

Engaging in climate governance arenas under a shared global south vision: aligned messages from philanthropy

Objectives for Developing Joint Key Messages:

1. To co-create shared messages among foundations working in the Global South to frame engagement in climate governance spaces.
2. To map and align actions as well as funding pledges that foundations are currently undertaking towards COP30 in the areas identified as crucial for the global South.

Overall messages

URGENCY & AUDACITY. Given the urgent and escalating climate crisis and its disproportionate impact on communities in the global South, it is imperative for philanthropy to **step up its presence** and align strategic efforts for audacious and systemic results that challenge current power structures.

STEP IN WITH COMPLEMENTARY ROLES. Global South philanthropy can play multiple roles in unlocking systemic change, questioning the status quo of global financial and political architecture, and addressing the harms and injustices of climate change. These roles include the following:

- A) Philanthropic organizations can provide **critical funding** for innovative and high-impact climate solutions that require a combination of tolerance to risk and ambition.
- B) Philanthropy can serve as a **catalyst** for mobilizing additional resources. By supporting pilot initiatives and demonstrating the effectiveness of certain approaches, philanthropic organizations can attract investments from governments, businesses, and other stakeholders. Philanthropic funds play a seeding and leveraging role, unlocking larger pools of capital.
- C) Philanthropy plays a role in **shaping the public agenda**, by financing civic movements (including labor and Indigenous Peoples movements), journalism, arts, and other forms of mobilization and communication that help sustain the momentum on critical issues as well as counteract lobbying efforts that promote climate skepticism and misinformation.
- D) Philanthropy plays a further role in **influencing public policies and governance architectures** by financing advocacy, research, and policy advisory initiatives aimed at shaping climate-related regulations and policies. A global South lead is essential to transform development paradigms and existing political and financial structures.
- E) Philanthropic organizations can **address the inequities** of climate change and climate responses by helping develop the capacities of local NGOs, communities, small enterprises, and governments to respond to the impacts of climate change and participate as protagonists in the decarbonization revolution.
- F) Many philanthropic efforts aim for **climate justice** and directly fund local communities and grassroots organizations. These organizations are often on the front lines of climate impacts and can benefit from funding for projects that build resilience, promote sustainable practices, and enhance community well-being. Addressing loss and damages will also be an increasingly important agenda.

- G) Philanthropy is well-positioned to **take risks and embark on experimental** projects that might not attract traditional funding. This commitment to innovation and experimentation has the potential to yield breakthroughs in climate solutions.
- H) Philanthropy can assure **decentralized and localized access to resources**, especially through regranteeing infrastructures that make funds reach the local level.
- I) Philanthropic organizations can foster a long-term **vision** of climate action, focusing on pathways that lead to decarbonization, enduring adaptation solutions, and sustained impact. This can counteract the short-term thinking that hampers climate responses.
- J) Funding **research on critical knowledge** that can unblock progress in low emissions technologies and unleash transformative adaptation is an opportunity for philanthropy.
- K) Philanthropy can step in to **address gaps in funding or areas that are underrepresented in mainstream climate efforts**. It can tackle issues that might not attract commercial investment but are critical for a just transition.
- L) Apart from financial support, philanthropy from the Global South holds a distinct position in being able to safeguard spaces of **authentic trust**, countering both extractivist practices and greenwashing. It is crucial that these spaces are intentionally designed and maintained with genuine and critical perspectives to prevent the formation of silos and unhealthy competition, fostering collaborative efforts for sustainable and impactful philanthropy.

COLLABORATE DEEPLY. There are growing efforts of philanthropic collaboration in the climate agenda. However, to ensure systemic change, the disruption of power structures, and a future of justice and equality in the face of the climate crisis, it is imperative to foster even more extensive and transformative collaboration. **Global South Philanthropy should recognize and build upon existing infrastructure and local capacity, exercise humble leadership, and go beyond exchange of information to truly share resources.**

ENGAGE FROM A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE. While climate impacts and actions are primarily experienced at the local level, no climate action exists in isolation from the global governance of greenhouse gases in our shared atmosphere. By aligning and informing philanthropic efforts with global climate governance processes, philanthropy can amplify its systemic impact.

Historically, philanthropy has played a relatively limited role in global climate governance, particularly within the UNFCCC process. However, there is a **growing recognition and a call to action for the sector to become more actively involved**. Aligning philanthropic strategies with global multilateral efforts and responding to the needs, gaps, and goals of nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and non-state actors' commitments can strengthen global climate governance and contribute to a more comprehensive approach to the climate crisis.

ACKNOWLEDGE GLOBAL SOUTH AS A STANDPOINT FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE . The Global South is not a homogeneous monolith and there are significant cultural and political differences within it; nevertheless, it refers to a **moral and structural geography** that highlights the great divides that generate and exacerbate the climate crisis. It also calls for a systemic perspective to the climate crisis, understanding it as part of a **development agenda**, directly connected to poverty, inequality, gender inequities and other socio-economic and environmental aspects of development.

CARE FOR CIVIC SPACES. Let youth, women, Indigenous Peoples, LGBTQ+ and other representatives from traditionally marginalized groups lead the conversation. Ensuring an open **civic space and fostering conditions for all voices to be heard** is essential to change

perspectives and ensure justice. Nevertheless, in a context of polarization, climate activists operate in a unsecure and limited civic space which is shrinking and needs to be cared for.

Specific messages relating to negotiation topics

**Topics have been chosen considering the most pressing issues affecting global South countries and under discussion during UNFCCC negotiations taking place at COP28.*

1. Establishing a Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA)

Establishing a unified and comprehensive framework for the global goal on adaptation, complete with defined targets and measurable indicators, is essential to protect vulnerable communities and territories from the increasing impacts of climate change. What is currently lacking is the necessary political will and leadership to achieve this critical outcome¹.

2. Ensuring an operational, fit-for-purpose Loss & Damage Fund

The L&D fund is a critical piece in the pursuit of climate justice, and the terms of its establishment will determine its effectiveness in safeguarding human rights and addressing the harm caused by climate change upon the most vulnerable populations.

Drawing from the lessons learned from other funding institutions, the L&D Fund should be constructed with careful consideration. The philanthropic sector has vast experience in channeling funds to the local level and can play a critical role in advocating for optimal arrangements and ensuring effective implementation.

3. Climate finance

Overall, finance dedicated to driving the transition needs to increase, as it currently accounts for two-thirds of the global subsidies allocated to fossil fuels. This means that humanity is, on balance, still financing the very climate crisis it seeks to address².

Furthermore, climate finance often fails to reach the communities it aims to assist. According to the International Institute for Environment and Development (2017), only about 10% (1.5 billion USD) of international, regional, and national climate-related funding was allocated to local-level solutions. This rate needs to substantially increase to ensure that no one is left behind. Mainstreaming the principles of Locally Led Adaptation Principles (LLAP) into funding mechanisms serves as a crucial step in ensuring that the voices and needs of local communities are at the heart of funding decisions.

Furthermore, substantial adjustments are required in several aspects of climate finance. This includes a substantial increase in the allocation of grants, which currently represent only 5% of climate financial instruments deployed³. Additionally, there is a pressing need to augment the proportion of funds dedicated to adaptation and addressing loss and damage. Currently, the majority of climate finance is disbursed in reimbursable formats and predominantly directed towards mitigation efforts.

¹ ICPH, 2023

² <https://www.climatepolicyinitiative.org/publication/global-landscape-of-climate-finance-a-decade-of-data/>

³ <https://www.climatepolicyinitiative.org/publication/global-landscape-of-climate-finance-a-decade-of-data/>

In the philanthropic sector, there is a growing imperative to transition from being solely an executor of resources to becoming a financier of solutions, as highlighted in the first part of the document. This shift not only addresses the issue of local underfinancing but also facilitates the establishment of the essential infrastructure and institutional capabilities necessary for civil society and community organizations to receive and manage resources at the local level.

4. Fossil fuels phase-out

Any decision made at the global, national, or local level to combat the climate crisis must prioritize the development of alternative, widespread access to renewable energy sources while simultaneously phasing out fossil fuel extraction and consumption.

A just energy transition should not perpetuate the extractive practices reminiscent of colonialism. Instead, it should place paramount importance on safeguarding the rights and well-being of Indigenous Peoples and marginalized communities, striving to rectify the historical injustices associated with colonialism.

5. Leaving no one behind and promoting a just transition

In the context of the climate movement, the meaning of a “just transition” encompasses dimensions of equity, human rights, and inter- and intra-generational justice⁴, recognizing the fact that the transition to net-zero economies may unfold in ways that exacerbate existing inequalities and marginalize countries, communities, and specific identity groups.

The foremost challenge confronting humanity is the imperative to limit global warming to no more than 1.5°C. Failing to achieve this goal places millions of people at risk of losing everything to climate change. As the transition unfolds, it should aim to redistribute wealth and reduce structural inequalities, thereby enhancing the resilience of people and communities to cope with the impacts of climate change. The Global South embodies the example that discussing climate policy is synonymous with discussing the rights of individuals and their ability to lead a dignified life.

6. Nature and biodiversity

In the Global South, the significance of nature and biodiversity transcends mere ecological considerations; it is deeply intertwined with the socio-economic fabric and cultural heritage of the region. The rich diversity of ecosystems in the Global South not only sustains unique and often endangered species but also serves as the lifeblood for countless communities dependent on natural resources for their livelihoods. Biodiversity, in this context, becomes a source of resilience, providing essential ecosystem services such as clean water, fertile soil, and climate regulation. Furthermore, Indigenous Peoples have cultivated traditional knowledge that is crucial for sustainable coexistence. Moreover, the intricate connection between nature and biodiversity in the Global South extends its impact to global health as it plays a pivotal role in mitigating the spread of infectious diseases by maintaining ecological balance.

Recognizing the importance of nature and safeguarding biodiversity in the Global South is not just an environmental imperative, it is a commitment to preserving the intricate balance that sustains both ecosystems and the diverse human communities interconnected with them.

⁴“intergenerational justice”¹⁸ between past and present generations (...) and present and future generations (...); and ‘intragenerational justice’ (...) between countries¹⁹, communities and individuals through an intersectional lens²⁰ in <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-023-06083-8>