



CALL to ACTION

by ACT Youth ahead of COP30

actalliance





ACT Alliance is made up of more than 148 faith-based organizations and churches working on long-term development, advocacy, and humanitarian assistance in over 120 countries. Within this structure, youth are a key pillar, actively contributing to transformation.

As faith-driven youth committed to socio-environmental justice, we recognize that we are living through a historic moment defined by interconnected structural crises and systemic failures that threaten life on Earth. These crises not only reflect a deeply unsustainable development model but also a grave ethical breakdown with the principles that sustain our common home.

We promote science-based and justice-centered solutions. We share the pain of inheriting crises we did not cause and live the paradox of possessing the commitment, values, creativity, and vision to build solutions—but not the power to drive the deep changes the world urgently needs. This reality must be transformed through meaningful youth participation in the spaces where policies and programs are decided.

We are **particularly alarmed** by the worsening food crisis and the growing water stress affecting nearly two-thirds of the global population¹. We are outraged that in 2022, climate change caused more than 32.6 million forced displacements—surpassing those caused by armed conflict². And we are deeply concerned by the impact of wars worsened by the climate crisis—such as the abhorrent and immoral situation in Gaza—and by military pollution, a silent threat responsible for 5.5% of global greenhouse gas emissions³.



As youth, we express our deep concern about the immense health consequences of climate change, particularly its emotional and psychological toll. In the first global survey on climate anxiety, 75% of respondents said the future feels frightening, and 83% felt humanity has failed to take care of the planet⁴. Mental health systems in developing countries need more resources to address this growing crisis and must officially recognize the link between climate change and mental health as a public health priority.

83%

**felt humanity has
failed to take care
of the planet⁴**



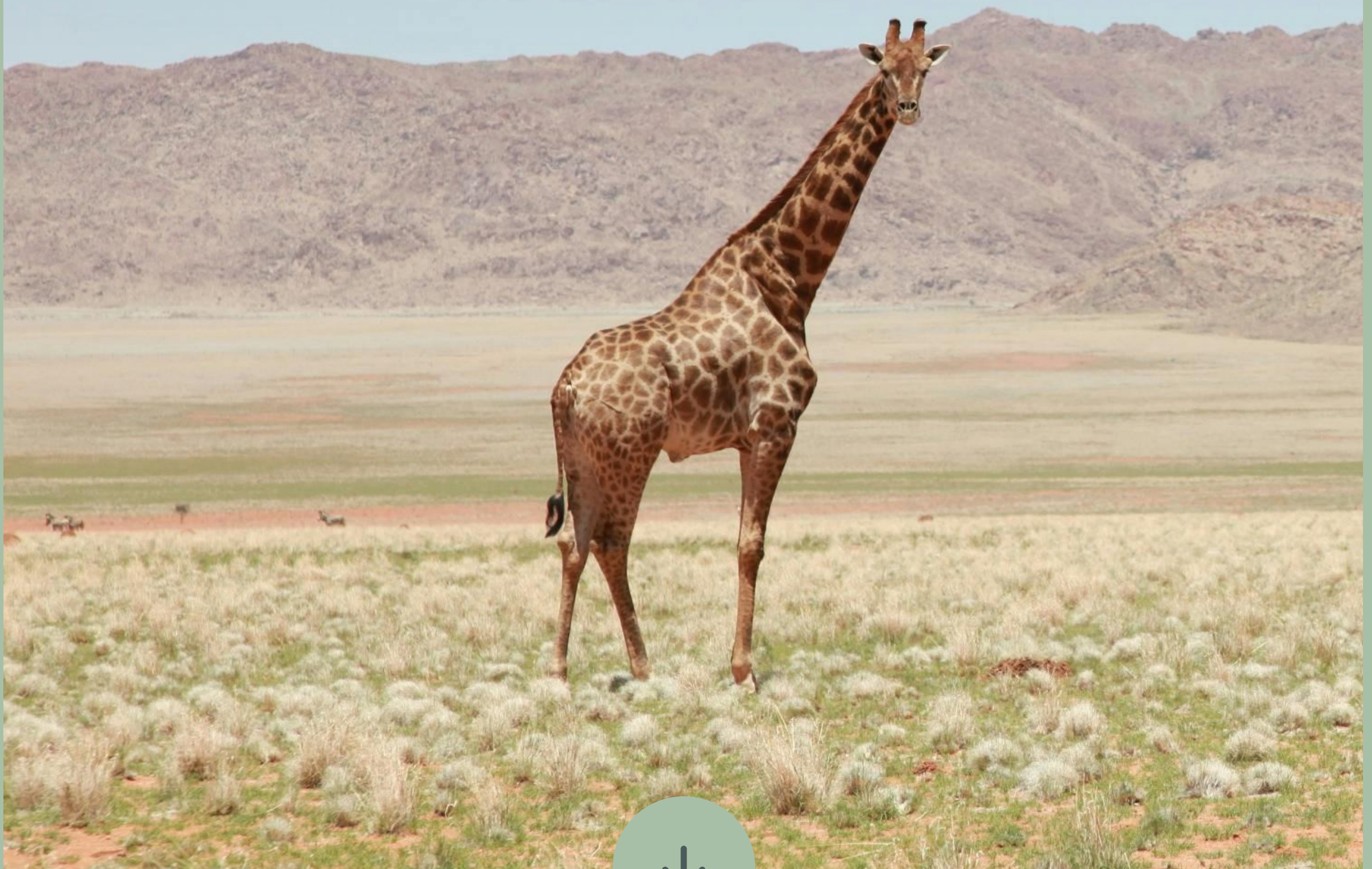
As ACT faith youth, we honor the essential role that Indigenous Peoples play in caring for the planet and recognize their ancestral wisdom as a guiding light in facing the climate crisis. We are inspired by their courage and sacred connection to the land, and we commit to supporting their struggles, protecting their rights, and defending their territories.

From
LATIN AMERICA
& THE CARIBBEAN



We raise our voices in response to the growing vulnerability of our Caribbean islands. In Cuba, hurricanes have become more frequent and intense, rising sea levels are threatening coastal communities, and droughts and shifting rainfall patterns are gravely affecting ecosystems, the national economy, and the well-being of its people. Likewise, the Central American Dry Corridor faces losses and damages that endanger lives, livelihoods, cultural heritage, and local economies. In the southern part of the continent, we observe with concern the impacts of droughts, wildfires, floods, and the resulting internal displacement.

From AFRICA



The reality of climate change is evidenced by frequent floods, recurring droughts and natural disasters happening across the continent. Young people and children are severely impacted, many of them not able to get basic needs.



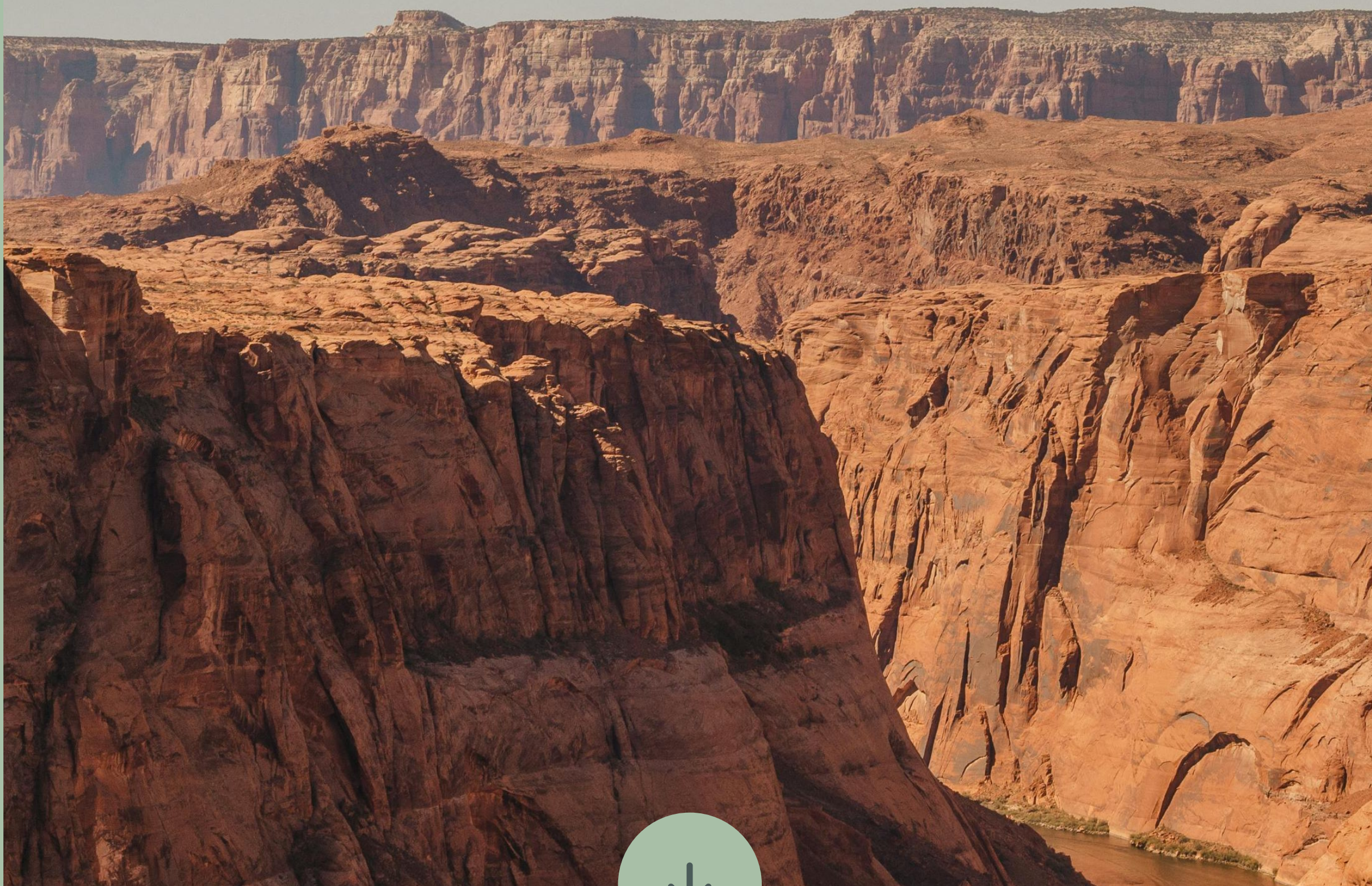
From
ASIA



We witness the devastating consequences of the climate crisis across one of the world's most vulnerable and populous regions. South Asia faces recurring floods, cyclones, and deadly heatwaves that claim thousands of lives each year, while droughts and glacial melt threaten food and water security for millions. Southeast Asia is at the frontline of rising sea levels, endangering low-lying nations and displacing coastal communities. Across the Pacific Islands, entire cultures risk losing their homelands to the ocean. Air pollution—closely linked to fossil fuel use—remains one of the largest health threats in South Asia, while increasing climate anxiety affects young people's mental well-being throughout the region.

Asia-Pacific requires hundreds of billions of dollars annually for adaptation, yet current financing falls far short, leaving the most vulnerable without protection. As faith youth, we raise our voices for climate justice in Asia-Pacific, demanding urgent global solidarity, scaled-up finance, and recognition of youth-led initiatives to safeguard our shared future. We call for climate finance to be directed transparently and effectively to local communities, ensuring accountability, protecting ecosystems, and upholding human rights in every step of the response.

From NORTH AMERICA



We see the impacts of climate change through severe storms, floods, droughts, and heatwaves. In much of Canada and California, with the increased intensities and length of summers, many biomes become dry and prone to severe forest fires. Increased temperatures have led to the melting of glaciers and snowpack, affecting freshwater availability, especially in Western Canada and Alaska.



As ACT Alliance youth united around **COP30**, which will be held in Brazil this November, we believe in a world where the transition is just and people-centered, where historical responsibilities are acknowledged, where gender inequality, poverty, and environmental racism are addressed, and where extractive operations and fossil fuel use are progressively phased out—avoiding the socioeconomic consequences of an unjust global financial architecture.



The following demands
represent urgent and
achievable steps
to turn *our vision* into action.

They reflect our *hopes*:

1

Recognize the impact of the climate crisis on health —particularly mental health—as a non-economic loss, especially among youth.

This dimension must be included in Loss and Damage mechanisms, ensuring holistic responses that also recognize spiritual well-being as an essential part of recovery and resilience.

2

Guarantee direct, scaled-up, accessible, and transparent financing for communities, aimed at adaptation, mitigation, loss and damage responses, and faith-sensitive psychosocial support.

We call on developed countries to be accountable for meeting the commitment to double adaptation finance, and to pledge to more than triple it. We demand unwavering financial support from developed countries for just transitions and for loss and damage. Special attention must also be given to youth-led initiatives, ensuring their participation in the Roadmap from Baku to Bethlehem, and their prioritization in the implementation pathways of Article 2.1c.

3

Advance a just transition that places social justice at the center, prioritizes the most vulnerable and marginalized communities, and addresses the structural causes of the climate crisis.

4

Continue expanding the leadership and contributions of Indigenous Peoples in climate action, while preventing and repairing the disproportionate effects and harms they face due to climate change.

5

Ensure the full, effective, and meaningful participation of faith youth in all climate justice decision-making spaces at national, regional, and international levels.



HELP!!!



#ACT
NOW!

There is
no Planet
B

BUMI
BUKAN
AKSI

As faith youth, we are committed to working hand in hand with communities to care for creation—from our territories and with a justice-centered approach. We aim to build bridges between science, academia, and faith, fostering partnerships and collaboration between governments and non-state actors. We draw from our spirituality as a source of healing, promoting community-based psychosocial care, and we seek to strengthen ecotheology as a transformative tool that connects climate justice with lived spirituality. With our ACTIVE faith, we will promote practical solutions from the ground up to strengthen climate action. We will support a balanced dialogue between policy, practice, and science to foster real climate solutions in our countries.

As faith youth, we recognize that religious leaders and communities are powerful agents of social change. We aspire to embrace this role responsibly, fully aware that people of faith have been—and will continue to be—key players in advancing justice as:

- **Human rights defenders**
- **Public policy advocates**
- **Providers of essential services**
- **Promoters of the common good**

The faith that unites us calls us to profound social transformation—dismantling harmful social norms and promoting human rights and climate justice in every space we inhabit... until it becomes reality.

1. *"Four billion people—nearly two-thirds of the world's population—experience severe water shortages for at least one month each year."* UNICEF. (n.d.). Water scarcity. UNICEF. <https://www.unicef.org/wash/water-scarcity>
2. *"In calendar year 2022, a total of 60.9 million internal displacements were recorded, 60% more than in 2021 and the highest number ever recorded. Of these displacements, 53% (32.6 million) were caused by disasters, and 47% (28.3 million) were caused by conflict and violence."* International Organization for Migration (IOM). Climate Change and Migration – Data Case Study. Tools for educators from the World Migration Report, Module 7. Available in: <https://wmr-educatorstoolkit.iom.int/module-7-climate-change-and-migration-data-case-study>
3. Conflict and Environment Observatory. (2023). *How does war damage the environment?* Available in: <https://ceobs.org/how-does-war-damage-the-environment>
4. Hickman, C., Marks, E., Pihkala, P., Clayton, S., Lewandowski, R. E., Mayall, E. E., Wray, B., Mellor, C., & van Susteren, L. (2021). *Climate anxiety in children and young people and their beliefs about government responses to climate change: A global survey. The Lancet Planetary Health*, 5(12), e863–e873. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S2542-5196\(21\)00278-3](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2542-5196(21)00278-3)



"Today, we reaffirm that the Earth does not belong to us – we belong to the Earth. Our *hope*, is an act of resistance in the face of destruction".

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