GIRLS FOR CLIMATE ACTION
Stand For Climate Justice

COP31 • ANTALYA, TÜRKIYE

YOUNG ECO-FEMINISTS' MANIFESTO FOR COP31

Demands of young women and girls in all their diversities, from Uganda and across Africa, to the UN Climate Change Conference in Antalya, Türkiye, 9–20 November 2026

"Every negotiating room in Antalya - adaptation, just transition, finance, agriculture is a gender room."

GIRLS FOR CLIMATE ACTION • STAND FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE

GIRLS FOR CLIMATE ACTION

Preamble

We are young women and girls from Uganda, joined by young eco-feminists from 12 African countries: farmers, gathers, students, Indigenous young women, young women with disabilities, grassroots organisers and environmental defenders. This manifesto carries the views of more than 500 young people gathered through our consultations ahead of COP31.

COP31 has been called the implementation COP. Türkiye holds the Presidency and Australia leads the negotiations. For us, implementation has one test: does money, power and protection reach the women and girls who hold communities together as rains fail, lakes rise and land is taken for oil, miner-als and carbon projects?

The Belém Gender Action Plan (2026-2034), adopted at COP30, is now in its first year, with 27 activities and 98 deliverables. We will not let it become another plan on paper. Every negotiating room in Antalya - adaptation, just transition, finance, agriculture - is a gender room. Our demands are addressed to all Parties. to Uganda's delegation and the Africa group of negotiators.

OUR VALUES

Our principles

Sisterhood and solidarity	Those most affected co-design, co-decide and co-own climate action.
Accountability	People and planet over profit; climate money that is public, traceable and reaches women and youth directly. We reject false solutions that commodify nature and grab land.
Collective care	Care work is climate work. Unpaid care, safety, SRHR and freedom from gender-based violence are part of resilience.
Stewardship	We defend the commons — land, water, forests, seeds — and honour Indigenous and local women's knowledge.
Inclusion	Rural and urban, Indigenous, refugees, disabled and young; no one made invisible by missing data.

GENDER AND CLIMATE CHANGE

01 Make the Belém GAP real

The Belém GAP (decision 7/CP.30) runs to 2034, with a mid-term review in 2029. At COP31 the secretariat reports on gender-responsive budgeting (activity D.1.2), and Parties begin voluntary reporting on the gender and age make-up of their delegations (E.1.5). Yet the decision leaves pathways "nationally determined" and secretariat work "subject to the availability of financial resources". A plan without a budget is a promise without a date.

1. **Fund national implementation.** Every Party, including Uganda, should adopt a costed national Belém GAP implementation plan by COP32 (2027), with a gender-responsive budget line in its climate finance tracking and a named, resourced national gender and climate change focal point.
2. **Put young women and girls in the delivery.** Reserve seats for young feminist and girl-led organisations in national GAP coordination mechanisms (C.6). Report the sex *and age* of delegations from COP31 onwards, so the absence of young women is counted, not hidden.
3. **Money that reaches grassroots women.** Under activity D.3, the Green Climate Fund, Adaptation Fund, GEF and the Fund for responding to Loss and Damage must publish, before the SB 66 workshop on their gender mandates (D.4.4), how much finance reached women-, girl-

ENVIRONMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

02 Protect those who protect

Activity B.4 of the Belém GAP commits Parties to enhance safety, protection mechanisms and support for women, especially women environmental defenders. In Uganda, eight young defenders were sentenced to 11 months in April 2026 for "nuisance on roads" after more than eight months on remand, for a peaceful protest against the financing of the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP). Protection cannot wait for a workshop cycle.

1. **End the criminalisation of peaceful defence.** The Government of Uganda must release detained environmental defenders, end arbitrary arrest, prolonged remand and abusive lawsuits, and enact a defenders' protection law co-designed with defenders. All Parties must guarantee that no one faces reprisal for speaking at, or about, COP31.
2. **Fund B.4 from the grassroots up.** The regional workshops due by March 2027 (B.4.1) must include an African workshop led by grassroots women defenders, with travel, security and care costs covered. The protection guidelines (B.4.4) must cover online abuse, surveillance and reprisals at home — not only safety at UN meetings.
3. **Direct, flexible protection money.** Climate funds and development partners should open accessible windows for women- and youth-led defender groups, covering emergency legal, medical and psychosocial support. The East African Community and African Union should adopt a regional defender-protection framework, learning from the Escazú Agreement.

ADAPTATION

03 Indicators that see women, finance that arrives

COP30 adopted 59 Belém Adaptation Indicators under the Global Goal on Adaptation and launched the two-year Belém–Addis Vision to make them usable by COP32. It also called for at least tripling adaptation finance by 2035 — but set no baseline year. In Bonn, Parties could not agree on the technical taskforce or on how to track the tripling, so both return to Antalya.

1. **A taskforce with gender expertise.** The technical taskforce agreed at COP31 must include gender experts and Global South women's and youth organisations. Indicators should be reported by sex, age and disability, and track what women live: hours of unpaid care, distance to safe water, women's land and user rights, SRHR access during climate shocks, and who early-warning alerts actually reach.
2. **A baseline and a delivery path for tripling.** COP31 must fix the baseline year and an annual pathway to 2035, with a floor of public, grant-based finance. Adaptation finance that arrives as loans deepens the debt that already crowds out spending on health, water and education.
3. **Care-responsive national plans.** Uganda's next National Adaptation Plan should allocate at least 10% of adaptation spending to time-saving infrastructure (safe water within 500 metres, clean cooking, childcare), and open a direct-access window with at least 30% of ad-

JUST TRANSITION AND MITIGATION

04 No transition built on our land and bodies

In Belém, Parties decided to develop a Just Transition Mechanism, but left its functions, governance and finance open. Antalya must give it shape. Outside the formal talks, 57 countries met in Santa Marta in April 2026 at the first conference on transitioning away from fossil fuels. In Uganda, the Tilenga and Kingfisher oil fields, EACOP and new mining for transition minerals are moving ahead while women farm land they do not own and are left out of consent and compensation.

1. **A mechanism that delivers.** COP31 must agree the Mechanism's functions and governance, including channelling grants and non-debt finance, with seats for women's, youth and Indigenous constituencies. Gender equality, unpaid care and decent work for women must be core functions, building on the Belém GAP's COP31 event on socially just transitions (A.3.8).
2. **Phase out fossil fuels, fairly and on a timeline.** Developed countries must lead a time-bound, funded phase-out with no new fossil fuel expansion, and the transition-away roadmap must be carried into the formal process. We reject false solutions — offsets, carbon capture and carbon-market projects — that take land from women and Indigenous communities.

CLIMATE FINANCE AND LOSS AND DAMAGE

05 Public money, as grants, to the frontline

COP30 set up a two-year work programme on climate finance, including Article 9.1 of the Paris Agreement the obligation of developed countries to provide finance. Developing countries have had to fight to secure it a place on the COP31 agenda. The Fund for responding to Loss and Damage has US$250 million for its first funding round in 2025–2026, against requests of up to US$3 billion.

- **Honour Article 9.1.** The climate finance work programme must be on the COP31 agenda and deliver a plan for new, pub-lic, grant-based finance from developed countries. Loans and private capital can- not be counted as meeting this obligation, and no climate finance should add to Africa's debt.
- **Refill and open the loss and damage fund.** Developed countries must pledge to replenish the Fund at the scale of need. Its long-term model must include a small-grants and rapid-disburement window that community, women- and youth-led groups can reach directly, in grants only.
- **Follow the money in Uganda.** From FY2026/27, the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development should publish a quarterly climate-fin-ance ledger — pledged, received, disbursed by source, instrument, district and sex and age of beneficiaries.

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS

06 Feed people, not dependency

The four-year Sharm el-Sheikh joint work on agriculture and food security ends at COP31, where Parties must decide what comes next. Women smallholders carry much of Uganda's farm work alongside unpaid care, yet face barriers to land, credit, extension and markets — and in hard seasons, girls are often the first to leave school.

- **A successor that centres smallholder women.** COP31 should agree a new agri-culture workstream that prioritises ad-aptation, food sovereignty and agroeco-logy, with gender analysis and women farmers' organisations built in not input-heavy models that deepen debt and erode biodiversity.
- **Protect seeds and Indigenous know-ledge.** Recognise farmer-managed seed saving and exchange, and fund com-munity seed banks managed by women.
- **Land for the women who farm it.** By 2027, Uganda should make joint spousal titling the default for government-supported land registration, and dedicate at least 7% of the agriculture budget to agroecology, with at least 60% of it going to women- and youth-led groups.

GIRLS FOR CLIMATE ACTION

Our commitment

We will organise, resource one another and hold power to account. We will track every commitment in the Belém Gender Action Plan, stand with every defender under attack, and judge COP31 by what changes on our land and in our lives.

- **Centre women and girls in every decision.**
- **Publish the money trail.**
- **Protect those who defend the Earth.**

References

UNFCCC, Decision 7/CP.30, Belém gender action plan 2026–2034 (activities A.3.8, B.4, C.6, D.1.2, D.3, D.4.4, E.1.5).

UNFCCC, The Belém Gender Action Plan (12 December 2025).

C2ES, Global Goal on Adaptation at SB64 (July 2026).

SETA, Just Transition on the Road to COP31 (21 October 2026).

TWN, Climate Finance Work Programme on the COP31 agenda (1 July 2026).

UNFCCC, Decision 4/CP.30 and FRLD Barbados Implementation Modalities; Eco-Business, Loss and damage fund faces US$2.8bn gap.

C2ES, The future of agriculture and food security under the UNFCCC (2026).

Geneva Environment Network, First Conference on Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels (Santa Marta, April 2026).

FIDH/OMCT Observatory, Uganda: eight Stop EACOP youth activists convicted (16 April 2026); Daily Monitor, sentencing report (17 April 2026).

Girls for Climate Action, *The Young Eco-Feminists Manifesto 2025–2030*; Environmental Human Rights Defenders Network in Uganda, *Eco-solidarity statement*.

GIRLS FOR CLIMATE ACTION
Stand for Climate Justice