



PUB 01

PUBLIC STATEMENT

Together for Justice: Our Collective Action on Climate Justice

COVER NOTE

This statement has been prepared by the ACT Alliance Climate Justice Reference Group, with contributions from the ACT Europe Forum, substantial input from the Zimbabwe Forum and Pacific, Australia and New Zealand Regional Forum, the Advocacy and Policy Group and the Secretariat advocacy team. The primary focus of the document is to address the disproportionate impacts of climate change on marginalised communities and to advocate for equitable climate action, recognising the historical responsibilities of industrialised countries and the need for structural changes to achieve climate justice.

TOPIC

The current climate crisis presents an urgent and unprecedented threat to communities worldwide. It extends beyond an environmental issue, posing profound developmental, social, and moral challenges, with its impacts disproportionately affecting marginalised communities—on grounds of income, race, gender, age, ability, or religion—who suffer the most despite contributing the least to causing the crisis. These groups often lack the resources to cope with climate-related events, resulting in heightened poverty and social exclusion, and are frequently excluded from decision-making processes, further amplifying their vulnerability. Despite global initiatives like the Paris Agreement aimed at limiting global temperature rise, there has been uneven implementation and inadequate support for those most affected. As a faith-motivated and rights-based alliance, ACT Alliance recognises our duty to care for Creation. Achieving climate justice requires addressing both historical and structural imbalances between the developed and developing countries. This entails ensuring that industrialised nations meet their historical responsibilities by mobilising and transferring resources, technologies, and finance to vulnerable countries.

STATEMENT

Together for Justice: Our Collective Action on Climate Justice

The current climate crisis poses an urgent and unprecedented threat to communities worldwide. Scientific evidence clearly shows that human activities, particularly fossil fuel-based activities, are the primary drivers of climate change, leading to rising global temperatures, extreme weather events, biodiversity loss, and sea-level rise. If these trends continue unchecked, the impacts will become even more severe, widespread, and irreversible. Communities worldwide are already grappling with escalating threats from droughts, floods, wildfires, and other extreme weather events, which jeopardise their lives and livelihoods. These changes also threaten the realisation of fundamental human rights, such as access to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment - including access to clean water and food security - and the right to self-determination. Climate change, therefore, is not merely an environmental issue but a profound developmental, social, and moral challenge that demands urgent and collective action.

Climate change affects everyone, but its impacts are profoundly unequal. Poor and vulnerable communities, as well as marginalised groups are bearing the brunt of the crisis, despite having contributed the least to it. These communities often lack the necessary resources to cope with climate-related events, leading to increased poverty, social exclusion, and deepening inequalities both within and between societies. Their exclusion from decision-making processes further exacerbates their vulnerability, as they are often sidelined from shaping the climate policies that directly affect their lives. Women and girls, in all their diversity, face additional, specific challenges. Structural inequalities, such as the gendered division of labour and restricted access to land, finance, and decision-making, significantly limit their ability to lead and participate meaningfully in climate action. An unhealthy focus on economic development and profit for a few, instead of the wellbeing of many, has encouraged extractive industries which lead to further environmental crises and exacerbate the impacts of climate change.

In response to this emergency, global efforts such as the Paris Agreement have set ambitious targets to limit global temperature rise to below 1.5 degrees Celsius and enhance adaptive capacities including responding to loss and damage. However, the implementation of these targets has been uneven, and the necessary financial and technological support has not adequately reached the communities that need it most. The gap between commitments and actions, finance pledges and delivery, remains significant, with developed nations failing to fulfil their historical responsibilities to developing countries. As a result, the most vulnerable populations continue to face escalating threats without the resources needed to adapt or recover from climate-induced damage.

Achieving climate justice requires identifying and challenging the root causes of climate change— both structural and systemic. Contributions to climate change are not equal – and neither are its impacts. Achieving climate justice requires industrialised countries to respond to their historical responsibilities and mobilise and transfer resources, technologies, and finance

to the most vulnerable countries to enable them to adapt, mitigate and counter loss and damage. At the same time, it requires the most vulnerable countries to focus on protecting their most at-risk populations and communities. Finally, climate justice will not be achieved without tackling structural and systemic issues related to our deeply unbalanced and unsustainable fossil fuel powered global economic system.

As every life is God-given and all forms of Creation have intrinsic value deserving of dignity and respect, climate change poses a grave threat to Creation that we, as a faith-motivated alliance, must address with great seriousness and responsibility. Climate change is also a threat multiplier and has implications for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the realisation of human rights, thus further exacerbating inequalities and widening the poverty gap.

Commitments & Recommendations

For ACT Alliance, confronting climate change is not only an environmental challenge but also a developmental issue requiring that historical responsibilities be acknowledged and acted upon. Therefore, inspired by our faith and guided by our desire and quest for justice for the world's most vulnerable people, we, as ACT Alliance, commit to:

- **Pursue a human rights-centred approach to tackling climate change** in advocacy, policy, and programming efforts.
- **Support just transitions, adaptation, resilience, and loss and damage actions** to promote better conditions for all people and the realisation of human rights, ensuring stability and hope for the future. We also advocate for limiting global temperature rise to below 1.5 degrees Celsius and reducing our own carbon footprint.
- **Recognise the crucial role of women and girls, in all their diversity, in addressing the climate emergency** and promoting an intersectional gender justice approach to supporting their experience, perspectives, and competencies in building climate resilience and sustainability.
- **Go beyond gender responsive to gender transformative climate actions** to tackle the underlying root causes of gender discrimination and transform social norms that exacerbate gender inequalities and increase climate vulnerability.
- **Put adequate and accessible community-led climate finance that is fair and responsive to fiscal realities of vulnerable nations at the centre of the climate debate and at the core of our climate justice advocacy**, ensuring that support reaches the poorest and most vulnerable communities—a fundamental guiding principle of our work.
- **Call for the phase out of fossil fuels and fossil fuel divestment.** We will support global initiatives to end fossil fuel expansion and advance justly supported transitional efforts such as the Fossil Fuel non-proliferation treaty.

- **Continue to showcase members’ climate actions that build resilience and protect livelihoods**, such as supporting communities’ capacity to adapt to changing conditions, improving infrastructure to withstand environmental changes, climate risks, and disasters, and fostering community-centred, transformative, practical, tangible and locally led solutions.
- **Support sustainable agricultural practices that enhance adaptation and resilience to climate change**, which poses significant challenges to agricultural quality, productivity, and food security. This includes diversifying crops, adopting adaptive agricultural practices improving water use efficiency, and providing comprehensive support to smallholder farmers and valuing their expertise and knowledge.
- **Promote fair and equitable renewable energy sources, energy sovereignty, building resilient renewable energy infrastructure, and cost-effective decentralised energy solutions** tailored to those in remote areas who are often the most disadvantaged.

Furthermore, we call upon national governments and international organisations to:

- **Keep the 1.5 degrees Celsius goal alive** by agreeing on the phase-out of fossil fuels and divesting from fossil fuel proliferation, realising ambitious emission reduction commitments and taking leadership in using the maximum available resources to do so in a timely, adequate, fair fashion acknowledging the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.
- **Commit to human rights-based climate action, including action to advance gender justice**, to ensure no one is left behind.
- **Ensure that the transition to a low-carbon and climate resilient economy is fair and tailored to each country's circumstances**, with finance and ethical technological solutions driving the transition. All national governments must take responsibility for ensuring that their countries embark on transitional actions that benefit the people by realising human rights, improving economic resilience, job creation, and enhancing food and energy security. However, developed nations in particular must lead by reducing emissions and ending fossil fuel proliferation, avoiding harmful regulatory unilateral measures, and providing essential support to vulnerable countries in their transition efforts.
- **Address climate change and human mobility holistically** by guaranteeing voluntary movement and linking it to safe and regular migration pathways. Coherent policies across migration, humanitarian, and development sectors must respond to the rights, needs, and aspirations of people on the move, including those who wish to remain in their homes.

A majority of the assembly has declared itself in agreement with the opinions expressed in this statement. While many ACT members agree with the public statement, there are members who have expressed differing perspectives on the content or tone. Their decision reflects the diverse viewpoints within our alliance, and we respect their choice to abstain or vote against. As always, we value the collective dialogue and encourage continued discussions on the matter at hand, recognizing the strength of our unity in diversity.