



# CAROLINA CLIMATE CHANGE MANIFESTO

The manifesto is the unified voice of the women of Carolina for the demand for systemic change in addressing climate change and the policy commitments concerning South Africa's coal divestment and just transition. This manifesto is in the voice of the women of Carolina, calling to action all stakeholders on how transformative change can and must come about for a truly just transition. The climate situation is now urgent, but the good news is that there are tools to bring climate justice to the community, and it starts with an inclusive, gender centred just transition policy.

## Why gender in climate policy?

Different genders contribute differently to the causes of climate change. Individual carbon footprints are a product of gendered roles, responsibilities and identities. The impacts of climate change vary by gender. Due to their socially constructed roles and attributed responsibilities, climate change mitigation puts additional burdens to womxn\* (women, lesbians, inter, non-binary, trans, agender people), e.g. for family and community care. For the same reasons, they are often more vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

**Climate policies and measures affect people differently, depending on gender and other axes of discrimination.** This is due to socio-economic factors, such as disparities in income and occupational choices. Climate policy needs to recognise and integrate gender dimensions in order to become more effective and to be respectful of human rights.

As the women of Carolina:

- *We CALL on LOCAL GOVERNMENT to build a climate conscious Carolina community that showcases the nuanced impacts of climate change on womxn\*. Local government must further create multistakeholder platforms and mechanisms for sharing climate information and solutions and fostering participation of womxn\* in decision-making and policy spaces.*
- *We DEMAND engagement with MINING COMPANIES operating in Carolina to provide transparency on their just transition aims to enable accountability.*
- *We CALL on the COMMUNITY OF CAROLINA to unify under one voice for a just transition framework which prioritises womxn\*, youth and vulnerable groups.*
- *We DEMAND that NATIONAL GOVERNMENT ensures comprehensive and universal climate change education and climate literacy for all. We must have an education model that includes integrating indigenous and local knowledge, gender perspectives, and promote changes in lifestyles, attitudes, and behaviour, ensuring climate neutrality and climate resilience of educational institutions.*
- *We CALL on the CIVIL SOCIETY AND MEDIA to raise awareness on climate change adaptation and mitigation and share climate stories of womxn\* and vulnerable groups.*
- *We further CALL on CIVIL SOCIETY AND MEDIA to train journalists and communicators to convey the urgency and implications of the climate crisis in a transparent, accessible, and conversational manner by simplifying scientific findings, facilitating the understanding of policies and emphasising the existence and feasibility of solutions, defining and preventing greenwashing, highlighting climate inequalities, combatting misinformation, and utilising social media and traditional means of communication.*
- *We CALL on NATIONAL GOVERNMENT and urge decision makers at all levels, in public and private sectors, to create a transparent and accountable climate finance system and prioritise equal opportunities for all in climate investments.*
- *We DEMAND that the POLICY MAKERS put climate justice at the heart of climate policy, including by establishing legal frameworks that recognise climate vulnerabilities of womxn\* which includes the protection of social, economic and cultural vulnerabilities.*



## OUR KEY MESSAGE

### MEANINGFUL ENGAGEMENT

*WE CALL on all key stakeholders in government, private sector and within the community including other relevant institutions to urgently ensure meaningful womxn\* engagement and involvement in all decision-making on processes with implications on climate change and climate policy planning, design, implementation and evaluation at multilateral, national and local level with an enabling environment.*

### CAPACITY BUILDING

*WE CALL on all key stakeholders in government, private sector and other relevant institutions to urgently scale up knowledge sharing support and platforms to foster the engagement of womxn\* to effectively drive climate ambition and concrete action.*

### FUNDING

*WE CALL on international organisations and public and private financial institutions to urgently dedicate, and make readily accessible, funds to support womxn\* participation in decision-making processes with implications on climate change at all levels.*



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