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# 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 and the Glasgow Pact on this issue.**

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*"I'm one of the people down below, those most don't want to hear. For me it is vital to act, for our children and grandchildren, for future generations."*

ATD Fourth World Activist  
October 2020

**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 in November 2021, emphasizes 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 and the Glasgow Pact 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 actions to eradicate poverty in most of the measures. Parties must strive to design policies and programmes that accelerate the eradication of poverty.** Thus, it is imperative that all measures taken under the nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation

Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs) developed by Parties to the Paris Agreement take into account the improvement of quality of life of the most vulnerable communities, particularly those living in poverty.

We request **the global stocktake to include** for each country **the emissions of the different categories of population**, the measures that improve the **quality of life of people living in poverty** and the measures that have the opposite effects, the **measures taken to ensure participation of people living in poverty** and those that **contribute to create decent work and quality jobs.**

## 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 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.**

## RECOMMENDATION N°3 : Ensure that funds reach the most vulnerable

**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 different projects implemented all around the world and not only those related to climate. It is equally crucial to consider the non-economic impact of the projects, such as disruption of support networks, loss of livelihood, and destruction of culturally important sites.

**OECD environmental and social rules must be reinforced to contribute to poverty eradication.**

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 that the most vulnerable 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. 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.

## 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 dignity, equal treatment, inclusion (leave no one behind), solidarity, and participation.

**RECOMMANDATION N°5 : Ensure that people in poverty are able to benefit from training and creation of decent work and quality 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**, implemented 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.

**Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) must include provisions and budgets focusing on the most vulnerable communities**, 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.

**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.

For the Paris Agreement and the Glasgow Pact to be implemented, **the participation of the most vulnerable people and the elimination of poverty through access to human rights 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; greening of cities; sustainable mobility; social housing; urban and rural planning, construction and renovation; renewable energy development; and energy savings and efficiency.

The policies should also address the issue of public and private climate finance, selection criteria for project proposals, and measures to counteract any negative environmental or social impact. These measures must allow people with direct experience of poverty to have access to training, decent work, and quality jobs.

In the specific context of the COP 28, ATD Fourth World requests that poverty eradication be included in any decisions related to MITIGATION, ADAPTATION, GLOBAL STOCKTAKE, JUST TRANSITION, and LOSS AND DAMAGES.

**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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