



# CLIMATE YES

## Youth Ecumenical Summit

### ECUMENICAL YOUTH SUMMIT ON CLIMATE STATEMENT TO HEADS OF STATES, CHURCH AND BUSINESS LEADERS

#### PREAMBLE

We, the youth of faith from different Church denominations across the World, meeting in regional climate summits in United Kingdom, Italy, East Africa, Southern Africa and Central Africa on 16th and 17th September 2022, call on you to recognise that:

**Our future depends on the choices you make – our world stands at a pivotal point in its history.**

As you meet in Sharm El-Sheikh, to participate in the 27th Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, we urge you to consider:

#### LOSS AND DAMAGE

We are experiencing destructive impacts of climate change that we cannot avoid and which overwhelm our adaptive capacities. We are experiencing loss of human lives, livelihoods, cultural heritage, and biodiversity. Our Countries, most of which are already heavily indebted, are experiencing massive damages of critical infrastructure due to extreme weather events.

Our communities continue to experience frequent and extreme weather events like tropical cyclones as witnessed in Southern Africa; prolonged droughts in the horn of Africa, heat waves in Europe and Asia; typhoons in Asia; and hurricanes in the Americas, all of which have become frequent and extreme.

If we argue that we do not have evidence of loss and damage attributable to climate change, then the recent devastating Monsoon floods in Pakistan have given us staggering evidence. According to the National Disaster Management Authority of Pakistan, the floods had by 02, October 2022, impacted 33 million people. 1,695 people including 630 children had lost their lives, at least 12,865 injured and 7.6 million displaced. Over 750,000 houses were fully destroyed, 1,277,861 partially destroyed and more than 1 million livestock had been killed. The report further indicated that More than 13,254 km of road, acres of land and 440 bridges had been damaged with 1,460 health facilities, 23,900 schools and many water systems rendered nonfunctional. This extreme event of Monsoon floods is a compelling case for loss and damage conversations in Sharm El-Sheikh.



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As young people of faith, **we ask of you all to:**

- Establishing a loss and damage financing facility to support climate vulnerable communities.
- Involving Faith organizations in disaster response as they have deeper access to communities and existing resources to leverage in times of disaster.
- Designing funding mechanisms that do not rely on disaster-by-disaster appeals contingent on media coverage, to support lower-visibility disasters better and more rapidly.
- Delivering on the promise of availing \$100 billion per year from 2020-2025 for climate vulnerable communities to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

### **BUILDING RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE IMPACTS**

The historical Paris Agreement on Climate Change set out a global goal on adaptation to increase the ability of countries and their people to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emissions development, in a manner that does not threaten food production. The implementation of this goal continues to lag behind due to poor resourcing despite increased adverse impacts of climate change. Until this moment, only 25% of climate funds are appropriated for adaptation and resilience building. This has made it difficult for developing countries to build resilience of their communities who continue to face frequent and extreme weather events. In the Africa Adaptation Summit held in Rotterdam in September 2022, there was commitment of only \$50 million to the adaptation fund against a target of \$25 billion by the leaders. This is only one example of lack of commitment by International stakeholders in financing climate adaptation and cushioning the most vulnerable communities from adverse impacts of climate change.

**We call on the leaders at COP27 to:**

- Increase financing to climate change adaptation
- Ensure parity of resource allocation for climate mitigation and adaptation as stipulated in the Paris Agreement.
- Allocate funds to localized entrepreneurial youth-led ventures that promote the production of clean energy and recycling.
- Put in place accountability mechanisms to ensure transparency and credibility in delivery of services and use of financial resources



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### FOSSIL FUELS

The energy sector accounts for a quarter of global greenhouse gas emissions. Carbon dioxide (74.4%) and Methane (17.3%) are the predominant greenhouse gases responsible for global warming and are largely emitted from fossil fuel production and use (Our World in data, 2022).

Early this year, Elsevier, an International Journal of the Political, Economic, Planning, Environmental and Social Aspects of Energy published an article titled “Carbon Bombs”. In the article, the authors identified 425 biggest fossil fuel extraction projects globally (defined as >1 gigaton potential CO<sub>2</sub> emissions). They listed these “carbon bombs” and calculated their potential emissions which combined exceeded the global 1.5 °C carbon budget by a factor of two. In Africa, oil and gas extraction are being explored in Uganda, Mozambique, Namibia among others. Multinational oil companies continue to invest in fossil fuel extraction despite overwhelming evidence that fossil fuels contribute 67% of greenhouse gasses.

To meet the goals of the Paris Agreement, we need to move away from fossil fuels and towards clean power much faster than at present. There’s a big opportunity: solar and wind power are now cheaper than coal in most countries, generating more jobs, and giving us cleaner air.

#### **We recommend that:**

- Fossil fuel exploration be abandoned
- Subsidies on fossil fuels be removed and the resources be invested in production of clean energy.
- Countries develop more ambitious energy transition plans to renewable energy sources.
- Governments facilitate adoption of clean transport
- Improve urban infrastructure to enable non-motorised transport
- Governments invest in good green jobs, including through climate finance

### ROLE OF YOUTH OF FAITH IN CLIMATE ACTION

Young people are not only the victims of climate change, we are also the hope of the future – you will die of old age, we might die of climate change. But we are rising, we have creativity, we are part of the solution to the climate crisis.

#### **We urge all climate stakeholders to:**

- Design inclusive programmes that involve young people in climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- Leverage the youths’ energy, creativity, and reach through religious structures to provide climate education and lead climate interventions.
- Invest in education in the renewable energy sector