



**INTERFAITH VOICES FOR
JUST CLIMATE ACTION**

Africa Can't Wait: Interfaith Voices for Just Climate Action Launches Ahead of COP32

PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA, [DATE]

Ahead of COP32, faith leaders, faith-based organisations, civil society and climate actors from across Africa and beyond have come together to launch *Africa Can't Wait: Interfaith Voices for Just Climate Action*, a global interfaith climate campaign calling for urgent, just and rights-centred implementation of existing climate commitments.

Launched in Addis Ababa alongside the Fourteenth Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa (CCDA-XIV), the campaign brings together faith communities and partners around a shared call to move from climate commitments to equitable, locally led, rights-centred and inclusive implementation.

Africa stands at the centre of both climate vulnerability and opportunity. Across the continent, faith actors and communities are already delivering climate action through locally led adaptation, resilience, renewable energy and clean cooking, restoration and nature-based solutions, while advocating for greater access to climate finance.

Yet communities continue to experience the consequences of climate change, including drought, floods, food insecurity, displacement and loss and damage. Africa Can't Wait seeks to close the gap between global climate commitments and the action reaching communities, bringing the voices, experience and solutions of African communities into national, regional and global climate discussions.

The campaign will mobilise action across four Action Tracks:

1. **Climate Finance:** Advocating for climate finance that reaches local communities and supports locally led climate action.
2. **Adaptation, Resilience and Loss and Damage:** Advancing equitable approaches that respond to the realities and needs of communities on the frontlines of climate change.
3. **Renewable Energy and Clean Cooking:** Promoting equitable access to clean energy and solutions that respond to Africa's energy and development needs.

4. Restoration and Nature-Based Solutions: Showcasing and advocating for rights-centred restoration and nature-based solutions rooted in local and indigenous knowledge.

The campaign will place particular emphasis on showcasing what faith actors are already doing on the ground, using evidence, stories and community experience to strengthen climate advocacy. Through its partners, the campaign will document and amplify faith-led climate action across Africa, connecting implementation realities with the policy decisions that shape climate finance, adaptation, energy and nature.

At the heart of the campaign is a mobilisation to raise one million signatures in support of just and rights-centred implementation of climate action. The signature campaign will provide a concrete measure of public support and bring together faith communities, youth, women, civil society, communities and other constituencies behind a common call for action ahead of COP32.

“Faith networks across Africa have not been waiting for climate commitments to become action. Through grants, partnerships and locally designed programmes, they have been supporting communities to adapt, build resilience and implement practical climate solutions shaped by their own priorities and realities. This gives us something powerful to bring to the global climate conversation: evidence of what just implementation can look like in practice when communities are at the centre of designing and delivering solutions.

For too long, much of this work has happened within individual faith networks, often without the opportunity to be seen collectively or connected to the wider climate policy debate. Africa Can't Wait changes that. By bringing interfaith partners together, we can showcase the breadth of climate action already being delivered by faith actors, learn from one another, and demonstrate to policymakers and other partners not only what is possible, but how climate action can be designed and implemented in ways that are locally owned, equitable and rooted in the needs of communities. Our ambition is to turn the experience of faith actors across Africa into collective evidence for what just implementation looks like, and to use that evidence to demand that climate commitments are finally delivered at the scale and urgency that Africa requires.”

Rudelmar Bueno DeFaria, General Secretary, ACT Alliance

“Many of the solutions to Africa's urgent climate crisis lie with African communities themselves. Faith communities, civil society and community actors all over Africa are already delivering on locally led adaptation, resilience and climate action. They demand urgent action to finance African solutions, no longer accepting empty promises or delays in implementing life saving commitments. Through the Africa Can't Wait campaign, NCA and partners will pave the way for African faith leaders, youth and communities to effectively demand justice, showcase their solutions and influence global climate politics.” Guro Almas, Programme Director, Norwegian Church Aid Advocacy Programme Africa (NAPA).

“Africa cannot keep paying the price for commitments that remain on paper. For us as people of faith, climate action is not only about targets or negotiations. It is about protecting life, defending

human dignity and caring for our common home. Across Africa, communities are already showing us what action looks like, from advocating for renewable energy to protecting land, water and livelihoods. What they need now is for leaders to match that courage with implementation. Africa Can't Wait is an opportunity for faith communities to come together, raise our collective voice and make clear that climate justice must reach the people who are living with the consequences of this crisis every day." Lorna Gold, Executive Director, Laudato Si' Movement

"This is a critical campaign for faith actors in Africa. Indeed, we have had several pledges from developed countries with little or no movement in terms of implementation. Faith actors are the first responders in cases of disasters emanating from climate change. By the way, the Africa Faith Actors Network for Climate Justice (AFAN-CJ) regards matters of climate change as matters of life and death. We therefore call for urgency in addressing them. We need to go beyond mere talk and pledges. Our people are dying daily because of droughts, floods, landslides and other disasters. Thus, we welcome this campaign that will mobilize faith actors to apply more pressure on those responsible to help the situation." Dr Tinashe Gumbo, AACC Programme Executive for Ecological Justice

"Africa cannot keep being invited to the table only to explain the damage climate change is doing to our people. We must be at the table to shape the decisions, the finance and the solutions. Africa Can't Wait is therefore more than a campaign slogan; it is a call from our communities and our faith traditions to move from promises to just implementation. Across our continent, people of faith are already organising, protecting land and livelihoods, standing with communities facing extraction, and advancing clean and locally owned energy. Through this interfaith campaign, we are bringing those voices together, not to speak for communities, but to make sure their lived realities, wisdom and solutions are heard where decisions are made. From climate finance and adaptation to renewable energy, clean cooking, restoration and loss and damage, we are saying clearly: Africa needs climate action that reaches people, respects dignity, strengthens local leadership and leaves no community behind. For GreenFaith Africa, this is the spirit of our grassroots work: faith must not remain silent when people and the Earth are harmed. Our faith calls us to stand together, speak truth to power and build a future in which African communities are not treated as spectators of the climate crisis, but as leaders of the just solutions." Dr. Pius OKO, Regional Program Manager, GreenFaith Africa

The campaign recognises that faith actors are not simply audiences for climate action, but leaders, implementers, advocates and trusted community partners with the reach and credibility to connect global climate discourse with the realities of people and communities.

For faith communities, this leadership is also rooted in a moral responsibility to care for creation and stand with communities most affected by the climate crisis. The campaign will create opportunities for faith actors to connect this responsibility with practical advocacy for renewable energy, climate justice and locally led solutions.

Through collective advocacy, public mobilisation, storytelling, media engagement and evidence generation, Africa Can't Wait will build a stronger interfaith climate movement across Africa and amplify African faith leadership in the lead-up to COP32.

The campaign calls on faith communities, civil society, youth, women, policymakers, development partners, businesses and citizens across Africa and beyond to add their voices and support the call for just implementation.

[Read campaign petition here.](#)

The mobilisation towards one million signatures will continue throughout the campaigning period as partners work together to drive action and accountability now, while building collective momentum towards COP31 and COP32.

[View photos from the campaign launch here.](#)

[View Campaign Website here.](#)

NOTE TO EDITORS:

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

About ACT Alliance:

ACT Alliance is a global faith-based coalition organized in national and regional forums operating in more than 120 countries. Through our more than 140 members, we work on humanitarian aid, gender and climate justice, migration and displacement, and peace and security to support local communities.

About NCA NAPA Programme:

The Norwegian Church Aid Advocacy Programme Africa (NAPA) is a regional advocacy initiative operating across Sub-Saharan Africa that amplifies the voice and influence of faith actors in addressing shared challenges that transcend national borders. NAPA's work is organised around four interconnected pillars: Peacebuilding, Fighting Inequality, Gender Justice, and Climate & Environmental Stewardship. Delivered through locally led partnerships, the programme supports faith-based and civil society actors to advance advocacy efforts on issues including conflict and social fragmentation, gender inequality and violence, poverty and economic injustice, business and human rights, governance of natural resources, climate and environmental crises, and barriers to citizen participation and

	accountable governance. Guided by frameworks such as the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, NAPA envisions a peaceful and just Africa where lives are protected, human rights are upheld, and all people can live in dignity while actively shaping their own future.
<i>About Green Faith Africa:</i> GreenFaith Africa is a multi-faith climate and environmental movement working across the continent to protect the Earth and defend communities most affected by the climate crisis. Rooted in the belief that the Earth and all people are sacred, we bring together people of faith, spiritual leaders, grassroots organisers, women, youth and local communities to take collective action for climate justice. Through outreach, eco-theology education, community organising and campaign training, GreenFaith Africa supports local faith communities to speak out against environmental destruction, fossil fuel expansion, extractive industries and harmful financing that deepen inequality and climate vulnerability. Our work is focused on building bold, people-centred transformation. We campaign for an end to extraction and exploitation, while advancing a just transition, green jobs, climate finance, loss and damage commitments, and a future where communities and the planet can thrive. Across Africa, GreenFaith Africa members and Circles are rising together to protect life, restore dignity and build a compassionate, just and sustainable continent.	<i>About All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC):</i> The All Africa Conference of Churches, also known as AACC-CETA, is a continental ecumenical body bringing together churches and Christian institutions across Africa. As one of the largest Christian ecumenical bodies on the continent, AACC represents more than 200 million Christians and serves as a fellowship of Protestant, Anglican, Orthodox and Indigenous churches. Its membership includes churches, National Councils of Churches, theological and lay training institutions, and other Christian organisations across 43 African countries. Rooted in the Gospel and committed to life, peace, justice and dignity, AACC works with its members to strengthen common Christian witness and respond to the challenges facing people and communities across Africa. Through advocacy, theological reflection, peacebuilding, development, gender justice, youth engagement, interfaith relations and leadership development, AACC supports churches to act prophetically in word, life and service. AACC also provides a coordinated voice for African churches in continental and global spaces, helping to promote human dignity, positive transformation and a just future for the people of Africa.

About Laudato Si':

Laudato Si' Movement (LSM) is an international network of 900 Catholic organisations and thousands of grassroots leaders working together to care for our common home and advance climate and ecological justice. We strive to be led by the Holy Spirit, finding joy and support in our faith and in one another.

Our work is grounded in four key pillars:

Eco-spirituality: Deepening our relationship with God, one another and creation, and inspiring ecological conversion through faith.

Sustainability: Encouraging practical action and ways of living that protect our common home and support a more sustainable future.

Prophetic advocacy: Speaking out for climate and ecological justice, amplifying the voices of affected communities and advocating for systemic change.

Movement building: Bringing together Catholic organisations, grassroots leaders and communities to strengthen collective action for our common home.

We act at the forefront of faith-based efforts to protect the environment. Our work is fast-paced and collaborative, with everyone committed to tackling the planetary crisis with courage and love. We believe, as Pope Francis said in Laudato Si', that "truly, much can be done!"

About The Ethiopian Orthodox Church Development and Inter-Church Aid Commission (EOC-DICAC):

Established in 1972 as the development wing of the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahido Church, works nationwide to empower vulnerable communities through programmes in rural development, food security, education, health, climate resilience, and humanitarian response, with a vision of ending hunger and ensuring dignified, sustainable livelihoods for all Ethiopians.

For more information and media enquiries, please contact:

- Keziah Kariuki, Senior Global Communications Officer – Climate Justice, ACT Alliance
keziah.kariuki@actalliance.org
- Mwenya Chitambala, Africa Communications Officer – Laudato Si' Movement
mwenya@laudatosimovement.org
- Tewaney Sefafeselaie: