

African Coalition of Communities Responsive to Climate Change Calls Out G20 for insufficient commitment to climate finance and mental health action

Brazil, November 21, 2024 – The African Coalition of Communities Responsive to Climate Change (ACCRCC) has voiced its deep concern over the tepid commitment by G20 nations to climate finance, particularly in addressing the pressing interlinkages between mental health and climate impacts, bolstering adaptation measures, and mitigating climate-induced risks.

In the aftermath of the G20 Leaders' Summit in Rio de Janeiro, the coalition emphasizes that the declarations of support for sustainable development and climate resilience fall short of the urgent and transformative action required to address the escalating climate crisis and its disproportionate toll on vulnerable populations, especially in Africa.

Insufficient Financing for Climate Action

The G20 Declaration acknowledges the importance of scaling up climate finance but offers vague commitments without the clarity of actionable roadmaps or mechanisms for accountability. The ACCRCC highlights that the promised funding streams remain insufficient compared to the needs articulated in developing nations. The climate finance gap for adaptation alone stands at tens of billions annually, according to independent reports.

“The G20's commitment to scaling climate finance from billions to trillions is long overdue, yet developing countries are left in limbo with pledges that lack the urgency or mechanisms to meet our communities' needs for climate resilience and adaptation,” said Dr Rosalid Nkirete, Executive Advisor at the ACCRCC.

Mental Health and Climate Nexus Ignored

The coalition underscores the G20's failure to address the profound mental health challenges exacerbated by climate change. From displacement caused by extreme weather events to the trauma of loss of livelihoods, the mental toll on African communities is profound. However, mental health, a critical component of climate resilience, remains grossly underfunded.

“Climate change is not only an environmental crisis but also a mental health crisis. The G20's silence on this dimension of human suffering is a glaring omission, and it underscores the need for mental health to be a priority in climate financing and global policy discussions,” added the spokesperson.

Adaptation and Risk Mitigation

While the G20 Declaration discusses the importance of adaptation, the coalition notes that it fails to outline concrete measures for enhancing support to communities most at risk. Climate adaptation, especially in Africa, requires investments in infrastructure, education, and technology to build resilient communities. Yet, adaptation finance remains overshadowed by mitigation funding, which primarily benefits larger economies.

“African communities are already bearing the brunt of climate impacts, from prolonged droughts to devastating floods. Without scaled-up adaptation funding, the risk to lives and livelihoods will continue to grow exponentially,” said the spokesperson.

Calls to Action

The ACCRCC calls on the G20 nations to take the following immediate steps such as increase climate finance, fulfill and exceed the \$100 billion annual pledge and direct a significant share to adaptation and mental health support for vulnerable populations.

In addition, the ACCRCC wants climate-related mental health prioritised by integrating mental health programs into climate action frameworks, recognizing their critical role in building resilient communities.

“This can be assured by ensuring that climate finance is accessible, equitable, and responsive to the specific needs of communities disproportionately impacted by climate change, and that deliberate actions move beyond declarations to implement clear and binding frameworks for mobilizing and distributing funds,” said Henry Neondo, Advocacy, Campaigns and Communication Advisor.

Dr Nkirote said the ACCRCC stands firm in its commitment to holding global leaders accountable to the communities most impacted by climate change. The coalition calls for bold action, not just rhetoric, as the world’s most vulnerable communities cannot afford further delays in addressing the climate crisis.

ENDS

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About the African Coalition of Communities Responsive to Climate Change (ACCRCC)

The ACCRCC is a grassroots alliance advocating for the rights of African communities to sustainable and equitable climate solutions. The coalition works to amplify the voices of those at the frontline of the climate crisis and push for urgent, inclusive, and actionable climate policies. www.accrcc.org