

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release: Tuesday 18th November

Youth Action at COP30 **Against False Solutions, We Are the Solution**

Tuesday 18th November 2025

COP30, Belém, Brazil

This afternoon, a collective of youth civil society groups came together to **recenter youth voices** at COP30, demanding a full and equitable **phase out of fossil fuels**, and put an **end to false solutions**, such as carbon markets, the TFFF (Tropical Forest Forever Facility), or debt-swaps.

Young representatives from over **fifteen organizations** spoke in the hallways outside negotiations, standing strongly against false solutions distracting from real climate action

Carbon markets, geoengineering, debt swaps, 'nature-based' solutions and the TFFF (Tropical Forest Forever Facility) have been presented as tools to 'solve' the climate crisis – but they will do nothing but commodify nature and distract from addressing the root causes. These **false solutions** justify a transition that protects endless growth and development in Global North countries, while deepening the displacement of communities and violating human rights, instead of stopping extractivism.

Representatives made it abundantly clear that **there is no climate justice without liberation**. There can be no meaningful participation in negotiations while children and youth across the world are denied their fundamental right to live. "Any future we dream of must include our comrades in Palestine, the DRC, Sudan, the Amazon, and all occupied and exploited territories – we exist as one, and we will be included in any sort of climate action as one" Faridah ESSAM (Greenish & ANGRY) stressed.

Youth united as the solution to the climate crisis, demanding a narrative shift: Young people are not victims, they are the solution. Victoria Elizabeth Whalen (Future Generation Tribunal) spoke up: "We have agency, inherited wisdom and collective power. We are tired of being told what is 'best' for us by the very institutions that led us into this catastrophe." Representatives

demanded to be at the decision-making table where grassroots youth have been actively excluded.

As week two negotiations get underway, the organizations collectively demanded a **full and fair phase out of fossil fuels**. Alexia LECLERCQ (People's Climate Diplomacy Program) highlighted: "A just transition means dismantling polluters and our extractive system that prioritises profits over sustaining life and nature. We do not accept nature and life as tradable commodities." Participants stood in agreement, that real solutions will not come from unproven technologies that continue business as usual, but from leadership of those in the most impacted areas – especially youth.

Photos and videos are available here:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1vwuKCZrIFHHydwT-58_vm7EqdW28OFd2

Supplementary quotes:

Dianx | México | Debt for Climate

"While our countries are facing the worst effects of the climate crisis, Global North banks and financial institutions continue profiting from illegitimate debts that perpetuates exploitation, colonialism and subjugation. There is an ecological and historical debt that is owed to the land defenders, to workers, women, indigenous communities and with Mother Earth, so we ask: Who owes who? It is time to make justice, stop financial exploitation and reclaim what is ours!"

Sofia Gutierrez | Colombia | ANGRY (Alliance of Non Governmental Radical Youth)

"Nature is not for sale. Our rights are not for sale. In a militarized and greenwashed COP, where our territories are being sold in pavilions through carbon credits, our resources are negotiated and stolen to achieve a "green transition" in the Global North, all while communities are displaced. Technocratic distractions like the TFFF, CCS (Carbon Capture & Storage), Green and Blue Hydrogen, that prioritizes the market and commodifies nature, don't address the root causes of the socio ecological crisis, and allow polluters and genociders to keep destroying our land and denying us a future. We demand real solutions, rooted in justice and liberation, solutions that dismantle the colonial, patriarchal and racist systems, for an end to extractivism, occupation and capitalism."

Any Saltmarsh | UK | La Via Campesina

"False solutions use a glossy front to mask continuing a colonial extractivism that keeps land, water, and communities as commodities. Real responsibility lies in the Global North paying its debts, providing finance without indebting or subjugating the Global South. Real solutions are in the grassroots, the youth, and the communities with collective wisdom of land stewardship that must be preserved and built upon for future generations. A Just Transition must dismantle the real polluters and finally give sovereignty to the people."

Keanu Arpels-Josiah | USA | Fridays For Future NYC & USA

"Our future is being burnt down with the flames of fossil fuel extractivism, genocide, and colonialism disguised under false solutions. It's time for a different future—one with a rapid, fast, just, and feminist fossil fuel phaseout, one where global north countries like the United States provide meaningful finance, not for genocide and Big Oil billionaire profits, but for a just transition led by land defenders, workers, women, and indigenous communities. Our generation—country after country, continent after continent—will rise until that future is our reality."

Alexia Leclercq | USA | People's Climate Diplomacy Program

"I've seen how false solutions are used to justify the expansion of the petrochemical industry and sacrifice communities of color across Texas. We must set a global standard for what real and just climate solutions look like."

Full speakers list (in running order):

1. **Janio Kaiowa** | Aty Gausu Jovem & the Guarani Kaiowá People
2. **Alexia Leclercq** | People's Climate Diplomacy Program (PCDP)
3. **Anyia Saltmarsh** | La Via Campesina
4. **Valeriia Bondarieva** | Rozviy
5. **Faridah Essam** | Greenish & the Alliance of Non-Governmental Radical Youth (ANGRY)
6. **Sofia Luna Quispe** | Re-Earth Initiative
7. **Big Wind Carpenter** | International Indigenous Youth Forum on Climate Change (IIYFCC)

Organizations involved:

- Aty Gausu Jovem (Brazil)
- La Via Campesina
- People's Climate Diplomacy Program
- The Alliance of Non-Governmental Radical Youth (ANGRY)
- Greenish

- Rozviy (Ukraine)
- International Indigenous Youth Forum on Climate Change (IIFYCC)
- Re-Earth Initiative
- The Youth Constituency (YOUNGO)
- Palestinian Institute for Climate Strategy (PICS) (Palestine)
- Debt for Climate
- Care About Climate
- The Loss and Damage Youth Coalition
- Engajamundo (Brazil)
- Tierra Nuestra

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