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ACT

**ARUSHA
YOUTH
CLIMATE
ACTION**

DECLARATION

PREAMBLE

We, youth representatives from 13 countries attending the cohort of the Climate Justice Academy in Arusha, Tanzania, united by our shared responsibilities and common purpose, hereby adopt this Arusha Youth Climate Action Declaration.

Recognizing the urgent need for a transformative response to the climate crisis, we commit to advancing climate justice through collective action, advocacy for equitable policies, and sustainable development.

We acknowledge the disproportionate impact of climate change on vulnerable communities, particularly women, indigenous peoples, and marginalized groups, and pledge to address these injustices.



1

PURPOSE

This Declaration aims to enhance the implementation of climate justice principles and strengthen the global response to climate change by promoting youth-led initiatives and ensuring the equitable distribution of resources and opportunities.

2

TERMINOLOGY

For the purposes of this Declaration, the following terms are defined thus:

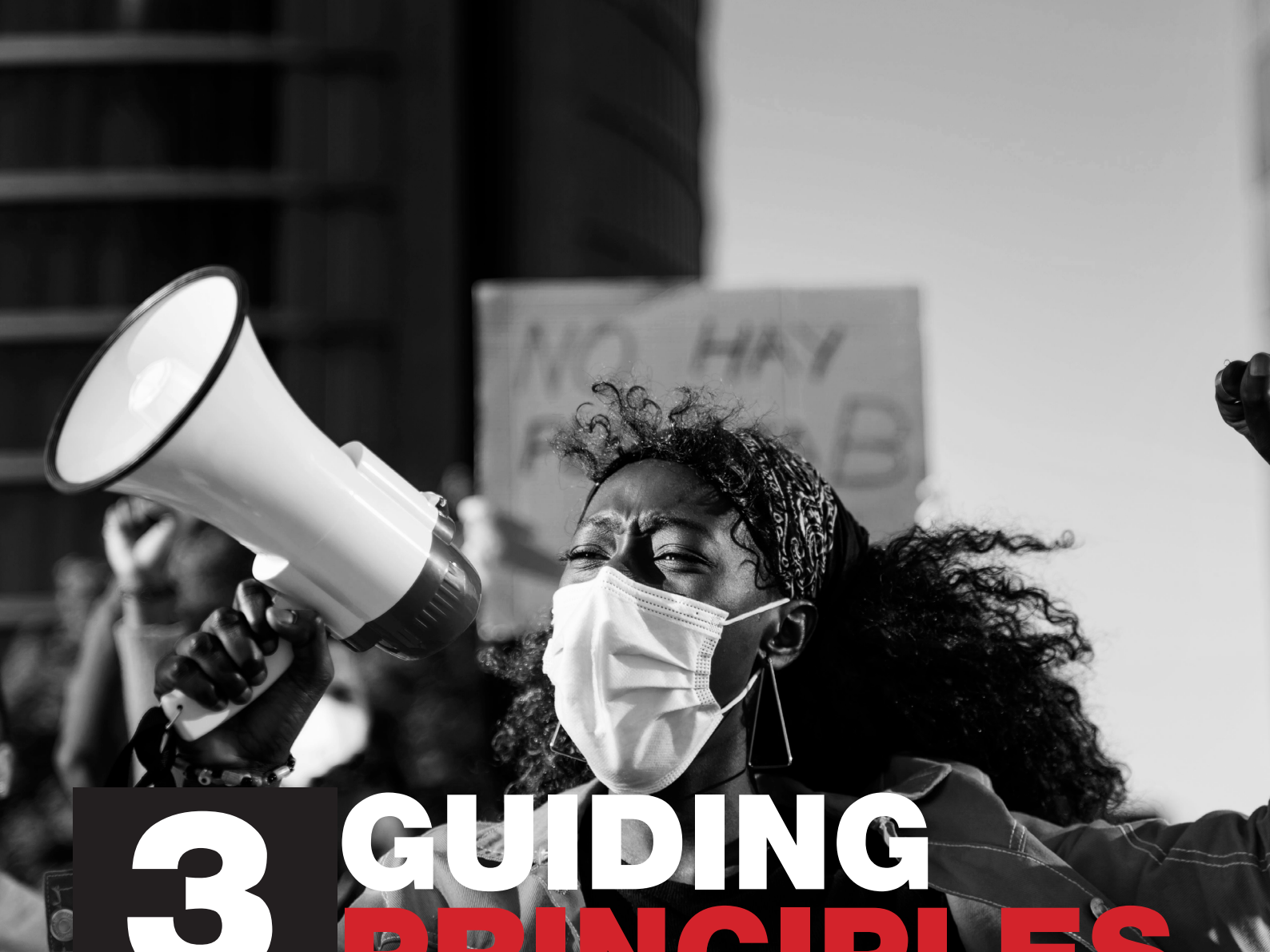
“Climate Justice”: The fair treatment of all people and the right to equitable protection and access to opportunities in the face of climate change.

“Youth”: Individuals aged between 15 and 35 years.

“Mitigation”: Efforts to reduce or prevent the emission of greenhouse gases.

“Adaptation”: Adjustments in natural or human systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli or their effects.





3

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

EQUITY AND JUSTICE:

Climate actions must prioritize the needs and rights of the most vulnerable populations, including women, indigenous peoples, and marginalized communities.

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT:

Recognize the vital role of youth in driving climate action and ensure their active participation in decision-making processes at all levels.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:

Integrate climate action with the Sustainable Development goals to achieve a just transition to a low-carbon, climate-resilient future.

4

MITIGATION EFFORTS

We commit to advocating for ambitious emission reduction targets in line with the Paris Agreement's goal of limiting global temperature rise to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.

We will call for the phasing out of fossil fuels and the transition to renewable energy sources, ensuring a just transition for workers and communities dependent on carbon-intensive industries.

ADAPTATION MEASURES

5

We pledge to support and implement adaptation measures that enhance community resilience and protect ecosystems, with a focus on the specific needs of developing countries.

We will advocate the incorporation of traditional knowledge and practices in adaptation strategies.

6

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

We call for increased financial support and technology transfer to developing countries to enable effective climate action and capacity building.

We will urge developed countries to fulfill their financial commitments under the Paris Agreement, including the provision of a New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) of at least \$1tn in grant-based climate finance each year.





7

TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

We will support the development and dissemination of climate-resilient technologies and practices.

We will advocate the removal of barriers to technology transfer and the promotion of cooperative research and development.

8

CAPACITY BUILDING INITIATIVES

We will emphasize the need for capacity-building initiatives that empower youth and communities to take climate action.

We will call for the creation of training programs, workshops, and educational resources to enhance the skills and knowledge of young people.





9

TRANSPARENCY & ACCOUNTABILITY

We urge governments to ensure transparency and accountability in climate action, including the development and implementation of their Nationally Determined Contributions

We will call for the establishment of mechanisms to monitor and review progress towards climate goals.

10

COLLECTIVE PROGRESS



We will support the periodic review of collective progress towards achieving the long-term goals of this Declaration.

We will advocate for the inclusion of youth perspectives in these reviews.

1 IMPLEMENTATION AND COMPLIANCE

We commit to working with governments, civil society, and other stakeholders to implement the commitments of this Declaration.

We will call for the establishment of compliance mechanisms to ensure adherence to these commitments.





12 CLIMATE EDUCATION

We commit to promoting climate education, raising public awareness, and fostering a culture of sustainability and environmental stewardship.

We will call for the integration of climate change education into national curricula at all levels of education.

13 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

We will emphasize the importance of public participation in climate action and decision-making processes.

We call for the creation of platforms and mechanisms that facilitate meaningful engagement of youth and other stakeholders.





14

ADOPTATION COMMUNICATIONS

We will encourage the development and submission of adaptation communications that outline adaptation priorities, needs, plans, and actions.

We will advocate the inclusion of youth perspectives in these communications.

15 SUPPORT FOR VULNERABLE COUNTRIES

We will call for increased support for developing countries in their efforts to address climate change, including financial resources, technology transfer, and capacity building.

We will emphasize the need for tailored support that addresses the specific needs and circumstances of each country.

A young woman with dark hair, wearing a light blue t-shirt, is holding a large, rectangular cardboard sign. The sign has the words "CLIMATE CHANGE" written in large, black, hand-drawn capital letters. Below that, the words "is REAL" are written in a smaller font, with "is" in green and "REAL" in red. The woman is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. The background is a blurred green landscape, suggesting an outdoor setting.

CLIMATE
CHANGE
is REAL

16 ADDRESSING LOSS AND DAMAGE



We recognize and will underscore the importance of addressing loss and damage associated with the impacts of climate change.

We will call for the establishment of mechanisms to provide financial support and technical assistance to countries affected by loss and damage.

17

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT MECHANISM

We will support the establishment of mechanisms that promote sustainable development and climate resilience.

We will advocate for the inclusion of youth in the design and implementation of these mechanisms.



18

VOLUNTARY COLLABORATION

We will encourage voluntary cooperation among countries to achieve higher ambition in their climate actions.

We will call for the sharing of best practices, knowledge, and resources to enhance global climate action.



19

INCLUSION OF NON-STATE ACTORS

We recognize the important role of non-state actors, including youth, in advancing climate action.

We will call for the inclusion of non-state actors in decision-making processes at all levels.

20

RATIFICATION AND ENACTMENT

This Declaration shall enter into force upon ratification by the signatories.

We will call upon youth organizations, governments, and stakeholders to endorse and ratify this Declaration, demonstrating their commitment to climate justice.

21 FINAL PROVISIONS

We, the youth representatives, hereby adopt the Arusha Youth Climate Action Declaration and pledge to work tirelessly towards its realization.

Together, we can build a sustainable, equitable, and resilient future for all. We stand united in our commitment to climate justice, recognizing that our collective actions today will shape the world for generations to come.

