



POLITICAL STATEMENT: A JUST RECOVERY RENEWABLE ENERGY PLAN FOR AFRICA

THE JUST RECOVERY ENERGY PLAN IS FOR A 100% RENEWABLE ENERGY INDEPENDENT AFRICA.

We commit to the Just Recovery Renewable Energy Plan for 100% Renewable Energy independent Africa. This plan is needed to tackle the twin crises of climate change and Covid-19.

AFRICA IS SUFFERING FROM THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND COVID-19.

Africa is facing multiple inter-related crises. The continent of Africa is vulnerable because it is so exposed to climate change impacts. Our people are still reeling from the devastating impacts of cyclones Idai (2019), Kenneth (2019) and Eloise (2021) that caused extensive flood damage and deaths in Southern Africa. The Covid-19 pandemic has exacerbated the suffering of Africa's peoples and exposed the unequal, unjust and exploitative policies which are a legacy of the colonial and post-colonial systems.

THE LEVEL OF ENERGY POVERTY IN AFRICA IS UNACCEPTABLE.

Three-quarters of those without access to electricity now live in Africa, a share that has risen over recent years.¹ The majority of all Africans do not have clean energy sources for cooking. The number of deaths from respiratory infections is enormous and avoidable. The economic effects of Covid-19 increased the numbers of people who could not access electricity and who went into energy poverty. Africa's vast natural resources have been exploited for the benefits of others through transnational corporations and have left behind the majority of Africa's peoples, especially rural African women.

WE DEMAND CLEAN AND AFFORDABLE ENERGY FOR HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF AFRICANS CURRENTLY LIVING IN ENERGY POVERTY.

This means a need for over 300GW of new renewable energy by 2030, as agreed by the African Union, and over 2000GW by 2050.² The continent surpasses all other regions in having the most potential for renewable energy. We need to dismantle the existing dirty energy systems in order to leapfrog Africa to 100% renewable energy for all by 2050. The renewable energy systems must be socially-owned and community-based, and not be a pretext for privatising the electricity sector. The transformation to renewable energy must be accompanied by key principles such as energy sufficiency, energy sovereignty, seeing energy as a common good rather than a commodity. Our energy system should protect biodiversity, strengthen land rights of communities, promote gender justice, and should not lead to increased extractivism.

THIS PLAN IS SUPPORTED BY MOVEMENTS AND CIVIL SOCIETY ACROSS AFRICA AND HAS BEEN MODELLED BY RENOWNED SCIENTISTS AND ECONOMISTS.

It is technically and financially feasible, with an annual investment requirement of around US\$130 billion per year.³ We know that this plan can easily be financed through stopping illicit financial flows, providing public climate finance and the cancellation of Africa's debt.

WE SUPPORT THE CREATION OF 7 MILLION WELL-PAID JOBS IN SOLAR, WIND, AND CLEAN PEOPLE POWERED RENEWABLE ENERGY THROUGH ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE TO BUILD A JUST RECOVERY FOR OUR PEOPLES ACROSS AFRICA.

We support renewable energy jobs that respect worker's rights and oppose discrimination on the basis of gender or any other forms of discrimination. We demand a just and feminist transition, guided by workers and communities, including protecting jobs by upskilling and reskilling of workers and the communities which are currently in the grip of fossil fuel extraction and use.

WE CALL ON THE AFRICAN UNION, ALL REGIONAL BODIES AND NATIONAL AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS TO ADOPT AND DEVELOP JUST RECOVERY PLANS AT THE REGIONAL AND NATIONAL LEVEL TO ENSURE THIS ENERGY TRANSFORMATION.

We demand a deep yet fast transformation of the energy system to enable people to choose and decide on democratic energy systems that work for communities. We cannot wait any more. We demand our governments remove all barriers for achieving the goal of 100% renewable energy for all.

WE INSIST ON A BAN FOR ANY NEW FOSSIL FUEL DEVELOPMENT, AS RECENTLY CALLED FOR BY THE INTERNATIONAL ENERGY AGENCY AND AN ACCELERATION IN RETIRING EXISTING ONES AS THEY ARE REPLACED BY CLEAN AND AFFORDABLE ENERGY SYSTEMS.⁴

This must include addressing the environmental and social problems created by fossil fuel extraction to date. We need to deploy peoples-centred solutions. We demand to be consulted and to be part of the decisions for the future energy systems.

WE DEMAND THAT OUR GOVERNMENTS TAKE EFFECTIVE MEASURES TO PREVENT THE CORPORATE CAPTURE OF OUR DEMOCRACIES, including by supporting the ongoing process towards a UN binding treaty on transnational corporations and human rights; and by pulling out from any free trade agreement or investment treaty that allows corporations to obstruct the transition to a clean energy system.

A JUST RECOVERY RENEWABLE ENERGY PLAN FOR A 100% RENEWABLE ENERGY INDEPENDENT AFRICA IS POSSIBLE.

The finance exists and must be paid by those who caused the climate crisis in the first place. We demand a release of the pledged climate funds by the developed world. A just recovery energy plan for renewable energy Africa is our choice and our right.

See <http://foeafrica.org/foeafrica-politicalstatement/> for organisational endorsements of the Just Recovery Renewable Energy Plan for Africa Statement.

1 IEA 2019 <https://www.iea.org/reports/sdg7-data-and-projections/access-to-electricity>

2 AfDB News 2015: AfDB to support electricity access for all by 2030 with African Renewable Energy Initiative <https://www.afdb.org/fr/news-and-events/afdb-to-support-electricity-access-for-all-by-2030-with-african-renewable-energy-initiative-15119>

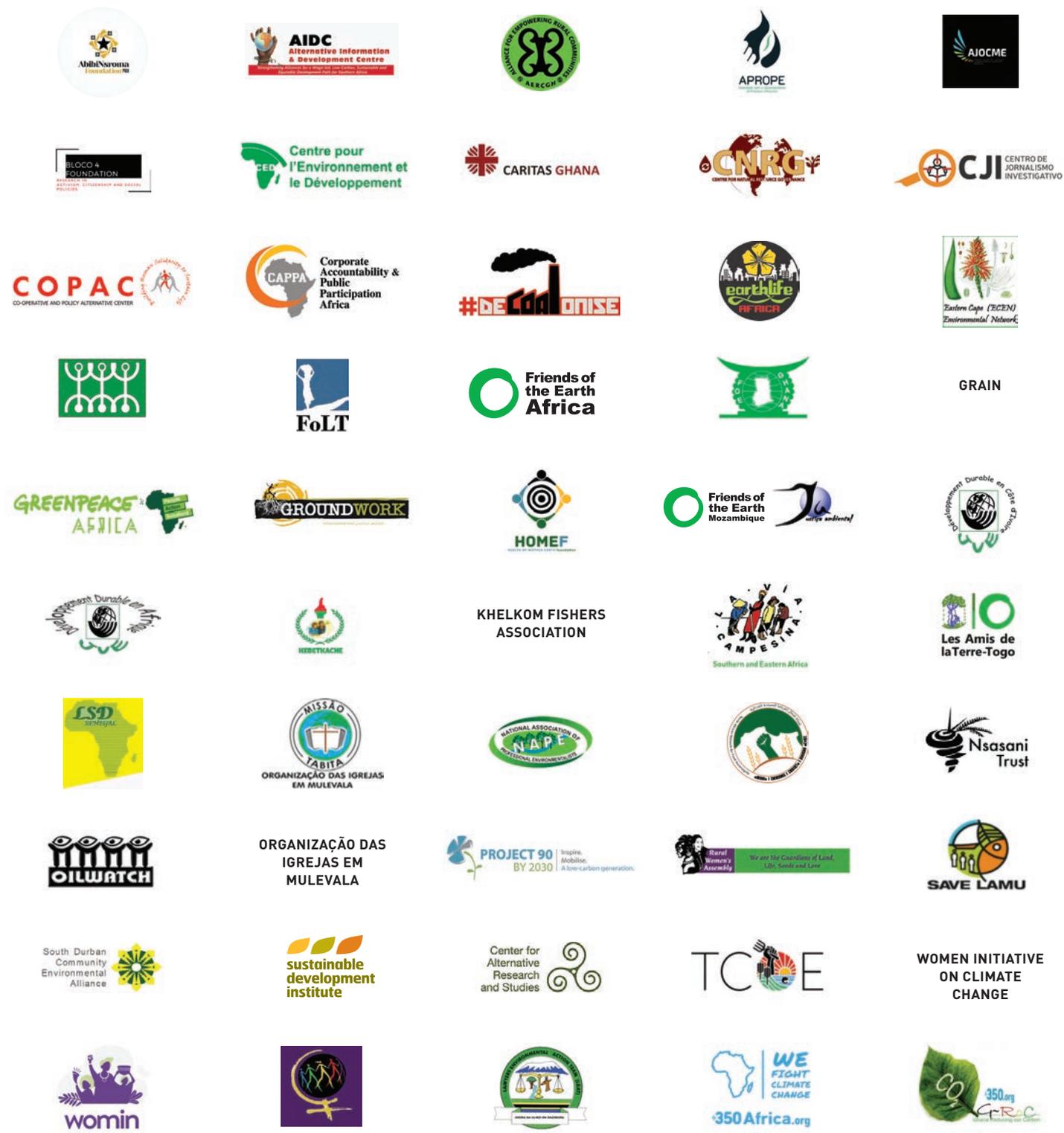
3 S Teske (Ed) 2019 Achieving the Paris Climate Agreement Goals: Global and Regional 100% Renewable Energy Scenarios with Non-energy GHG Pathways for +1.5°C and +2°C. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-05843-2_1

4 <https://www.iea.org/topics/net-zero-emissions>; <https://www.uts.edu.au/isf/news/response-iea-1.5c-pathway>



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ORGANISATIONAL SIGNATORIES (AUGUST 2021):



See this statement online at <http://foeafrika.org/foeafrika-politicalstatement/>