

12 June 2025

Mr Zane Dangor

Director-General: Department of International Relations and Cooperation By email: Bowmanj@dirco.gov.za

And

Dr Duncan Pieterse

Director-General: Department of National Treasury
By email: DGRegistry@treasury.gov.za

And

Mr Maesela Kekana

Deputy Director General: Climate Change and Air Quality Management By email: MJKekana@dffe.gov.za

And

Mr Mbulelo Tshangana

Director General, Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA)
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And

Dr Elias Sithole

Deputy Director General: National Disaster Management Centre
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And

Mr Vukile Davidson

Chief Director Financial Markets and Stability, National Treasury
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And

Mr Konstantin Makrelov

Divisional Head: Economic and Climate-Related Research, South African Reserve Bank (SARB)
By email: Konstantin.Makrelov@resbank.co.za

Dear Mr Zane Dangor, Dr Duncan Pieterse, Mr Maesela Kekana, Mr Mbulelo Tshangana, Dr Elias Sithole, Mr Vukile Davidson, and Mr Konstantin Makrelov,

RE: Africa's Adaptation-Related Priorities for the Presidency of the G20

We are writing on behalf of a group of African civil society organisations, with the support of a broader coalition of international organisations, to call for your support in ensuring the G20 Communiqués and Declarations address the urgent challenge of placing adaptation at the heart of the global agenda in 2025. These recommendations have emerged from our work with over 50 African civil society organisations who work at the intersection of financial, climate and energy justice issues across South Africa and the African continent.

Africa is warming faster than the global average and already facing climate-linked risks to

food security, water access, livelihoods and wellbeing. Yet, the continent's adaptation finance remains deeply inadequate, with finance being unpredictable, difficult to access, and mainly loan-based rather than grants, worsening debt distress across African countries.

Amid a challenging geopolitical context and falling global financial flows, 2025 marks a political crossroads for adaptation — the deadline for the Glasgow pledge to double adaptation finance and the finalization of the indicators for the Global Goal on Adaptation targets.

Africa cannot afford for adaptation to be sidelined any longer. Strong African leadership is essential to foster more political space and assert adaptation as an urgent lifeline for the continent's development — not merely an environmental concern.

At this critical juncture - with worsening climate impacts, rising debt distress and key global milestones - we urge South Africa's G20 Presidency to champion the following priorities:

- 1. Scale adaptation finance to close the adaptation gap for most vulnerable populations by 2030:** Drive political momentum to set a new adaptation finance goal comprising high-quality, accessible adaptation finance by 2030. The G20's support for climate adaptation must fully address the current adaptation needs of developing countries by 2030, aligning with other multilateral processes such as the NCQG, and Baku-to-Belém roadmap to \$1.3 trillion by 2035, and broader global financial and debt reform initiatives.
- 2. Urge policy coherence and integration rooted in Just Transition principles:** Align national development plans, strategies and goals for adaptation and development and embed just transition principles into the adaptation policy cycle.
- 3. Strengthen and assert African leadership on Africa's adaptation priorities:** Enhance collaboration between and across government ministries, regional bodies, regional institutions and African civil society to drive a unified adaptation agenda.

More specifically, we implore the South African G20 Presidency to consider the following priorities and goals:

- 1. Advocate for Scaling Adaptation Finance that is Grant-Based, Predictable, Accessible, and Aligned with the Needs of Climate Vulnerable Regions:**
 - **Secure an ambitious global commitment to adaptation finance.** In line with the **CBDR-RC principle**, G20 developed country members should lead efforts to significantly increase the volume, predictability, and quality of adaptation finance. We would recommend **establishing a new adaptation finance goal** that meets the current needs estimated at \$215-387 billion annually according to the 2023 UNEP Adaptation Gap Report. This funding should be delivered primarily as **grants or grant equivalent terms**, aligning with other multilateral commitments, and recognised in the context of the \$300 billion NCQG commitment, and further mobilisation through the Baku-to-Belém Roadmap to \$1.3 trillion implementation, through a combination of funding, investment, technology transfer and capacity building.
 - **Promote greater access to quality adaptation finance.** Adaptation support should be provided primarily in the form of grants, with a focus on using available grant finance to support adaptation and resilience building. South Africa's and other African countries' experiences with accessing climate finance should help shape reforms

needed to improve local access to adaptation finance.

- **G20 developed country members must deliver on their existing finance commitments and commit to reforming international financial institutions** to deliver finance that is scaled, accessible and effective in supporting the sustainable development goals, climate action, and efforts to eradicate poverty. The G20 should reaffirm its commitment to fully deliver on all the decisions from COP29, including the \$300 billion finance goal and the Baku to Belém roadmap to \$1.3 trillion by 2035.

2. Advance Policy Coherence without Shifting the Burden - Integration Rooted in Just Transition Principles:

- **Promote stronger policy alignment between national, regional and global frameworks related to adaptation and disaster risk reduction** - such as national development plans and budgets, NDCs 3.0, National Adaptation Plans, African Union's Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy (2022–2032) and the Programme of Action, the Sendai Framework, and the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) targets. Coherence is essential for delivering integrated responses and unlocking sustained international support - but must not shift responsibility away from developed countries' obligation to finance adaptation.
 - Connect the G20 adaptation agenda to other multilateral processes, including the GGA, UAE-Belém Work Programme, JTWP, and the NCQG, to reinforce global cooperation and restore trust in multilateralism at a time when it is most needed.
 - Encourage African and other Global South countries to embed strong adaptation components and costed priorities, including investment plans, into their NDCs. This would strengthen the case for predictable, long-term support for adaptation and an opportunity to promote integration of the Global Goal on Adaptation targets into national development strategies.
- **Champion adaptation as a core component of just transition strategies** aligned with other multilateral initiatives such as the UNFCCC Just Transition Work Programme. This includes embedding equity, social dialogue, decent work, social protection mechanisms and more into adaptation planning, implementation and finance.
- **Prioritise adaptation actions and investments that protect lives, livelihoods, and ecosystems**, with a particular focus on sectors such as food systems and agriculture, health, water, biodiversity, and ecosystem restoration. Cross-cutting priorities must also be addressed - including gender equality, land rights, youth inclusion, disability rights, and the knowledge and leadership of Indigenous Peoples and local communities.
- **Ensure adaptation is positioned across all relevant G20 working groups** — including Finance, Development, Agriculture, DRR, and Climate Sustainability — as both an **implementation priority** and an **investment in global resilience**, equity, and development stability.

3. Strengthen African Coordination and Leadership on Adaptation and DRR and assert African leadership on Africa's adaptation and resilience priorities:

- **Ensure coherent action across its G20 ministries** (DFFE, Treasury, DIRCO) on the adaptation agenda, particularly related to finance.
- **Strengthen coordination with African institutions** - especially the AU, AGN,

AMCEN, CAHOSCC - to project a clear African voice in the G20 and other multilateral fora.

- **Work with other global South governments**, particularly Brazil as the previous G20 President and current COP30 host, **to identify strategic opportunities to advance adaptation politically** to drive a unified voice on adaptation in global processes such as the UNFCCC Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA), Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and Loss and Damage mechanisms.
- **Promote the meaningful participation of African civil society**, particularly women, youth, informal workers, and frontline communities, **across G20 discussions and working groups** - ensuring that Africa's adaptation agenda is rooted in lived realities and social justice.
- **Facilitate G20 support to enhance direct funding and technical support to implement adaptation and DRR strategies** particularly expansion of regional climate information systems including Early Warning Systems (EWS) and climate services and urban resilience programs, given the rapid urbanization and exposure to climate extremes.

South Africa's G20 Presidency could be a defining moment for global adaptation priorities. Advancing African adaptation priorities and scaling adaptation finance must be central to South Africa's G20 legacy in 2025.

Delivering on this ambition will require sustained coordination, inclusive engagement and G20's collective influence. We therefore urge the establishment of an African Adaptation Task Force or civil society engagement platform to support structured collaboration between the South African G20 Presidency, African institutions such as the AU and AGN, and civil society organisations working on adaptation across the continent. This mechanism would ensure African priorities are consistently reflected and political momentum for adaptation is garnered ahead of key moments in 2025 and beyond.

In the spirit of transparency and open engagement, we therefore request a meeting with the G20 Sherpa and the chairs of the G20 Environment and Climate Sustainability and Health Working Groups to further discuss these priorities and to request the provision of observer status for this group to the G20 meetings this year. In addition, we would be pleased to share further briefing materials or draft language to support your work.

We stand ready to work alongside you to achieve ambitious adaptation outcomes in 2025.

Yours Sincerely,

African CSOs making this request include:

1. AbibiNsroma Foundation (ANF), Ghana
2. Association for Rural Advancement, South Africa
3. Adelaide Advice Center - Eastern Cape, South Africa
4. Alwande Ulwazi Community Advice Center - Eastern Cape, South Africa
5. Bathuseng Community Centre - Limpopo, South Africa
6. Beaufort West Legal Advice and Development Office (BWLADO) - Western Cape, South Africa
7. Bizana Paralegal Centre - Eastern Cape, South Africa

8. Bloodriver Advice Office - Limpopo, South Africa
9. CARE Alicedale - Eastern Cape, South Africa
10. Care For Environment (Cameroun)
11. Carolina Eco-Green Economy
12. Centre for Environmental Rights, South Africa
13. Citrusdal Advice Office - Western Cape, South Africa
14. Climate Action Network Zimbabwe
15. Development Education and Leadership Teams in Action (DELTA) - Eastern Cape, South Africa
16. Dordrecht Legal Advice and Community Development Agency - Eastern Cape, South Africa
17. Entlango Cooperative - Eastern Cape, South Africa
18. Flagstaff Community Advice Centre - Eastern Cape, South Africa
19. Fossil Free South Africa
20. Future Leaders Project - Limpopo, South Africa
21. GenderCC SA - Women for Climate Justice, South Africa
22. Green Anglicans, South Africa
23. Greenpeace Africa
24. Harepheleng Community Organisation - Eastern Cape, South Africa
25. Haki Nawiri Afrika
26. Humana People to People in South Africa
27. Ikgomotseng CNDC - Free State, South Africa
28. Jeunes Volontaires pour l'Environnement, Togo
29. Kenya Climate Change Working Group
30. Kgatelopele Social Development Forum - Northern Cape, South Africa
31. Laudato Si' Movement - South Africa
32. Laudato Si' Movement Africa
33. Lusikisiki Paralegal Advice Centre - Eastern Cape, South Africa
34. Masiphakameni Local Development Agency - Eastern Cape, South Africa
35. Morwakola Drop-In Centre - Limpopo, South Africa
36. Mount Fletcher Advice Centre - Eastern Cape, South Africa
37. Mount Frere Paralegal Advice Centre - Eastern Cape, South Africa
38. Mqanduli Community Advice Office - Eastern Cape, South Africa
39. MT Foundation - Free State, South Africa
40. Nelspoort Advice and Development Office - Western Cape, South Africa
41. Opret Advice Office - Limpopo, South Africa
42. Otsile Bokamoso NPO - Free State, South Africa
43. Oxfam South Africa
44. Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) over 1 000 organisations from more than 48 African countries
45. PACJA DNP, South Africa
46. Port St John's Legal Advice Centre - Eastern Cape, South Africa
47. Power Shift Africa
48. Project 90 by 2030
49. Refilwe Community Care Centre - Limpopo, South Africa
50. Reformed African Congregational Church - Eastern Cape, South Africa

Africa 51. Reya-Phela Safe House - Free State, South Africa
 52. Sandsloot Youth Development - Limpopo, South Africa
 53. Sekhukhune Environmental Justice Network
 54. Siyakhana GBV Center - Eastern Cape, South Africa
 55. Siyanakekela Community Development Centre - Eastern Cape, South Africa
 56. Siyanqoba HIV & AIDS Support Group - Free State, South Africa
 57. Social Change Assistance Trust - SCAT, South Africa
 58. Southern Africa Region Climate Action Network (SARCAN)
 59. Strategic Youth Network for Development
 60. Sukumani Environmental Justice
 61. Support Humanity - Cameroon
 62. Sustainable Futures Initiative, Tanzania
 63. The Grail Centre Trust
 64. The Green Connection
 65. The Minerals Processing & Beneficiation Industries Association of Southern Africa (MPBIASA)
 66. The New Environmental Justice Solutions
 67. The Sandveld Local Development Agency (SALDA) - Western Cape, South Africa
 68. Thobela Centre for the Mentally Handicapped - Limpopo, South Africa
 69. Thuso Advice and Development Centre - Northern Cape, South Africa
 70. Tlhabologang Community Based Care and Support Services - Free State, South Africa
 71. Touwsriver Advice and Development Center - Western Cape, South Africa
 72. Tsantsabane Centre of Hope
 73. Tshwaraganang Ma-Africa on environmental
 74. Tyinira Rural Development Center - Eastern Cape, South Africa
 75. Ukhahlamba Legal Advice and Development Agency - Eastern Cape, South Africa
 76. Waterberg Women Advocacy Organization
 77. Witzenburg Rural Development Centre - Western Cape, South Africa
 78. Working for Climate
 79. Zingisa Educational Project - Eastern Cape, South Africa

International organisations making this request include:

1. CAN-International
2. Germanwatch e.V.
3. Global Network of Civil Society Organisation For Disaster Reduction
4. Grandmothers Advocacy Network
5. HelpAge International

Sent on behalf of the group of civil society organisations by the coordinators:

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