

Embargoed until: Thursday,
3 November 2022

RACIAL JUSTICE AND CLIMATE ORGANISATIONS DEMAND IMMEDIATE ACTION ON LOSS AND DAMAGE AHEAD OF COP27

Whether in death or dollars, the consequences of human-induced climate change are being felt most acutely by those who have least contributed to the crisis. Racialised, and other marginalised communities across the world, most specifically in the Global South, disproportionately experience the impact of the climate crisis of climate change. This is yet another burden placed on their shoulders by countries in the Global North, deepening the scars of an exploitative colonial past.

There has been little political will from the European Union (EU) to repair the loss and damages of climate change in the global South. The majority of EU leaders “spearheading” global climate efforts did not prioritise attendance to the African Adaptation Climate Summit in Rotterdam.

Instead, the call for action comes from countries and people who are most directly affected by climate change, rather than those who bear the greatest responsibility. As highlighted by Africa Climate Justice and African Peoples’ Counter COP, past and ongoing impacts of colonialist extractivism, plunder and economic exploitation, as well as false ‘green colonialist’ solutions to the climate crisis will disproportionately impact communities in the global south. We stand in solidarity with these movements. In the global North and global South, households already suffering from successive global crises are paying the price - with their lives and with their land.

Ahead of COP-27, we demand immediate recognition that:

- Loss and damages are not theoretical or future problems, but a reality that **disproportionately impacts racialised and marginalised communities, in particular those in the Global South**
- Qualifiable loss and damage such as cultural practices, ways of life, displacement, family separation, and brain drain from climate refugees, is as **immeasurable** as the loss of lives, infrastructure, and land
- “Adaptation” has limits, and that no amount of “resilience” can stem the **material effects** of climate change
- Migration is an inevitable consequence of inaction on the climate crisis
- The disparate impact of loss and damages stemming from the climate crisis are a direct consequence of colonial exploitation of countries in the global South, and therefore there is a historical responsibility for global North governments to account for this imbalance.

We call for European leaders to implement:

- A clear and unequivocal communication as to the historical responsibility of European leaders for the climate crisis, including an articulation of how leaders will incorporate ‘fair share’ in climate commitments
- A separate financial mechanism addressing loss and damages additional to existing adaptation and mitigation commitments
- Funding for the mechanism that comes from excess profits of gas and oil corporations responsible for climate change, and financial commitments from the governments who have historically benefited from fossil fuels, extraction, and exploitation
- Large-scale climate financing in the form of needs-based, accessible grants, that do not contribute to the debts of those affected
- A migration policy that prioritises safe passage for those forcibly displaced due to environmental damages, and saves lives by shortening complicated asylum procedures.

We are already out of time. Loss and damage finance must start now.

Initiating signatory

Equinox Initiative for Racial Justice

Co-signatories

1. 1.2 Diaries
2. ActionAid Netherlands
3. AlgoRace
4. ASOCIACIÓN NACIONAL PRESENCIA GITANA
5. ASTM - Action Solidarité Tiers Monde
6. Democracy International
7. Equipo Decenio Afrodescendiente
8. European Network Against Racism
9. Friends of the Earth Malta
10. Fundación Código Humano
11. Greek Forum of Migrants
12. Institute of Cultural Affairs, Spain
13. International Refugee Rights Initiative (IRRI)
14. Macarena para Todas
15. Migrant Tales
16. Mouvement Ecologique
17. Parable of the Sower IC Cooperative
18. Phiren Amenca International Network
19. Romano Kher - Roma House
20. SOLIDAR
21. SOS Racismo Portugal
22. The Populace Foundation International (TPFI)
23. vzw Climaxi
24. YouthForClimateLux