia (ONIC)
 - 33.** Pour un monde meilleur (P2M)
 - 34.** Proceso de Comunidades Negras (PCN)
 - 35.** Red Afros of the Dominican Republic
 - 36.** Red Mexicana de Organizaciones Campesinas Forestales (Red MOCAF)
 - 37.** Regional Community Forestry Training Center for Asia and the Pacific (RECOFTC)
 - 38.** Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI)
 - 39.** Save My Future (SAMFU)
 - 40.** Siklab Philippine Indigenous Youth Network
 - 41.** Support Center for the Advancement of Women and Girls (CEPF)
 - 42.** Sustainable Development Institute (SDI)
 - 43.** There is No Earth B
 - 44.** Union pour le développement des minorités Ekonda (UDME)
 - 45.** União das Mulheres Indígenas da Amazônia Brasileira (UMIAB)
 - 46.** Youth Advocates for Climate Action Philippines (YACAP)
 - 47.** Youth Federation of Indigenous Nationalities (YFIN)





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