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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

23rd September 2022

'#PEOPLENOTPROFIT'

CLIMATE ACTIVISTS AROUND THE WORLD CALL FOR LOSS AND DAMAGE FINANCING

On 24th September 2022, the Fridays For Future (FFF) Nairobi chapter will partner with Laudato Si Movement, 350Africa, the Catholic University of Eastern Africa and Planet one Ubunifu Hub for the Global Climate Strike.

Global Climate Strikes started in 2018 when 15-year-old Greta Thunberg boycotted school and camped outside the Swedish parliament for 3 weeks leading up to the elections to demand urgent climate action, global climate strike strikes have since become an instrumental weapon driving

climate justice. Against this backdrop, climate strikers here in Nairobi will be convening to call for Loss and Damage Financing. The strike begins at Nyayo Stadium through the city before culminating in a climate concert at the Catholic University of East Africa (CUEA). Throughout the strike, front liners and marginalized groups will account first-hand the impact of climate change and why climate reparations should be prioritized ahead of COP27.

THE PROBLEM

The catastrophic climate scenario that we live in is the result of centuries of exploitation and oppression through colonialism, extractivism and capitalism, an essentially flawed socio-economic model which urgently needs to be replaced. A system where rich nations are responsible for 92% of global emissions, and the wealthiest 1% of the world population are responsible for double the pollution produced by the poorest 50%. Yet, the latter have been forced to bear the brunt of these impunities- suffering from both the actions and inactions of the rich!

In Kenya today, floods and droughts complement each other, inflicting pain on the citizenry. In September last year, former President Kenyatta declared a national disaster with about 3.5 million people suffering extreme starvation. Over the same year, about 100 people died, and floods displaced 200,000. We are now at a point where we either die because of the rains or lack of it.

“I am an old woman, and I have lost my home. Where do I go?” Everlyn Ajuang- [Loss and Damage Victim](#)

THE REPARATIONS

We are calling for climate reparations now! Not as charity, but as a transformative justice process in which political power will return to the people. This should not be in the form of loans but a follow through on the demands from Indigenous, black, anti-patriarchal, and diverse marginalized communities to get their lands back, giving resources to the most affected districts by the climate crisis for adaptation, loss and damages – a redistribution (and in most cases, collectivization) of wealth, technology, information, care work, and political power both from the north to the south and from top to bottom.

With colonizers and capitalists at the core of every system of oppression that has caused the climate crisis, decolonization, using the tool of climate reparations, remains the best kind of climate justice.

We call for the 1% of wealthiest capitalist nations to be held responsible for their actions, inaction, and willful ignorance. Their profit is our death. Their profit is our suffering.

With different sectors of society worldwide, led by the most marginalized, let's bring back the power to the people whose influence has been stolen. Let's build a system and home where we prioritize #PeopleNotProfit.

"Droughts, famine, locust invasions, and floods are the drastic effects of the climate crisis that we, as the most affected, face while contributing the least. The wealth of the most developed countries was made on the back of our ancestors' blood, sweat and tears. Today, we continue paying for the comfort of developed countries, making it easier for them to adapt to the climate crisis, yet we suffer. It is time for climate reparations."

-Fazeela Mubarak, Climate Activist.

"I'm standing near a dried-up tree. The land is bare, gulleys have formed, and nothing is growing. This is due to a lack of rainfall, we have gone for years without rain, and climate change is causing our children here in Voi to go hungry while others profit at our expense. We cannot deal with the climate crisis. We want climate reparations."

-James Mwaivu - Environment Teacher and Climate activist

"Money will be useless on a dead planet. It's time to end our dependence on fossil fuels. Let the polluters pay us for the loss and damage caused and help us transition into renewables now."

-Risper Asembo, Climate Activist, Busia

"Pope Francis in Laudato Si shares, 'There is an urgent need to develop policies so that, in the next few years, the emission of carbon dioxide and other highly polluting gasses can be drastically reduced, for example, substituting for fossil fuels and developing sources of renewable energy.' Therefore we call upon the incumbent government of Kenya to follow through with its commitment to achieving clean energy by 2030. This will be a contribution that Kenya can make toward Africa's leapfrogging to clean and renewable energy. Kenya cannot do this alone. Therefore, support from the global north through loss and damage financing is overdue."

- Ashley Kitisya, Fossil Free Campaigner, Laudato Si Movement.

Locations for Press Release

Nairobi - Nyayo Stadium 24th September 8:00 am

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¹ For more information about the global strikes check <https://fridaysforfuture.org/>

² Visit <https://www.laudatosimovement.org/> to learn more