

THE AFRICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS

HOLDEN AT BANJUL, THE GAMBIA

IN RE: CLIMATE CRISIS AND VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND IN SUPPORT
OF FAIR START MOVEMENT'S ADVOCACY FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE.

THE FAIR START MOVEMENT..... PETITIONER

AND

THE AFRICAN UNION RESPONDENT

1. INTRODUCTION

This petition is brought pursuant to **Article 55 of African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights** which allows individuals and non-governmental organizations to submit communications alleging violations of rights enshrined in and guaranteed under the Charter.

2. The Petition:

Name: The Fair Start Movement (FSM)

Address: Fair Start Movement, Inc. 5451 N Waterfield Dr. Tucson, AZ 85750

Legal Representatives: **Messrs Oludele Adegboyega Adeogun & Olusegun Afolaranmi** both licensed Barristers and Solicitors of the **Supreme Court of Nigeria** of **Olusegun Afolaranmi & Co (Legal Practitioners)** with registered address at Suite B11, God is Able Plaza, 24 Road, Festac Town, Lagos.

Nature of Legal Interest: The Fair Start Movement (FSM) is a non-governmental organization committed to raising concerns regarding the fundamental flaws in the current global framework for the protection of human and environmental rights, especially an overriding right, that every child deserves a fair start in life.

The Fair Start Movement (FSM) have similarly raised these concerns at the **United Nations** especially as it concerns the least responsible population in Africa, facing the harshest impact from the crisis they did not create.

THE RESPONDENT

Name: **The African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights**

3. STATEMENT OF FACTS

The consequences of our environmental actions today extend far beyond the immediate, shaping the world that future generations will inherit. As we grapple with the effects of climate change, pollution, and resource depletion, it becomes increasingly clear that the most significant impacts will be felt by those yet born. These future generations will face numerous challenges as a result of inherited environmental degradation, ranging from health implications to economic hardships, social inequity, and loss of cultural heritage. The psychological and emotional toll of growing up in a degraded environment will further compound these issues, making it imperative to address these concerns now to secure a better future for our descendants.

a. Inherited Environmental Degradation

Future generations are set to inherit an environment significantly degraded by the actions of past and present generations. The ongoing destruction of ecosystems, loss of biodiversity, and pollution of air and water sources create a diminished natural world for those who follow. Children born today will grow up in a world where natural resources are scarcer, the climate is less stable, and the ecological balance is profoundly disrupted. This inherited environmental degradation undermines quality of life and restricts opportunities for development.

b. Health Implications

The health impacts of climate change are profound and long-lasting. Increased transmission of diseases like malaria, respiratory illnesses from air pollution, and the mental health toll of living in a degraded environment are all issues that future generations will face. Children exposed to pollutants and extreme weather conditions may experience developmental issues, chronic health conditions, and a reduced lifespan. The burden on healthcare systems will increase, straining resources and reducing the overall health and well-being of communities.

c. Economic Challenges

Environmental degradation imposes significant economic costs, both immediate and long-term. Future generations will face the economic consequences of our current unsustainable practices. They will inherit a world where natural disasters are more frequent and severe, causing extensive damage to infrastructure and livelihoods. The cost of rebuilding and adapting to these changes will be immense, diverting resources from other essential areas such as education, healthcare, and social services.

d. Social Inequity and Conflict

Climate change exacerbates existing social inequalities and can lead to increased conflict over scarce resources. Future generations will face heightened competition for water, food, and land, potentially leading to social unrest and conflict. Vulnerable populations, particularly in the Global South, will continue to bear the brunt of these challenges,

perpetuating cycles of poverty and inequality. The social fabric of communities will be strained as they struggle to adapt to these new realities.

e. Loss of Cultural Heritage

Environmental degradation also threatens cultural heritage and traditional ways of life. Indigenous communities and others who rely on the land for their cultural practices and livelihoods face the erosion of their cultural identity. Future generations may grow up disconnected from their cultural roots, losing valuable knowledge and traditions that have been passed down through generations. This cultural loss is irreplaceable and diminishes the richness of human diversity.

f. Psychological and Emotional Impact

The psychological and emotional impact of living in a degraded environment should not be underestimated. Children growing up in a world facing constant environmental threats may experience anxiety, stress, and a sense of hopelessness about the future. The loss of natural beauty and the constant threat of environmental disasters can lead to a diminished quality of life and mental health challenges. The Responsibility of Current Generations in Mitigating Climate Loss.

4. ALLEGED VIOLATION OF AFRICAN CHARTER

The Petitioner submit that the following provision of African Charter has been violated.

(a) Article 24 of African Charter.

The Petitioner further submit that the following African Instrument and International Convention has been violated.

(b) Article 5,14,20 & 21 of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC).

(c) Article 14 & 26, the Maputo protocol.

5. EXHAUSTION OF LOCAL REMEDIES

The Petitioner did not seek local remedies because the inter connectivity of the issues raised in the petition which makes local remedies either unavailable, ineffectively or outrightly impossible.

6. PURPOSE OF PETITION

The Petitioner, as concerned citizens of Africa and the global community, present this petition to the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights (ACPHR) to address the devastating environmental and social degradation occurring across the African continent. This petition seeks to highlight the urgent need for pre-emptive actions to mitigate the escalating impact of climate change, unsustainable population growth, and environmental exploitation, all of which threaten the fundamental human rights of millions of Africans, particularly future generations. This submission incorporates perspectives from various African nations, including the Sahel region, where desertification threatens livelihoods; Central Africa, where deforestation is erasing biodiversity; and coastal West

Africa, where rising sea levels threaten entire communities. We call upon the ACPHR to uphold its mandate under Article 24 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights, which guarantees the right of all peoples to a general satisfactory environment favorable to their development. We respectfully submit this petition as an update to advise the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights (ACPHR) on critical aspects of climate-related harm and human rights, urging recognition and implementation of key mechanisms to protect African populations from the climate crisis's most severe impacts. The following principles build on the urgent need for climate reparations and highlight systemic changes essential to prevent ongoing harm and support sustainable futures for Africa and its people.

i. Standardize Public Benefit and Climate Loss Assessments

It is essential to establish standardized processes for “public benefit claims” to prevent misrepresentations that could cause significant harm, including loss of life and livelihoods. Similarly, “standardizing climate and crisis-related loss and damage evaluations” is vital to ensure all harm is measured accurately and that African communities receive adequate compensation and support. Such standardization aligns with the principles of “legitimate governance” and “equitably distributed entitlements,” essential for rebuilding trust and accountability in systems that have long overlooked African needs and rights. <https://blogs.worldbank.org/en/governance/using-zero-discount-rate-could-help-choose-better-projects-and-help-get-net-zero-carbon>)

ii. Affirmation of Future Generations Rights

We urge the ACPHR to “affirm the right of future generations” to self-determination, as a shared democratic right in all African nations. This recognition is fundamental to national legitimacy, highlighting the responsibility to protect the rights of children born today and tomorrow. Future generations should inherit equitable democratic opportunities and access to resources to support their resilience against climate impacts, which threaten lives and destabilize communities across Africa. The Fair Start Movement (FSM) have similarly raised concerns with the United Nations, regarding a critical flaw in human rights frameworks. This flaw is the failure to prioritize and to treat children’s fair start in life as a legitimate foundation for societal obligations. This gap has perpetuated climate and related crises, where the least responsible population primarily those in Africa—face the harshest impacts from crises they did not create. [The Secret War on Natural Rights— and Children | Opinion - Newsweek,](#)

iii. Climate Inequity and Reparations for Africans

The consequences of climate change reveal stark inequalities, with wealthier, industrialized nations responsible for most greenhouse gas emissions, while Africa’s most vulnerable populations suffer the greatest harm. Hundreds of millions of Africans—predominantly people of color—are facing increased risk of displacement, food insecurity, and even death due to a system that has historically privileged wealthy, predominantly white nations. The unchecked accumulation of wealth, amassed without accounting for the environmental costs, has denied these communities the resources necessary to

protect their livelihoods and environments. The ACPHR must advocate for reparations as a redress for these historical and ongoing injustices. Climate reparations can offer a way to redirect wealth toward vulnerable African communities to support infrastructure, education, and climate adaptation efforts that ensure protection and equitable opportunity for Africa's future generations.

iv. Reconsidering Population Dynamics and Child Welfare Policies

Global human rights frameworks, established in the mid-20th century, failed to integrate concepts of democratic equity and future generations' rights into reproductive rights discussions, favoring procreative autonomy over sustainable growth. This imbalance permitted wealthier groups to overlook responsibilities to support vulnerable families, resulting in profit-driven policies that fostered unsustainable population growth and widening inequality. In this petition, we call on the ACPHR to adopt an approach that integrates sustainable family and child welfare policies. Doing so would align African countries' population and economic development strategies with ecological capacities, securing equitable growth while respecting everyone's right to a fair start in life.

v. Holding Polluting Nations and Wealth Accumulators Accountable

The ACPHR must advocate for accountability among wealthy nations and multinational corporations responsible for the bulk of global emissions. Despite their significant contributions to climate change, many of these entities continue to evade responsibility through charitable misrepresentation, public interest diversion, and by underreporting climate impacts. It is essential to address the practices that enable the diversion of funds meant for climate resilience into efforts that preserve wealth accumulation in developed countries at the expense of African lives. The ACPHR can make the case that those entities profiting from unchecked emissions should provide reparations to communities facing climate-related displacement and ecological degradation. Such reparations must be seen as owed compensation for loss and damage and as a mechanism for returning stolen equity to African communities.

vi. Equity as a Fundamental Human Right and Basis of Democracy

At its core, the issue of climate reparations is about establishing equity as a first principle in democratic systems. Fair democratic systems depend on measurable and equitable participation, where each individual's ecological and social impacts are considered. True democracy requires that all members have equal rights, beginning with a fair start in life, which translates to equal access to resources, protection from climate impacts, and freedom from undue external influence. The ACPHR can argue that climate reparations are necessary for the creation of just governance systems that prioritize equity as a "pre-emptive right" that safeguards future generations. Democracy is fundamentally weakened when disproportionate influence and unsustainable practices erode individuals' rights to self-determination and ecological stability. If democracy were fully operational, the ongoing climate crisis and mass displacement we see today would be mitigated.

vii. Confronting Corruption and Impact Fraud

The ACPHR must take a strong stance against corruption and fraudulent impact assessments that minimize climate harm in reports and public benefit claims, depriving African countries of funds vital for climate adaptation. Wealthy nations and funders have misrepresented their social and environmental impact to delay climate reparations, shielding themselves from accountability while consolidating wealth at the expense of vulnerable populations, particularly black women and children. In many cases, charitable contributions from wealthy benefactors are spent on personal luxuries rather than on advancing missions to mitigate the climate crisis. This corruption, rampant in governance, media, nonprofits, and corporations, perpetuates the misuse of resources that could otherwise alleviate suffering in African communities. The ACPHR must push for “transparent accounting and ethical stewardship” of climate-related funds to ensure these resources are used effectively.

viii. Acknowledging Debt to Displaced Populations

Climate displacement in Africa is escalating, particularly in regions like the “Sahel” and around “Lake Chad,” where shrinking water resources have led to conflict, migration, and suffering. Wealth accumulated by developed nations without paying for the full environmental cost of their activities represents a “death debt” that those countries owe to displaced African populations. This debt must be redirected to cover relocation, education, and infrastructure costs that would empower displaced populations to rebuild their lives and communities.

ix. Reversing the Impacts of Impact Fraud and Evading Liability

The ACPHR must take action to hold accountable leaders and organizations in the most polluting nations for knowingly underestimating climate damage and undervaluing reparations claims. As the evidence mounts, individual and collective responsibility must be recognized, with specific leaders and entities held responsible for their roles in perpetuating the crisis. A significant portion of this impact fraud has been directed toward devaluing climate loss and damage assessments by billions of dollars, ultimately protecting the interests of wealthy nations and multinational corporations while depriving African communities of necessary climate aid. This manipulation of data and resources not only hinders Africa’s ability to address the climate crisis but also increases the death toll, disproportionately affecting black and African communities.

x. Center Child Rights in Reproductive and Legal Frameworks

Reproductive policies must be reformed to center the rights and welfare of children as a core consideration. Fertility and family planning measures directly impact a child’s right to survival, development, health, and protection from poverty and exploitation. Standardizing reproductive policy frameworks to align with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC), and the Maputo Protocol is essential to safeguarding the future of African societies. Recognizing child rights in reproductive decisions ensures that every child is born into conditions that support their physical, emotional, and economic well-being, thereby promoting sustainable development, intergenerational equity, and the fulfillment of human rights obligations.

7. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

The following documents are submitted in support of this Petition.

- (a) Affidavit of Carter Dillard.
- (b) Petition to the United Nation by the Fair Start Movement.

8. PRAYERS

The Petitioner prays the Honorable Commission to

- 1. Consider the petition under Article 55 of the African Charter.
- 2. Communicate the petition to all the member states and request their response.
- 3. Adopt provisional measures to prevent irreparable harm.
- 4. Issue findings and recommendations to ensure redress and accountability.

Dated 22nd Day of May 2025



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FOR SERVICE ON:

The Respondent
African Commission on the Human and People's Rights
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AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF PETITION

I, Carter Dillard, Male, Adult, United States Citizen, Advisor and Board Member of Fair Start Movement, do hereby make oath and state as follows:

- 1. That I am the deponent herein and fully conversant with the facts deposed to in this affidavit.**
- 2. That the facts herein are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.**
- 3. That I am a representative of the Fair Start Movement, an organization committed to advancing equitable solutions to the climate crisis and advocating for the rights of vulnerable populations, including women and children.**
- 4. That I have reviewed extensive evidence of omisive assessment and reporting practices by organizations in the Global North, ostensibly operating under the guise of animal rights advocacy, but which have exacerbated the climate crisis in the Global South.**
- 5. That these organizations, instead of alleviating the suffering of vulnerable communities, particularly women and children, have mismanaged funds in a manner that disrupts indigenous practices, violates children's rights, and**

perpetuates systemic climate injustices. By choosing the status quo family policies that assume children of color are much fewer resources, a much more risk in the face of inequitable growth, these organizations literally start their work by illegally empowering the industries they claim to police. .

6. That funds allocated to animal rights initiatives have been grossly misappropriated, leading to the deprivation of resources necessary to meet the basic needs of vulnerable populations, including access to food, clean water, and healthcare.
7. That these failures have significantly contributed to the loss of life, food insecurity, and other manifestations of the climate crisis, particularly among children, in direct violation of internationally recognized standards, including those advocated by the Fair Start Movement.
8. That many of these organizations have consistently undermined indigenous practices by prioritizing foreign-led projects that ignore local solutions and fail to consult with or compensate the communities most affected by climate change.
9. That such practices are a violation of the rights of these communities under the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, which recognizes the importance of self-determination and the participation of indigenous peoples in decisions affecting their environment.
10. That the prioritization of animal rights over human rights, particularly the rights of children, constitutes climate injustice, as evidenced in the petition by the Fair Start Movement filed before the United Nations, calling for urgent attention to the needs of vulnerable populations.
11. That the mismanagement of funds and focus on maintaining systemic inequalities disproportionately benefits wealthy nations and their populations while neglecting the urgent needs of communities in the Global South.
12. That I am aware of instances where animal rights lawyers, under the omissive assessment and reporting standards employed by organizations like the Animal Legal Defense Fund (ALDF), have prioritized the interests of white funders over genuine environmental and human rights causes.

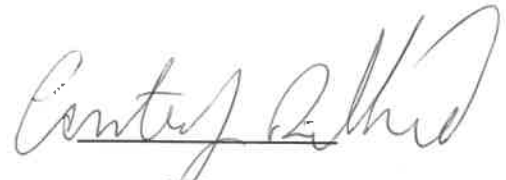
13. That all evidence suggests that not ensuring all children a measurable fair start in life has done more to harm all social justice goals, including individual freedom, than any other efforts have done to further them.
14. That there are practices at work today, a false assessment and system-backed charitable omissions system, that hides the impact of growth and political inequity, thereby exacerbating the climate crisis.
15. That the wealth we see in the world today carries massive debt because children's rights were violated to create it, bringing children into the world as means and not rights-bearing ends.
16. That beginning in 2010, for over a decade, I served in various positions with the Animal Legal Defense Fund and during my tenure with the Animal Legal Defense Fund, our impact claims were wildly omissive, hiding the daily undoing of our claimed impacts because we did not account for the contrary impact of children entering the world in conditions that violated their rights.
17. Such omissions allowed organizations to benefit personally at cost to others, including children and animals, and misled audiences about the effectiveness of their work.
18. That these omissions created a presumption of a functional legal system protecting animals, while in reality, the absence of family and policy reforms contradicted such claims.
19. That there was at least one attempt to correct this standard through strategic impact litigation aimed at setting a restorative baseline for environmental law. This case, however, was withdrawn due to conflicting interests.
20. Without such corrections, organizations have continued to act in ways that increase suffering for animals and children while enriching themselves and their funders.
21. That there is now an urgent effort to preemptively standardize impact claims and reparations processes to avoid further harm, including mandatory disclosure requirements and prioritization of family-based climate reparations.
22. That there is a pressing need for the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights to address these injustices by demanding reparations and

ensuring the prioritization of women and children in the Global South in climate justice initiatives.

23. That the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights must demand reparations and enforce accountability to ensure compliance with these standards, prioritizing vulnerable populations.

24. That I make this affidavit in good faith, urging the African Commission to take cognizance of these systemic injustices and to hold responsible organizations accountable under the provisions of the African Charter.

25. That all statements made herein are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, belief, and information.



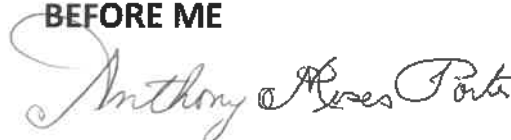
DEPONENT

SWORN TO before

Notary Public

This 20th day of MAY 2025

BEFORE ME



NOTARY PUBLIC

