

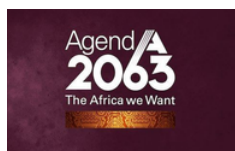
# MODEL AFRICAN UNION

## YOUTH CLIMATE DIPLOMACY DECLARATION

Young Voice from Addis to Africa:  
Building the Africa We Want Beyond  
2063

# AUGUST 2025

In Partnership with:



Nile Youth  
Development Actions  
*Towards a Shared Vision*



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## Model African Union

### Youth Climate Diplomacy Declaration

## Young Voices from Addis to Africa: Building the Africa We Want Beyond 2063



*September, 2025*

*In Partnership with*



# **Model African Union Youth Climate Diplomacy Declaration**

**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia — August 2025**

## **Preamble**

**GUIDED** by the principles and objectives of the Constitutive Act of the African Union, particularly Article 13 on environmental protection, and the Charter of the United Nations, notably Article 1(3) concerning international cooperation,

**RECALLING** the African Union's Agenda 2063, especially Aspiration 6, which envisions youth as principal architects of a sustainable and resilient continent,

**REAFFIRMING** the commitments enshrined in the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the Sustainable Development Goals (notably SDG 13), and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights,

**ACKNOWLEDGING** the African Union Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy and Action Plan (2022-2032), the United Nations Youth 2030 Strategy, and the AU's 1 Million Next Level initiative as critical frameworks for youth engagement in climate action,

**COMMENDING** the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia for its Green Legacy Initiative and for hosting the second African Climate Summit (ACS2) in September 2025,

**FURTHER COMMENDING** the Republic of Kenya for its leadership as Chair of the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC),

**RECOGNIZING** the vital contributions of the African Union Commission, including its specialized directorates and organs, and expressing appreciation for the collaborative efforts of international partners in amplifying the voices of African youth,



**DEEPLY CONCERNED** by the disproportionate impact of climate change on the least developed nations, women, youth, and marginalized communities, who have contributed the least to global emissions,

**FURTHER CONCERNED** by the rising frequency and intensity of climate-related disasters across Africa, which undermine and reverse development gains,

**NOTING** with urgency the persistent structural, legal, and bureaucratic barriers that limit access to fair, predictable, and adequate climate finance for vulnerable and low-capacity states,

**STRESSING** the untapped potential of the continent's renewable energy resources and the invaluable traditional and indigenous knowledge that can contribute to climate change adaptation and mitigation,

**WE**, the representatives of Africa's youth, convened under the Model African Union, mindful of our role in reflecting the aspirations of Africa's young people, we therefore set forth the following preambular clauses on climate action,

1. **RECOGNIZING** the pressing need for fair and predictable finance instruments to pay for climate adaptation and mitigation in developing nations, while addressing structural, legal, and bureaucratic barriers to access for vulnerable and low-capacity states and reaffirming commitments under the Paris Agreement (Art.9) and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities;
2. **CONCERNED** about the disproportionate impact of climate change on least developed nations, women, youth, and marginalized communities who have contributed the least to global emissions, and emphasize the need for transparency, accountability, and inclusivity in finance mechanisms (Paris Agreement Art. 7.5, and emphasis on vulnerable groups);
3. **CONCERNED** about the rising frequency and intensity of climate-related disasters in Africa, which have a disproportionate impact on vulnerable populations and reverse development, while acknowledging the role of early warning systems, technology, and



indigenous knowledge in reducing losses (Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, Priority 1 and Priority 4);

4. **DEEPLY CONCERNED** by the persistent barriers to climate literacy and youth inclusion in policymaking, which limits the continent's ability to harness its demographic dividend for climate solutions;
5. **RECALLING** the African Union's commitment under Agenda 2063, Aspiration 6, to direct young people as architects of a sustainable and resilient continent,
6. **NOTING** with urgency the untapped potential of solar, wind, and geothermal resources, as highlighted in youth-led resolutions, to drive economic growth and combat climate change;
7. **ACKNOWLEDGING** the traditional knowledge and practices of African indigenous communities practices, such as fire management and sustainable land management , that can contribute to climate change adaptation and mitigation;

## 1. Youth Empowerment and Education for Climate Action:

We call upon African Union Member States to:

- Integrate mandatory climate change education into national school curricula by 2030, to equip the youth with foundational awareness on Climate Action and beyond.
- Establish a Continental Youth Climate Platform by collaborating with the AU and international organizations and UN agencies, to organize and implement multifaceted innovation, and networking among youth climate advocates.
- Call for mandatory youth representation in AU and national climate policy bodies, ensuring at least 30% youth participation to represent their demographic weight and vision (African Youth Charter, Article 11 on youth participation; African Union youth engagement policies),
- Recommend the creation of climate innovation labs in universities, by the support of African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Education, Science, Technology and Innovation (STC-ESTN), to support youth driven solutions in universities.



- Propose a monitoring framework, backed by UN agencies, to track the impact of each youth empowerment programme, reporting annually to the African Union Assembly to ensure quality, originality and accountability.

## **2. Green Technology and Renewable Energy:**

We call upon African Union Member states to:

- Target 50% renewable energy in Member States by the year 2050, and prioritize clean energy systems to meet net-zero emissions as stated in the Paris Agreement.
- Establish a Regional Carbon Accountability and Incentive Fund, administered by regional economic communities such as ECOWAS, SADC and the EAC, to support and reward member states that achieve or exceed their nationally determined contribution, while providing technical support to those falling behind and for exceeding funds to be allocated toward youth-led clean energy initiatives.
- Introduce a Pan-African Carbon Incentive Mechanism, by the African Union Assembly, which encourages accountability on countries exceeding their carbon budgets while rewarding financial credits and debt relief to those achieving or surpassing emissions reduction targets.
- Call for the policy inducement to support tax reliefs for green-tech entrepreneurs and to increase numbers of electric vehicle infrastructure, as stated in past resolutions to accelerate the shift from fossil fuels to sustainable energy systems.

## **3. Climate Finance and Funding Accessibility:**

We call upon the African Union Member States to:

- Make calls for the establishment of open and inclusive systems to improve access to climate finance, particularly for developing countries and vulnerable people, by simplifying application procedures, providing capacity-building support, and equitable resource allocation.



- Call upon donor countries, multilateral financial institutions, and the private sector to increase contributions to climate adaptation and mitigation funds with priority given to gender-responsive, youth-oriented, and community-based projects.
- Facilitate the creation of regional climate finance centers and technical assistance facilities for low-capacity states to help develop, access, and manage funding for climate-resilient infrastructure, green agriculture, and disaster risk reduction.
- Facilitate mainstreaming of climate finance into national plans for addressing food insecurity, poverty, and health risks, while stimulating long-term resilience planning and sustainable socio-economic development.
- Request investment in leading-edge and technology-based solutions, such as climate-resilient agriculture, renewable energy transition, and data-based tracking systems, to enable efficient, accountable, and high-impact utilization of climate finance investment.

#### **4. Disaster Preparedness and Early Warning Systems**

We call upon the African Union Member States to:

- Call for international and regional collaboration to provide equitable access to multi-hazard early warning systems, with the aim to prioritize vulnerable groups and marginalized communities to integrate climate finance support for disaster risk reduction interventions.
- Foster investment in first responder training, national and local capacity-building, and the promotion of regional data-sharing and satellite technologies, while encouraging the integration of disaster preparedness into development plans and school curricula.
- Request the delivery of climate finance and technical support designed to augment disaster risk governance, early warning capacities, and infrastructure resilience in African nations.
- Encourage the inclusion of community-based approaches, indigenous knowledge, and participatory hazard assessment technique in national and regional disaster preparedness plans to empower local communities.





- Call upon the governments and regional authorities to formulate standard operating procedures for early warning communication, emergency response, and post-disaster rehabilitation with responsibility, monitoring, and transparency

## 5 . Water Security and Resource Management:

We call upon the African Union Member States to:

- Invest and prioritize African States shall prioritize and dedicate resources to investments in climate-resilient infrastructure, including water management systems, renewable energy sources, and sustainable transportation networks. Additionally, investments in climate-smart agricultural practices such as drought-resistant crops and sustainable land management techniques shall be prioritized:
  - a. Implementing clean energy sources should be taken into consideration. Investment in renewable energy sources like solar, wind, and hydropower to decrease reliance on fossil fuels. This would help mitigate climate change and improve energy access and security;
  - b. Water Management infrastructures such as :- Climate-smart irrigation systems: These systems use sensors and data analysis to optimize water usage, reducing waste and promoting water conservation in agriculture. Drought-resistant water storage solutions: Building rainwater harvesting systems and exploring alternative water sources like desalination can ensure access to clean water even during droughts.-Flood-resistant water infrastructure: Constructing flood embankments, improving drainage systems, and designing flood-proof buildings can minimize damage from floods and protect communities;
  - c. Sustainable Agriculture activities include: Promoting sustainable farming practices, such as agroforestry, organic farming, and conservation agriculture, can help reduce deforestation, soil degradation, and greenhouse gas emissions from the agricultural sector In addition, supporting small-scale farmers with





climate-smart techniques, improved access to markets, and financial resources can enhance food security and resilience to climate. (In line with the *Paris Agreement (2015)*, particularly Articles 2, 7, 9, and 10)

- Note with alarm the limited progress made on the implementation of the African Union's Great Green Wall Initiative, despite its potential to combat desertification and promote sustainable land management and the insufficient funding allocated to the Adaptation Fund and the Green Climate Fund, hindering their ability to support climate change adaptation projects in Africa.

## **6. Inclusivity and Social Equity in Climate Policies:**

We call upon the African Union Member States to:

- To take charge, be resilient and lead the change using the youth as its greatest asset. Youth contributions to addressing the climate crisis are diverse and multifaceted, ensuring that marginalized groups including but not limited to gender, locations, socioeconomic statuses and people with disabilities are included and empowered .
- Foster developing African states to craft and implement comprehensive and nationally determined climate change adaptation strategies and action plans tailored to their specific vulnerabilities and needs. These plans shall be regularly reviewed and updated to reflect evolving circumstances.
- Identify youth initiatives that contribute to education related to climate action and provide resources to better teach, monitor and evaluate their reach with funds allocated from various sectors of the economy .
- Endorse a high budget transparency to decrease the wrongful use of funds allocated to boost the fight against the climate crisis.



## **7. Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security:**

Noting the continual rise in hunger and the failure to meet the Malabo's 2025 declaration: highly concerned by Africa's inadequate irrigation rate, post-harvest losses and vulnerability of coastal and drought prone areas We call upon African Union Member States to:

- Establish an independent and public scoreboard tracking food insecurity rate, hectare under irrigation, post harvest loss and African Risk Capacity (ARC) and promote a policy correction plan for performances below the agreed benchmarks.
- Develop a response plan for a rapid deployment of aid with a clear timeline after a climate induced disaster, to ensure timely support for affected communities, prioritizing children, people with disability, women and the elderly.
- Adopt and implement a Youth and Women Land access framework, authorizing that a share of public grazing or unused state lands be set aside for youth and women with a renewable lease tied to productivity and sustainability.
- Launch a Pan-African Climate Resilient Agriculture Fund, mandated to finance extensive research in each member state to identify food security gaps, local climate risk, sustainable means of production and more thereby facilitating the drafting of personalized national strategies and policy plans tailored to each country's agro-ecological conditions and shall be subjected to biannual revision based on productivity outcomes and independent evaluations.

## **8. Regional and International Cooperation:**

We call upon African Union Member States and International Partners to:

- Acknowledge the past failures including unmet financial commitments, inaccessible funding mechanisms and one size fits all generic approach and commit to equitable and reparative climate finance with checks and balances to guarantee resources are used appropriately, effectively and transparently.



- Strengthen Regional Integration by facilitating African Regional Economic Communities (RECs) like IGAD, ECOWAS, EAC, SADC and ECCAS to jointly work on climate action, utilize technical expertise and establish a cross border program in climate smart agriculture, renewable energy, post disaster intervention and water management.
- Promote International solidarity through a Pan-African stance in climate negotiation, championing equity and justice under the Paris Agreement and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.
- Foster South-South and Triangular Cooperation, by encouraging the exchange of knowledge and technologies between African nations and other disaster prone regions in the Global South while also working with Multilateral cooperations and development banks ensuring Africa's fair share of support.
- Institutionalize youth participation in all regional and international climate cooperation platforms, ensuring that African youth delegates are co-creators of policy rather than passive bystanders, and that youth-led projects have direct access to regional and global climate finance windows.



## Conclusion

It is with a benevolent sense of productivity, coalition and proactivity that we have compiled this document as a form of testament for our years of dedication towards fruitful, energetic and impactful climate action. This powerful document is a product of Africa's nimble and capable youth as they thoroughly believe in bold and inclusive response to current and potentially devastating climate emergencies. We declare that this document is capable of providing a roadmap to maintain, capacitate and perhaps capitalize on the already established national and continental commitments illuminated through climate frameworks. Furthermore, it amplifies the need to revitalize our policies and notions of solidarity that anchors brothers and sisters of Africa together towards our shared challenges.

In the efforts to prepare this document, over one thousand (1000) strong and intelligent youth of Africa have come together in separate sessions over the past few years to assemble and deliver the unreserved conceptual and practical assets towards climate change. The youth have convened under simulations of various United Nations committees (Economic, Social and Cultural Council- UN ECOSOCC, Human Rights Council- UNHRC) and African Union Committees (Economic, Social and Cultural Council- AU ECOSOCC, Specialized Technical committees - Education, Science, Technology and Innovation- AUSTC-ESTN, Peace and Security Council AUPSC). These sessions were organized by Model Africa Union- Ethiopia and partner organizations in advance of Pre-African Youth Climate Summit one, African Youth Climate Summit two, COP27, COP28, COP29 and African Youth Summit 22, 23, 24 & 25.

Our Consultations have shed light on the apparent reality where climate change is far more than just an environmental predicament and has an even greater magnitude of crisis with profound social, economic and political facets. We have documented the unanimous apprehension that devotion to the outlined solution is a matter of essentiality for survival and prosperity of our continent and its people. It is vividly depicted in the document that Africa's young people are aware, capable and committed to propel inclusivity and boldness towards transformative climate action in recognition of our continent's future being dependent on urgent choices made no later than today.



The determination of Africa's youth to take impactful roles in leadership for the climate crisis is collaterally aligned with Model Africa Union-Ethiopia's commitment towards advancing climate education, renewable energy, climate finance, food security and regional Cooperation.

**Thus, in Addis Ababa, August 2025, we, the youths representing Africa, declare our commitment to climate action and justice, to regional and international solidarity and to building a united, resilient and sustainable Africa.**

