



Policy position of the consortium of Climate of Change for COP27

This policy position reflects the recommendations of the consortium of Climate of Change on the discussions being held around COP27 regarding climate justice.

We are facing one of the most turbulent decades in modern times. All signals tell us that the existing order is a long-term threat to humankind and the environment. To ensure a future for everyone, the moment to call for systemic change and climate justice is now.

Climate crises are social crises. At human level, marginalised countries and people are disproportionately hit by their terrible effects, in livelihood, work, health, and access to rights.

Climate crises act as a multiplier of existing inequalities and discrimination and reinforce unbalanced power relationships worldwide. Consequently, some groups are most affected by the impact of climate crises, such as children, girls and women.

In this scenario, the Global South is even more affected. Climate change is here and the now for more 20 million people forced to leave their homes every year and become internally displaced or migrate towards neighbouring countries. Communities and populations in the Global South are already bearing the burden of the worst impacts of climate change (droughts, floods, food crisis, lack of water, climate disasters, etc.) even though they have contributed the least to greenhouse gas emissions and climate change. This is a failure on the part of the global community - and in particular a failure of the rich countries who have caused the climate crisis - to accept their responsibility and support countries who are suffering the consequences of the big polluters' continued climate inaction, with special regard to indigenous communities. Our current economic system, heavily based on fossil fuels and extractivist modes of production, is at the root of this environmental collapse and at the centre of present and future conflicts. We can't separate these topics – they are intertwined and must be addressed together. At environmental level, climate crises threaten ecosystems, and affect wildlife and biodiversity with unprecedented consequences.

At the COP27, we will demand to the European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen the following actions:

- **Keep global warming under 1.5°C by achieving EU climate neutrality by 2040.**

To ensure that global warming remains below 1.5°C to avoid catastrophic levels, the EU must accelerate its ambitions of climate neutrality by 2040, a decade before the current 2050 target. EU Member States need to increase their ambitions on their NDC (Nationally Determined Contributions) and try to reduce their emissions 65% by 2030. The EU needs to decarbonise its economy by speeding up the transition to clean, renewable energy technologies to replace fossil fuels and by improving energy efficiency in the crucial sectors of power, heating and transportation as well as enabling the overall reduction of energy consumption. It is first and foremost a priority that the EU, which has committed to updating its NDC, arrives at COP27 in a credible manner with a proper



and clear update of concrete measures to keep warming within 1.5 degrees. Stronger government actions are urgently needed, with current policies the world is heading for a warming of 2.7°C, as reported by Climate Action Tracker. Despite this must be a common global effort, the EU and the other countries members of G20 have to accelerate first due to their historical and relevant contribution to the actual warming and its negative consequences.

- **No backward steps, straight and fast towards renewables.**

The current energy crisis must accelerate the use of renewable energies. No step backwards towards using coal or incentivising fossil fuels - including gas - or introducing unsustainable practices such as fracking, blue hydrogen or nuclear energy must be taken. The European Union must accelerate the process of decarbonisation and incentivise the use of clean, sustainable and renewable energies.

- **Ensure a just transition though fair burden-sharing and social protections.**

Skyrocketing energy prices and high inflation driven by fossil fuels has pushed millions of people into energy poverty, for whom it has become extremely difficult to pay their energy bills. While accelerating the energy transition is the right answer to tackle this volatile scenario, it is crucial to channel the investments towards low-income households. The high upfront cost of retrofitting homes and installing renewable heating solutions means they are not accessible to everyone, particularly low-income households. This has also unleashed a greater shift to tree cutting, both legally regulated and illegal one, and use of wood for heating, which triggers air pollution and deforestation processes. To finance clean energy measures while reducing inequalities, it is essential to rely on fair taxation schemes and robust public investments.

- **Shift towards a socially and ecologically just well-being economy.**

Shifting towards a socially and ecologically just wellbeing economy that puts the interests of society and nature above those of corporations and more powerful economies and countries and embraces beyond-GDP indicators. The wellbeing economy must abandon the current destructive fixation on constant economic and productivity growth. Instead, it must become regenerative, sustainable, democratic, fair, caring and just from a global and international approach. The adoption of a new paradigm should also ensure the protection of the ecosystems, wildlife, and biodiversity. In this direction, an ambitious Directive on Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence passed that obliges companies to meet the Paris targets of keeping warming within 1.5 degrees must be approved. Moreover, the Paris target must be introduced and monitored effectively, transparently and with proportionate preventive and compensatory actions in all trade agreements the EU has with third countries. An effective assessment of the negative impacts of trade policies on the environment must include the voice of and be accountable to local communities and minorities.

- **Protect climate change-induced migrants through a human rights-based migration policy.**

Boosting local resilience and global justice by providing financial and technical support for adaptation to countries that are affected by climate change the most and developing an international protection scheme for climate change-induced migration. Fair and human rights-based migration and adaptation policies would boost the resilience of the most vulnerable people. It will also enhance wellbeing in origin, transit and destination communities.



- **Enable youth participation in political decision-making.**

Participation of civil society from the north and the south, especially youth and other excluded groups, must be guaranteed to develop climate action mechanisms that do not leave anyone behind. Young people are important but underrepresented stakeholders, with a stake in the present and even more in the future. Youth representation in decision making is especially critical for achieving transgenerational justice. Policymakers must enable youth participation and integrate their views and vision into political decision-making by creating Youth Councils in the EU and the Member States. These Youth Councils should gain the status of social partners in the EU and its member states and would liaise with the UN Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change. Effective and structured spaces for monitoring and watchdogging from the youths should be established.

- **Agree on Climate Finance and a Loss and Damage mechanism.**

There is a huge debt from the wealthiest and most industrialised countries to the poorest countries in the global south related to greenhouse gas emissions. This debt must be recognised, quantified and there should be different mechanisms to pay it. There are several agreements on climate finance that unfortunately are not being fulfilled, while the existing funding mechanisms are not sufficient to address loss and damage that go beyond the mitigation and adaptation scope. Governments and wealthy countries must comply with their commitments to mobilise 100 billion dollars annually for the communities and countries most affected by climate change. Those funds must be equally distributed among mitigation and adaptation and those funds must not contribute to the increase of debt of countries in the global south.

The EU has committed to allocate at least 0.7% of Gross National Income to Official Development Assistance by 2030 but the EU must additionally fund climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts in low- and middle-income countries. Governments and the EU must support and agree to set up a new funding facility to address loss and damage at the COP27, as a mechanism through which new and additional funds from wealthy countries, polluting corporations and innovative financial instruments can be channelled to help communities in need.

- **Ensure that children's and youth best interests and their rights are protected**

Climate emergency is one of the biggest threats at global level for children and adolescents. It is expected that children born today will be the ones facing the worst consequences of the climate crisis (they will face more droughts, floods, loss of crops, heat waves, etc.). There is an intergenerational debt linked to climate change. Children's and youth rights must be included in all climate related international declarations, agreements, and frameworks. Furthermore, they must be explicitly included in all national climate plans, including the Nationally Determined Contributions and National Adaptation Plans as stated by the Declaration on Children, Youth and Climate Action. The European Union must play a leading role in this process

- **Defend the rights of women and girls and their participation into climate decision making processes**

Women are more affected by climate change and are often at the forefront of the climate crisis, they are more dependent on natural resources (60-80% of food is produced by women) they are in charge of providing their households with food, water or wood, they are responsible of the care work, they face a bigger risk of dying on a climate disaster or facing violence and exploitation. They have more difficulties accessing credits, resources and support to cover the losses linked to climate change. We need to ensure the participation of women and girls into climate decision making processes at local, national and international level and that climate action incorporates a gender and intersectional approach. The European Union must lead this objective with stronger action especially by supporting those third Countries where the climate gender gap is deeper.

The position paper has been prepared by EEB, WeWorld, ActionAid Hellas, Alianza por la Solidaridad - ActionAid Spain, Südwind, finep, IMVF, SLOGA and BEPF in the framework of the Climate of Change consortium.

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