

KAIROS Submission - Canada's International Climate Finance
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Submitted by KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives
August 2020



To whom it may concern:

KAIROS brings together Indigenous peoples, settlers, and newcomers in Canada, in common struggle with partners around the world for human rights and ecological justice. KAIROS has a long history of working in partnership with environmental, Indigenous and women's rights organizations and other civil society groups in Canada and globally. Our advocacy and commitment to ecological justice, human rights and equitable and feminist transformation for all people and the planet is informed by and grounded in this history and these partnerships.

KAIROS is concerned about Canada's commitment to climate change financing obligations. Climate change particularly impacts the poorest and most marginalized. They are the ones who bear the brunt of the impacts of climate change while doing little or nothing to contribute to it. Canada and other high-income countries have accepted responsibility to help countries confront the impacts of climate change, but our international climate finance is not being delivered based on an honest assessment of the needs of vulnerable countries and peoples. **Canada must commit at least 50 percent of international climate finance for principal purpose adaptation initiatives aimed at addressing the poorest and most vulnerable, especially women and girls.**

Women and girls, especially in the Global South, are disproportionately impacted by the climate crisis, yet they are systematically underrepresented in both formal talks and control of resources for adaptation. At the same time, women are leaders in protecting the environment and addressing climate change. Women are responsible for 50-80 percent of the world's food production yet own less than 20 percent of the land, are overlooked as agents of change and knowledge, and have limited access to political, organizational, and financial resources. The lack of systemic, sustained attention to this sector is at odds with the Feminist International Assistance Policy (FIAP). **With FIAP as a policy base, Canada must lead in recognizing and supporting the critical role and knowledge of women and women's rights organizations in addressing climate change; and, at the same, Canada must do more to address the systematic underrepresentation of women in formal negotiations and the disproportionate impacts of climate change borne by women.**

Canada needs a feminist, gender-responsive climate financing policy that is delivered using feminist approaches to advance women's rights and gender equality. To achieve this, **we recommend that the government fund a dedicated grants-based Women's Fund for Climate Adaptation, building capacity and expanding the influence of Global South grassroots women's organizations and movements** and working with Canadian civil society partners on an integrated, feminist global approach to the climate crisis.

Over half of Canada's current climate finance commitment is in the form of loans, which add to the debt burden of low-income countries already struggling to cope with climate-related

stresses. **Canada needs to increase its use of grants and ensure all finance for adaptation is delivered as grants.**

Canada's post-2020 international climate finance approach must also align with pathways that limit global warming to 1.5°C and help low-income countries transition to a zero-carbon economy. High-income countries agreed to jointly mobilize USD\$100 billion in international climate finance by 2020. **To meet its fair share of this commitment, based on its wealth relative to other donor countries, Canada must scale up its climate finance to USD\$4 billion annually.**

Canada can be a global leader in both climate change financing and gender equality. For more information and detailed recommendations, we refer you to the policy brief, "[Supporting Women's Organizations and Movements: A Strategic Approach to Climate Action](#)" developed by the Nobel Women's Initiative, a member of the Canadian Coalition for Climate Change and Development (C4D).

Thank you for the opportunity to inform the development of Canada's international climate finance approach post 2020-21.

Sincerely,



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*The KAIROS Toronto office is on the territory of the Huron-Wendat, Petun, Seneca and, most recently, the Mississaugas of the Credit Indigenous Peoples. This territory is covered by the **Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant**, an agreement between the Haudenosaunee and the Ojibwe and allied nations to peaceably share and care for the lands and resources around the Great Lakes.*