

SUBMISSION TO THE COP30 PRESIDENCY ROADMAP

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Introduction

As a young advocate from Uganda, I am submitting this contribution to ensure the COP30 Roadmap addresses the structural and lifecycle barriers to a just, orderly, and equitable transition away from fossil fuels, as mandated by Paragraph 28.d of the Global Stocktake. In East Africa, our rapidly developing infrastructure presents a unique efficiency trap that risks locking our nations into high energy demand for decades. The transition cannot be orderly if the underlying infrastructure is fundamentally inefficient.

The Barrier: Infrastructure Carbon Lock-in (Question A)

A critical, often overlooked barrier to achieving the goals of Paragraph 28.d is the current reliance on traditional concrete within East African building codes and Africa as whole. These materials have high embodied carbon and poor thermal insulation, creating heat traps in our growing cities. This physical barrier forces a permanent and growing dependency on fossil-fuel-powered air conditioning. Without a shift to climate-smart building standards, we are building in future emissions that will be difficult to reverse by 2030, contradicting the global transition mandate.

The Lever: Passive Design, Tiered Standards, and Circularity (Question B)

To accelerate the transition, the Roadmap must prioritize passive cooling and circular economy frameworks. We propose that regional building codes in East Africa establish a phased transition mandating that a specific percentage of a building's thermal envelope be constructed using local, low-carbon materials such as stabilized earth blocks or bamboo.

Furthermore, we recommend tiered appliance and design standards. For residential homes, passive design and natural ventilation can eliminate the need for air conditioning entirely. For

larger structures, such as those that are G+3 (ground floor plus three stories) or higher, the roadmap should encourage centralized, high-efficiency cooling systems rather than a multitude of individual units, which lead to higher energy waste.

To prevent the calamity of electronic waste that I anticipate within the next ten years, we also call for mandatory Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) to be integrated into the energy transition. This ensures that the shift to efficient appliances does not result in a toxic waste crisis for the next generation of Africans.

Intergenerational Equity (Question D)

For a transition to be truly equitable, it must consider the full lifecycle of technology.

Intergenerational justice demands that we do not trade a carbon crisis for a heavy-metal pollution crisis. We advocate for a COP30 Roadmap that ensures the shift away from fossil fuels in Africa is as sustainable in its waste management as it is in its energy production, protecting the future environment for all young people.