

Africa Climate Summit Report Back for the

31 October 2023

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The Southern African Faith Communities Environment Institute, SAFCEI, is a multi-faith environmental organisation committed to supporting faith leaders and their communities in Southern Africa to increase awareness, understanding and action on eco-justice, sustainable living and climate change.

Remembering two Giants in the Climate Movement

[John Vidal](#), *Guardian Environment Editor, died in October at 74. John was born in West Africa, a passionate environmentalist that linked social justice and put people at the centre of the story long before others understood the links.*

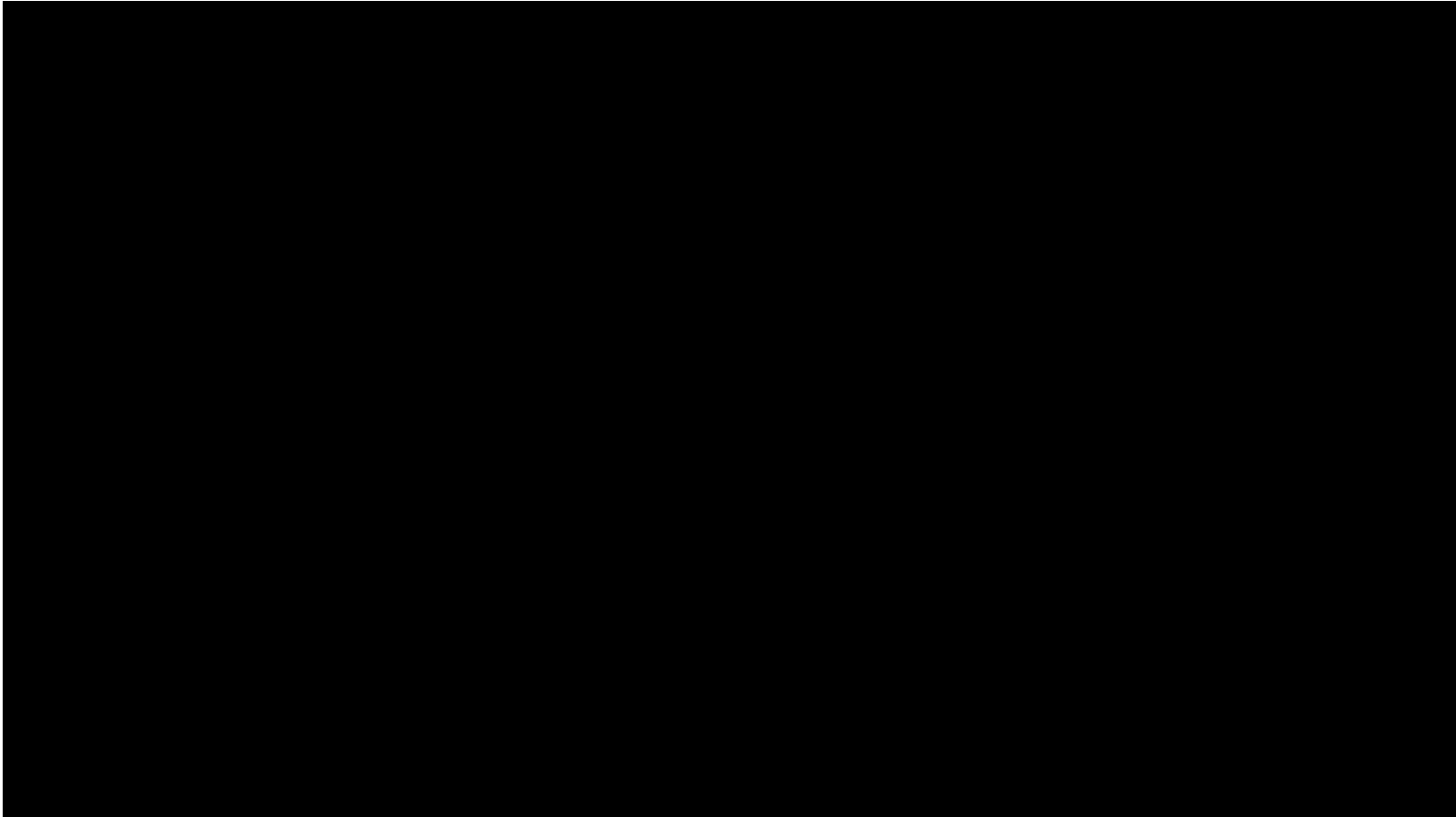
[Saleemul Huq](#), *scientist and climate justice campaigner, died 27 October, at 71. Saleem attended every COP since the beginning and was both a mentor for thousands while writing critically about climate negotiations progress. He was the lead author on the first chapter on adaptation in the IPCC report. His loss and impact is immense.*

Saleemul Huq- the Grandfather of Adaptation



Saleemul Huq

- His legacy includes being a senior author in many of the IPCC reports.
- He attended every COP since COP1 in Berlin.
- He had been pushing for loss and damage for some time:
- After loss and damage was agreed at COP27, he [wrote in Climate Home](#) that the committee tasked with setting up the fund need to show “urgency”.
- “Please try your best to get something up and operational by Cop28 rather than Cop29 or Cop30” he pleaded.
- The committee is now working overtime to [iron out differences](#) before Cop28.



THANK YOU, BUT DO YOU
ALSO HAVE RESILIENCE
FUNDS TO UNDO TWO
HUNDRED YEARS OF
IMPERIAL INJUSTICE?



Rohan Chakravarty/CartoonStock.com

“The era of global warming is over, the era of global boiling has begun.” UN chief António Guterres

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"The world leaders who are responsible for emitting most of the greenhouse gases are not willing to take the requisite actions at the scale and pace that is required to keep global temperature below 1.5 Degrees Celsius, as agreed under the Paris Agreement in 2015. It is not that they are not doing anything, but that they are doing too little too late. As a result, we are seeing the impacts of human-induced climate change happening every day somewhere in the world."

[Saleemul Huq](#), 4 Oct 2023

Africa Climate Summit

- **First summit of this nature to be held in Africa**
- **4th – 6th September 2023 in Nairobi, Kenya under President Ruto.**
- **20 African heads of state and 30 000 policymakers, practitioners, businesses and civil society**
- **Well attended but also Kenyans were excluded**
- **Preparation was done in a short time, a lot of pushback to Kenyan govt for using McKinsey consultants to organise the event.**
- **Divided civil society in Kenya over the organising**

- **Commitments were made by various govts, and others of up to USD 26 billion.**
- **Ruto's speech included:**
 - **Africa's renewable energy potential- 40% of the global renewable energy sources including solar, geothermal, and hydropower.**
 - **Natural resources: Including rare minerals required in green technologies.**
 - **A young and growing workforce: The median age in Africa is 19.**
 - **African carbon sinks (its forests) could absorb millions of tonnes of CO2 annually.**

Nairobi Declaration

- **[The Nairobi Declaration](#)** was adopted by African states as the basis for Africa's unified voice towards COP28.
- The declaration highlights the govt heads agenda and commitments needed for urgent collective action at the continental and global scale.

Civil society response to ACS

- **Civil society was highly critical of the summit, including the views of Africa as an investment opportunity.**
- **Continued oil and gas expansion as well as the push for carbon markets and technological fixes when the issues of energy poverty and governance were not adequately addressed.**
- **Lack of centering of adaptation and poverty**
- **Too little funding and not the right kind of funding.**

Civil society response to ACS

- **In particular too little on energy poverty.**
- **Not sufficient recognition or focus on adaptation.**
- **Lack of a focus on sustainable food systems or agroecology**
- **A fundamental paradigm shift towards a structural, holistic, and systemic approach is needed to effectively address the climate crisis and strengthen Africa's food system," Bridget Mugambe, AFSA's programme coordinator**

The #NairobiDeclaration squandered an opportunity to deliver a resolute call to move towards already tested and proven climate-resilient approaches such as agroecology and other regenerative methods. Bridget Mugambe



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- **Finance remains the main barrier for accelerating action.**
- **Accelerate action on adaptation, finance, & deliver climate justice that Africa deserves. This was a key message emerging from the [#AfricaClimateSummit](#).**

"It's time for us to stand up against the greed of fossil fuel companies & demonstrate to the world that we have the power to protect everything we hold dear."

Kenyan Lawyer and activist, Omar Elmawi

- **Gas and Nuclear are being pushed and adopted by many African governments as a part of a Just Energy Transition**
- **Gender was recognised as key but how will this be implemented and integrated into investments.**
- **The gap between govt interests in investment and being a willing partner in offsetting, the needs of Africans for adaptation and loss and damage.**

Thank you