



# CLIMATE ACTION MUST TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY

ATD Fourth World reiterates its request to take **concrete steps to implement the Paris Agreement, the Glasgow Pact and the outcome of the first global stocktake on this issue.**

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***"We know a lot about saving, not wasting and reusing. It is not fair to say that our neighbourhoods are the dirtiest or that we don't care about climate change, because we are the ones who suffer the most from these situations. We want to contribute and, in fact, we have a lot to contribute because we are the ones who consume the least and therefore pollute the least.."***

ATD Fourth World Activist  
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**People and communities living in poverty around the world are hardest hit by the effects of climate change. Yet they are the least responsible for its causes and have the fewest resources to protect themselves from it.** Their suffering caused by the recent extreme climate events (cyclones, tornadoes, floods, droughts, heat waves, forest fires, etc.) means that they must be at the centre of climate action.



Adopted in 2015, the **Paris Agreement** repeatedly mentions that climate action must contribute to the eradication of poverty and access to basic human rights. The **Glasgow Pact**, adopted at COP26, and the outcome of the **first global stocktake**, adopted at COP28, emphasize the same challenges :

*"Parties should, when taking action to address climate change, **respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights**, the right to health, the rights of indigenous peoples, local communities, migrants, children, persons with disabilities **and people in vulnerable situations** and the right to development, as well as gender equality, empowerment of women and intergenerational equity."*

Article 85 of the Pact "...recognizes the need to ensure just transitions that promote sustainable **development and eradication of poverty**, and the **creation of decent work and quality jobs.**"

It is clear that these international requirements have still not been translated into the policies, mechanisms, or implementation procedures of the agreement, nor into the parties' national regulations and projects.

Philip Alston, then UN Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, said in June 2019: "We risk a 'climate apartheid' scenario where the wealthy pay to escape overheating, hunger, and conflict while the rest of the world is left to suffer."

It is high time to:

- **Fully implement the Paris Agreement, the Glasgow Pact, the first global stocktake and take climate action that contributes to eradicating poverty;**
- **Implement the new UN resolution on a clean, healthy and sustainable environment;**
- **Seize this urgency to achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Goal of ending poverty in all its forms everywhere (SDG1) and the cross-cutting goal of leaving no one behind.**

**IN ORDER TO HELP PARTIES APPLY THE AGREEMENTS, SINCE 2015 ATD FOURTH WORLD HAS SUPPORTED FIVE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INCLUSIVE CLIMATE ACTION**

**RECOMMENDATION N°1: Particular attention to be paid to the bottom 20 percent to ensure that no one is left behind**


To work towards a sustainable future that is respectful of the planet and leaves no one behind, it is crucial to fully implement the Paris Agreement and all the states' obligations including proper loss and damage compensation. As eradication of poverty is **clearly quoted in the agreement, it should be an opportunity to integrate it in climate action measures.**

**Parties must strive to design policies and programmes that accelerate the elimination of poverty.** Thus, it is imperative that all measures taken under the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Programmes (NAPs) and Long-Term Low-Emission Development Strategies (LT-LEDs) developed by

Parties to the Paris Agreement take into account the improvement of quality of life of communities in vulnerable situations, particularly those living in poverty.

Decisions on the different areas of action -especially on those where finance is involved- should pay particular attention to people in vulnerable situations, **who tend to be left out of climate policies.** The recently created **Loss and Damage Fund should be an opportunity to support communities and individuals living in poverty, who are hardest hit by the consequences of climate change across the globe.**





## RECOMMENDATION N°2 : Tackle climate change in partnership with people in poverty

People who live in persistent poverty are the first to be affected by climate change and only they can describe what they experience and what they want. No one can do it for them.

**Governments must reach out to the people and communities who are most and first affected** by climate change events and involve them as stakeholders and partners to ensure that

actions taken to address climate change are inclusive.

**Governments must support people living in poverty** in their daily resistance and their own actions against climate change, promote local knowledge gathered by these communities, and **create spaces for participation and empowerment.**

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## RECOMMENDATION N°3 : Ensure that funds reach people in vulnerable situations

**The hundreds of billions that will be spent to implement Mitigation, Adaptation, Just Transition, Loss and Damage climate actions must be an opportunity to accelerate poverty eradication and access to basic human rights in each country.**

**In the area of financing,** an accountability mechanism is needed that allows affected people to obtain remedy for the damage caused by extreme climate events and the big transformations that come with them. It is equally crucial to consider the **non-economic impacts**, such as disruption of support networks, disappearance of identity documents, loss of livelihood, and destruction of culturally important sites.

The **Loss and Damage Fund has great potential** as a way to reduce the deadly consequences of climate change for communities living in poverty around the world. However, experience shows that the only way to make sure people in vulnerable situations will be able to tackle the destruction of their homes, livelihoods and territories is to guarantee a **Loss and Damage Fund that allows the direct access by local communities.**

Grassroot associations and local administrations can play a key role in facilitating the reparations for the most isolated and impoverished groups. If only national governments can access the fund, there will be a high risk for a big part of the world population living in poverty to be leaving behind, incapable of implementing the reparations they so desperately need.

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## RECOMMENDATION N°4 : Establish social protection floors in all countries

**Stronger social protection, designed with the contribution of the people most affected by climate change, should be implemented in all countries,** as encouraged by ILO Recommendation No. 202 on establishing social protection floors.

The holistic knowledge gained through participatory actions and research should feed into the design of social protection systems that protect both the economic and social rights of people in poverty, so their capacity to face climate disruption is strengthened.

These should be guided by the principles of equal dignity, equal treatment, inclusion (leave no one behind), solidarity, and participation.

The **Just Transition Work Programme** presents a unique opportunity to enhance the establishment of social protection floors that will guarantee a transformation towards a greener economy leaves no one behind.

RECOMMENDATION N°5 : Ensure that people living in poverty are able to benefit from training and creation of decent jobs in the context of a just transition towards an economy more respectful of people and the planet

The economy must be more respectful of people and the planet. According to the ILO's World Employment and Social Outlook 2018, a green economy could create 24 million new jobs annually.

The **Just Transition Work Programme**, created during COP27, is an opportunity to make sure that people living in poverty are part of this transformation. It should be a space where civil society participation is always safeguarded and where State Parties agree on common elements to move forward, and not just as a forum to share good practices. Otherwise, we risk to implement Just Transition pathways that leave a big part of the world population out.

**The final decisions from the Just Transition Work Programme must include provisions and budgets focusing on communities in vulnerable situations**, particularly those living in poverty, **ensuring that they benefit from training and job creation programmes** in the context of transitioning to a green economy. A special attention must be given to informal workers and long-term unemployed persons to ensure that they are included in national and international measures. The **NDCs, NAPs, LT-LEDs** should, consequently, reflect all these aspects.

**Parties must ensure that people directly experiencing poverty have access to technological and scientific developments** and products that can improve the quality of their housing, including its energy efficiency.

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For the Paris Agreement, the Glasgow Pact, the Outcome of the First Global Stocktake to be implemented, **the elimination of poverty should be taken into account in all national and regional climate change mitigation, adaptation, just transition, loss and damage policies. These include** sustainable agriculture; flood, drought and heat wave controls; health programmes; greening of cities; sustainable mobility; social housing; urban and rural planning, construction and renovation; renewable energy development; and energy savings and efficiency.

In the specific context of **SB60**, ATD Fourth World requests that poverty eradication be included in any decisions related to MITIGATION, ADAPTATION, JUST TRANSITION, and LOSS AND DAMAGE.

**International and national institutions, governments, local authorities, businesses, NGOs, and general public: Eliminate poverty by implementing climate projects that contribute to this aim.**



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