



**ADVOCACY ACTION PROPOSAL**  
**ON CLIMATE JUSTICE**  
**WITH A FOCUS ON SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA**

**Background**

Globally, the poorest and most vulnerable are the hardest hit by the climate crisis and have the fewest resources to mitigate or adapt to it. Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) is one of the regions where the impacts of climate change are being felt most profoundly. The climate crisis is described as having a risk multiplier effect, increasing markedly already existing vulnerabilities.

To date, the climate crisis in SSA has had a devastating impact on the lives of grandmothers and those they support, including increases in:

- transmission of infectious diseases, including HIV/ AIDS
- children, especially girls, leaving school
- gender-based violence
- early childhood marriage,
- poverty and economic insecurity,
- food insecurity, and
- within-country migration.

This crisis is compounded by the complex interplay between the impacts of climate change, escalating hunger and malnutrition, and armed conflict. And now the COVID-19 pandemic is an additional crisis that has brought into focus the many systemic vulnerabilities of this region including fragile health care systems and lack of water for consumption and hygiene.

Under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), developed countries have set a goal of mobilizing \$100 billion annually in climate finance by 2020 to address the adaptation and mitigation needs of developing countries. In 2015, Canada pledged \$2.65 billion over five years, and has delivered on that pledge. Renewal of the five-year pledge is expected to occur in October 2020.

The Government of Canada, in its 2019 policy statement on the environment and climate change, recognizes that women and girls are uniquely affected by the impacts of climate change. The policy commits Canada to ensuring that women and girls play a leadership role in designing, developing, and implementing strategic responses to climate change and other key environmental and resource issues.

## **Considerations and Timing in a COVID-19 World**

In the spring of 2020, the world is rightly focused on the COVID-19 pandemic as governments scramble to deal with the health emergency and its serious economic repercussions. The lessons we learn during the pandemic, including the importance of international cooperation on global issues, the need to strengthen health systems and to address systemic inequalities, may create space for people and governments to think about a just recovery and a sustainable future – one that includes climate justice. GRAN will continue to support our partners by sharing messaging that advocates for a just recovery.

As the pandemic begins to come under control, we will revisit this AAP to determine timing for a more active climate justice campaign.

## **Campaign Outcomes**

The campaign will seek to achieve outcomes at the national and local levels towards our goal of climate justice.

- a. At the national level, we seek the following outcomes:
  - An increase in international climate financing that represents Canada’s fair share of the \$100 billion annual financing agreed to by the international community (Canada’s contribution to this funding is \$4 billion annually.);
  - A pledge that international climate finance is additional to existing Official Development Assistance (ODA), and that funds are not diverted from other aid priorities;
  - At least 50% of international climate finance allocated to adaptation;
  - Dedication of at least 15% of international climate finance to projects that target gender equality as a principal purpose; and
  - Creation of a dedicated financing mechanism to engage local women’s organizations in the design and implementation of climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction strategies.

b. At the local level, we are seeking the following outcomes:

- Increased awareness, knowledge and understanding by GRANs about the impacts and issues of the climate crisis as it relates to grandmothers in SSA;
- Increased awareness of the role women in SSA are playing in building sustainable solutions;
- Engagement by GRANs and GRAN groups in local climate action; and
- GRANs sharing their knowledge about the climate change impacts in SSA with local climate action groups.

### **Tactics to Achieve Outcomes**

- Our social media efforts will involve regular tweets and re-tweets from GRAN's Twitter account, with encouragement of GRANs to re-tweet and share GRAN Facebook posts. The plan will support our partners, with re-tweets and will target decision makers and media. Messaging will focus on campaign priorities with a focus on women and girls and will highlight stories from SSA of climate change impact, resilience and positive response, and articles related to climate advocacy actions.
- Regular calls to action to GRANs to prepare Letters to the Editor and opinion editorials, to tweet and re-tweet and to send letters to decision-makers in government.
- Supporting petitions of partners and signing onto letters to government from partners.
- Meetings with government decision-makers (including parliamentarians and government officials) and participation in consultations and town halls organized by partners.
- Exploring development of new partnerships and alliances including climate groups that align with GRAN's mission and values.
- Creating an inventory of climate groups that GRANs are involved with.
- Regular news posts to all GRANs with news and information on the climate crisis and the impacts and intersection with GRAN issues (health, education, freedom from violence and economic security/social protection), as well as success stories from SSA.
- Sharing opportunities for involvement with GRANs and GRAN groups, including identifying opportunities for intergenerational climate action such as #FridaysForFuture.
- An important component of the ongoing campaign will be working with partners at the intersection of the pandemic and climate crisis within the framework of 'respond, recover, reimagine', and advocating for the creation of a sustainable future with a focus on SSA.

## Potential partners and allies

- Climate Action Network Canada (CAN-Rac) and CAN International
- CARE Canada
- Canadian Coalition on Climate Change and Development (C4D)

## Timeline for launch through to completion

As described above, for the immediate future we will support partners and allies in messaging about a just recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and a sustainable future that includes climate justice. This messaging will involve mostly social media. When the time is right, we will launch a more active effort of engaging with decision-makers and influencers .