

## MAKE COP27 A BOLD STEP TOWARDS CLIMATE JUSTICE

Ahead of COP27, members of CONCORD Sweden's working group for Environmental and Climate Justice urge Sweden and the EU to show strong leadership for climate justice in the UN climate change negotiations.

The 2022 IPCC reports show both alarming current and future impacts of a changing climate, and a continued rise in greenhouse gas emissions. The panel underlines the urgency of action and stresses the need to focus on equity and justice.<sup>1</sup> While the effects of climate change can be felt and seen all over the world, the magnitude and consequences differ greatly between and within regions and groups. The countries and communities that have contributed the least to the climate crisis – including marginalised groups such as women in all their diversity, children, local communities, indigenous peoples and displaced populations – are bearing the heaviest burden of its consequences. It is high time for high-income countries to take real responsibility for their emissions and to put the people most negatively affected by the climate crisis at the center of their policies and actions.

As countries meet again for negotiations at COP27, Sweden and the EU must show strong leadership for climate justice and gender equality in the implementation of the Paris agreement. This includes reducing our own contribution to the crisis by drastically cutting emissions, increasing climate finance to countries and communities severely affected, ensuring fair and meaningful participation in decision-making, and tackling the climate and nature crises together:



### DRASTICALLY CUT NATIONAL GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

The nationally determined contributions (NDCs) submitted by countries so far will not put the world on track to meet the 1.5°C temperature target. Global greenhouse gas emissions must be cut by 43% by 2030 and reach zero emissions by 2050. The targets of the EU climate law are still insufficient and the union exceeds its fair share of emissions.<sup>2</sup> Ambitions must be scaled up, while also ensuring a just transition that benefits marginalised or socio-economically disadvantaged communities and people. Large emitting sectors and actors, including corporations, must be held accountable and be more strongly regulated.

#### Sweden and the EU should:

- publicly commit to revising the emission reduction target in the EU's NDC to at least 75% by 2030, and encourage other parties to sharpen their plans and targets.
- end all public investments and subsidies that are harmful to the climate and nature, and redirect them towards activities that contribute to a green and just transition.
- actively work to promote the implementation and increase the number of signatories of the [Statement on International Public Support for Clean Energy Transition](#) adopted at COP26, in particular with regard to ending official export credit agencies' and public finance institutions' support for unabated fossil fuel projects.
- support the [Fossil Fuels Non-Proliferation Treaty](#) as a means to strengthen the multilateral climate architecture by binding commitments to put an end to all exploration of fossil fuels, phase out existing production and fast-track real solutions for a just transition.
- work for mandatory target-setting and reporting for the climate impact of sectors with large emission, including military production and activities, and international aviation and shipping.

1. [IPCC: Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability, Climate Change 2022: Mitigation of Climate Change](#)

2. [Climate Action Tracker: EU | Climate Action Tracker, Climate action – CAN Europe](#)



## CLIMATE FINANCE FOR MITIGATION, ADAPTATION AND 'LOSS AND DAMAGE' IN MOST AFFECTED COUNTRIES

According to agreements under the UNFCCC, high-income countries shall mobilise 100 billion USD annually in new and additional climate finance for mitigation and adaptation in developing countries. In addition, designated finance for loss and damage is critically needed and increasingly demanded in the negotiations. Finance for adaptation and loss and damage is particularly important to the most affected countries and communities. To date, the 100 billion USD commitment has still not been met, adaptation receives far less support than mitigation, and specific commitments on loss and damage finance are still lacking. Studies show that climate finance efforts are often gender blind. Indigenous peoples and local communities' (IPLCs) tenure and forest management receive less than 1% of public climate finance<sup>3</sup>, despite evidence showing that their custodianship of land and forests is a key factor to achieve the climate targets. Climate finance channeled through large funds is difficult to access for local initiatives and CSOs, and communities most at risk have limited possibilities to influence decision-making around climate finance.

### Sweden and the EU should work for:

- firm commitments to target volumes and modalities for new and additional loss and damage finance, to be delivered in the form of grants.<sup>4</sup>
- delivery on the 100 billion USD climate finance commitment, including by scaling up their own contributions of new and additional finance in the form of grants and highly concessional loans. Climate finance must not contribute to further debt crises in affected countries.
- an agreement on a significantly higher goal for post-2025 climate finance, with sub-goals for mitigation, adaptation and loss and damage, as well as for a gender transformative approach. The new goal should prioritise grants first.
- delivery on the Glasgow Climate Pact goal to double adaptation finance by 2025 from 2019 levels, in particular targeting communities and countries that are hardest hit by the climate crisis. A larger portion of adaptation finance should support locally led initiatives and adhere to the principles of locally led adaptation<sup>5, 6</sup>.
- all climate finance mechanisms to guarantee a rights-based and gender transformative approach.
- increased access to funding for organisations by and for affected communities, including IPLCs, small scale farmers and fishers, and displaced communities.
- mandatory reporting on gender inclusion to the UNFCCC, for all types of climate finance.
- definitions and reporting that ensure that climate finance is new and additional to pre-existing development assistance commitments, and that loans, credits and guarantees are not overreported.



## INCLUSIVE, TRANSPARENT AND ACCOUNTABLE DECISION-MAKING

Inclusion is imperative to achieve a just transition for everyone. Like most global conversations and negotiations, those on climate action risk being dominated by powerful countries and interests. UNFCCC conferences, mechanisms for implementation as well as NDC processes are difficult to access for the people who are most strongly affected by the decisions made. Voices from local communities and rights-based organisations need more and meaningful space in the conversations and negotiations, including organisations by and for women, indigenous peoples, children and youth. These are often the voices that emphasise human rights, gender equality, intergenerational equity and a just transition, while also representing hugely diverse groups of people and interests that all must have influence in decision-making, in defining the problems and in the

3. [Indigenous people get less than 1% of climate funding? It's actually worse \(commentary\) \(mongabay.com\)](#)

4. A specific proposal for a funding facility to address loss and damage is described in the following CAN paper: [Loss and Damage Finance Facility - Why and How - Climate Action Network \(climatenetwork.org\)](#)

5. [Principles for Locally Led Adaptation, as of January 2021 endorsed by over 40 organisations, https://www.wri.org/our-work/project/global-commission-adaptation/principles-locally-led-adaptation](#)

6. Besides adaptation finance, a decision on the Glasgow Sharm-el-Sheik Work Programme on the Global Goal on Adaptation (GlaSS) is important, to ensure that adaptation remains on the political agenda.

creation of sustainable solutions. Religious actors with a strong grassroots base have a particular role to play in norm-setting. Human rights groups and UN experts have raised concerns about the restrictions of civic space in Egypt and how these will affect the civil society participation during the conference.<sup>7</sup>

### Sweden and the EU should

- be a strong voice for a just and inclusive people-centered approach to climate action. This includes promoting human rights, gender equality and equity perspectives in climate commitments, decision-making, implementation and reporting processes at all levels.
- create opportunities and spaces for gender-balanced participation in climate-related decision-making, including NDC processes and international negotiations, and actively contribute to ensuring compulsory monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the [Enhanced Lima Work Programme and its Gender Action Plan](#). Documents should consistently refer to gender as opposed to ‘women and men’.
- offer meaningful opportunities for children and youth to demand justice and accountability for climate related rights violations at all levels, and recognise children and youth as important actors in addressing the climate crisis, while ensuring that they do not have to shoulder the burden of solving it.
- work for enhanced transparency in the implementation and reporting of the Paris agreement to improve possibilities for civil society and the general public to hold decision-makers accountable for their commitments.
- work for and support civil society space at COP27 and future COPs, through practical and financial assistance and removal of barriers and restrictions, especially for civil society from the Global South.
- avoid corporate capture<sup>8</sup> of climate negotiations that risk shaping commitments after private interests, instead of global interests, including by limiting fossil fuel lobbyists and companies accreditations in favour of civil society participation, ensuring civil society access to all spaces where corporate actors are allowed, demanding full transparency on all private financial sponsoring of sessions, exhibitions, and other visible or invisible forms of corporate presence.



## TACKLE THE CLIMATE AND NATURE CRISES TOGETHER

The climate crisis and loss of biodiversity are intrinsically linked. Whereas climate change is one of the main drivers for biodiversity loss, high biodiversity is a prerequisite for resilient ecosystems and in regulating the climate. To mitigate the impacts of climate change, it is therefore of utmost importance to protect, for example, natural forests, wetlands, coastal ecosystems and the ocean. Increased scientific understanding of the interlinkages between biodiversity loss and climate change must be reflected in focused policy initiatives such as ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) and nature-based solutions (NbS) to climate change. Nature-based solutions to climate change mitigation, such as ecosystem protection or conservation of land and sea, are already practiced by IPLCs and can significantly reduce global net emission. However, there is a worrying development when NbS are being misused for greenwashing. Promoting NbS as carbon “offsets” while continuing business as usual in fossil fuel use is not a solution to climate change. This particularly affects IPLCs in low-income countries and risks undermining both human rights and environmental goals. It is imperative that climate change and the loss of biodiversity are tackled together and not as separate issues.

### Sweden and the EU should

- support increased integration and synergies, along with commitments and adequate finance, for actions under the climate change and biodiversity conventions, while keeping financial commitments and reporting separate to avoid double-counting. Efforts must also be made to harmonize the work under these conventions with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

7. See for example [Egypt: Government Undermining Environmental Groups | Human Rights Watch \(hrw.org\)](#) and [Egypt: UN experts alarmed by restrictions on civil society ahead of climate summit | OHCHR](#)

8. [About Corporate Capture | ESCR-Net](#)

- promote solutions that guarantee both climate and biodiversity benefits, while ensuring respect for the human rights of IPLCs as well as gender equality. All investments in NbS must be based on functional and sustainable local solutions, and be developed together with IPLCs in line with their free, prior and informed consent (FPIC).
- ensure that states and business actors enact their obligations to protect and respect the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, and condemn threats and attacks against environmental and human rights defenders. Specific risks for gender-based violence and threats that face many women environmental and human rights defenders must be acknowledged.

## SIGNED BY:

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Barnfonden

Framtidsjorden

Friends of the Earth Sweden

The Hunger Project Sweden

Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation

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LM International (Läkarmissionen)

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Swedish Mission Council

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