



NEWSLETTER

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EDITORIAL

Should the CJCM contest the 2024 elections to prevent more fossil fuel and criminal lock-ins by the ANC-Led Alliance?

Comrades the year is ending. In about two weeks, we will be in 2023. For many of us, this year has accelerated at the speed of light. Its speed has messed up our resolutions. But beyond those personal lamentations, we are also accelerating into deeper crises in our country and the world. The ANC-Led alliance is working at lightning speed to lock in further fossil fuel extraction. Despite the rhetoric from the President, his government is accelerating the Upstream Petroleum Development Bill and the gas amendment bill to expand the legal infrastructure for oil and gas exploration including offshore exploration. The fierce commitment of the ANC-Led alliance to ignore the people and go ahead in supporting Shell with the seismic survey case and the continued reiteration from several ministers that “coal is going nowhere” is a clear indication that the government’s approach to the climate emergency is mere lip service. The ANC-led alliance has aborted the South African dream. Its failed nation-building project and failed economic emancipation for the masses have engendered reactionary neofascist parties hell-bent on an agenda of reverse racism, disunity and violence. It has created a crisis of socio-ecological reproduction, afroneoliberalism and a criminalised market democracy. I do not have to even try to convince you about the failures of the ANC-Led alliance, they are clearer than crystal.

The question is, can we trust the ANC-Led alliance to build a climate justice state with the capabilities to adapt to the climate crisis? Can an alliance that cannot fix a pothole build a state which survives the impacts of climate shocks and ends the hunger crisis, ends

femicide and the war on nature? This takes us back to Rosa Luxembourg in 1899, Reform or Revolution. Fortunately for us, climate justice politics is a new politics. It is a transformative politics centred on socio-ecological transformation. It goes beyond vanguard, horizontal or electoral politics and it is transformative and ethical grounded in “intersectional politics – decolonial, emancipatory feminist, anti-ecocide and anti-capitalist- preserves life (human and non-human) and its flourishing” (CJCM Strategic Perspective Document 4).

Comrades and friends, we know with clarity of mind and conscience that in order for us to survive we must break with carbon capitalism. Thus, the question of state power is inevitable because that is where carbon capitalism is organised. The CJCM has launched a set of strategic perspective documents to take this discussion to a new level. The fourth strategic perspective document deals with this question of state power. It argues for building the Climate Justice Charter Movement as a mass-based people- and worker-driven movement, anchored in accelerating and deepening the just transition from below in communities, workplaces, sectors and the state, while being tactically flexible to also contest state power. It argues the CJCM can play a movement-party role during elections as part of a broad paradigm of power. The ANC has been and is still committed to a fossil fuel economy. If the CJCM tactically plays its movement-party role in 2024, it could tip the ANC below 50% and prevent it from locking in more fossil fuels and destroying the life-giving commons.

The CJCM could “fight for 8-10% of the vote and seek to have between 20-40 parliamentarians (youth, grassroots women, workers, intellectuals; a solid group of tried and tested activists with an inter-generational and feminist character)” (CJCM DOC 4).

On 30 September and 1 October 2022 as well as in the CJCM alternative COP on the 11th of November 2022, we delved deeper into this question of state power and the conversation and the debate will be taken to a national conference early next year. In this newsletter we provide summaries of all four strategic perspective documents and also links to the full versions. We encourage you to journey with us next year and to add your voice to the debate.

To paraphrase Robert frost, two roads are diverging in a yellow wood; one the ANC alliance’s carbon capitalism with its eco-fascism, criminalised market democracy and the destruction of all life forms, and the other, to systemic transformation and the preservation of life-giving systems. We cannot travel both and be one traveller.

Charles Simane



CJCM STRATEGIC PERSPECTIVES

The Climate Justice Charter Movement has launched four strategic perspective documents. These documents are aimed at foregrounding the poly-crisis of socio-ecological reproduction and providing Climate Justice strategic responses to achieve an accelerated and deep just transition. They are also aimed at building important solidarities and a global climate justice bloc of vulnerable governments, workers, peoples, and movements.

These four documents were presented and discussed at the CJCM strategic dialogue on 30 September and 1 October 2022 with CJCM members and partner organisations from across the country. The discussion was taken to a global audience: the four documents were again presented and discussed with leading continental and international allies from across the world during the CJCM alternative COP on the 11th of November 2022. The four strategic perspectives documents are premised on the following:

(1) The total crisis we are living in is intersecting and getting worse. Climate shocks have increased in frequency and intensity. Women, children, the poor, vulnerable, marginalised and working class are paying the highest price, while the rich are not paying their ecological debt. Climate famines are threatening millions across the continent while extreme floods and storms wreak havoc leaving millions homeless and destitute. By the end of the decade, almost 200 million Africans will be displaced by climate extremes.

(2) Ruling classes and the global power structure, including the UN COP process, have failed human and non-human life in terms of the climate challenge. The COP process has not provided systemic solutions. Fossil fuel lobbyists outnumbered many government delegations in COP27. Unsurprisingly, investments in fossil fuels have not declined, the phase-out is happening very slowly if at all and global emissions and fossil fuel subsidies are on an upward trajectory. Even the IMF says that, "Globally, fossil fuel subsidies were \$5.9 trillion or 6.8 percent of GDP in 2020 and are expected to increase to 7.4 percent of GDP in 2025." The world is poised for a global overshoot of 1.5°C. For South Africa and the region, this means a climate crisis reality of a 3°C increase, bringing serious challenges.

(3) Climate justice politics and activism is a new transformative politics. It is regenerative politics which builds alternatives from below; it addresses the climate crisis through intersectionality; it is trans-political activism and goes beyond single issues. Guided by the Climate Justice Charter, climate justice politics is premised on a pluri-vision that means it focuses on addressing past legacies of oppression and present crises, and is about working towards a liveable, democratic, and just future for human and non-human life.

The four documents are for debate, clarification, and consensus to accelerate and deepen the just transition.





STRATEGIC PERSPECTIVE

DOCUMENT 1: *Resisting climate apartheid and eco-cidal capitalism – towards a global climate justice bloc for a just world peace, earth democracy and climate justice deal for Africa.*

This document argues that the Global North's response to the climate crisis is premised on a logic of climate apartheid (some people and nations who are darker, poor, and non-Euro-American, are expendable) and eco-cide (the mass scale destruction of human and non-human life). This is consistent with the Global North's history of colonial conquest, imperial domination and more recently Covid-19 vaccine apartheid.

In tandem with climate apartheid and the eco-cidal logic of capitalism, the Global North has undermined the UN-led COP process, turning it into a congress of polluters dominated by fossil fuel lobbyists and advancing techno-fixes, geoengineering and false solutions. Global emissions are increasing, fossil fuel subsidies are increasing, and climate finance is loan heavy, while the Global North refuses to pay its climate debt. Africa is also targeted for \$400 billion in oil and gas investments to meet the needs of Western European governments, given the energy crisis induced by the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Meanwhile, the climate-ecological rift is worsening and engendering other systemic crises. The global eco-fascist class project marches with centre-right and hard-right neoliberals. The context is one of maturing systemic crisis tendencies, contradictions, and disruptions in global capitalism. Capitalism is destroying itself and

ruling classes are not able to prevent this. We cannot let it destroy all of us.

Hence, this document argues that we need to work towards de-centring power away from the failed UN COP and towards a Climate Justice Bloc of vulnerable governments, people, workers, and movements for just world peace, earth democracy and a climate justice deal for Africa. This is the third cycle of climate justice resistance, and it goes beyond crowd politics, single issues, and symbolic and apocalyptic climate politics, towards trans-political solidarities. The ground is fertile for this united transformative bloc to emerge.

STRATEGIC PERSPECTIVE

DOCUMENT 2: *The ANC-Led Alliance and state is the main obstacle to a deep just transition – towards people and worker driven just transitions for a climate justice deal and climate emergency state.*

This document argues that the ANC-led Alliance and state is the main obstacle to an accelerated and deep just transition. For decades, the ANC has been translating neoliberal ideology (promoting the power of global monopoly capital) into Afro-neoliberalism and indigenising it in South African nationalist discourses and policy practices.

The ANC has continued the pattern of accumulation through eco-cide (mass-scale destruction of human and non-human life).

The historical processes of capitalist expansion in South Africa have premised themselves on accumulation through eco-cide.

From the colonial encounter which led to militarised colonialism (Dutch and British), Afrikaner nationalism and apartheid monopoly capitalism to the current Afro-neoliberal globalisation project, the commons (land, water, biodiversity, energy, human labour and the Earth system) have been destroyed. Meanwhile race, class and gender inequalities have been widened and deepened. The ANC's Afro-neoliberal state has constructed a rich black patronage elite at the expense of the starving and structurally unemployed masses. It abandoned the national building project a long time ago, hence it has failed to build a non-racial state.

This document proposes a struggle for a people and worker-led Climate Justice Deal Framework and Climate Emergency State, which will ultimately end our dependence on carbon energy and accelerate the deep just transition.

STRATEGIC PERSPECTIVE

DOCUMENT 3: *Transforming South Africa's criminalised market democracy: advancing deep democracy for deep just transitions*

Document 3 argues that South Africa does not have a constitutional democracy but a market democracy. Post-apartheid South Africa has a shallow and criminalised market democracy, plagued with exclusionary nationalisms. This has hampered the envisioned and globally celebrated constitutional project that emerged post-apartheid. The constitution has the potential to ensure transformation, national purpose and an inclusive nation-building project, but it requires transformative politics and deep democratisation.


The ANC-led Alliance has failed to do this. Instead, it has constructed a state that is more responsive to global power structures. It has indigenised neoliberalism, privileged market-centric practices and undermined the labour movement. The fragmentation of the labour movement caused by the ANC-led Alliance is one of the most serious threats to this democracy. Without a united and independent labour movement, SA faces a bleak future.

Document 3 argues for renewing our constitutional democracy by testing the potential and tools of our constitution, to advance deep democracy for the deep just transition.

STRATEGIC PERSPECTIVE

DOCUMENT 4: *Ensuring South Africa's 2024 national elections are climate justice elections – build a new political instrument now! Build a mass based people and worker driven Climate Justice Charter Movement (CJCM)!*

Document 4 is an elaboration of the strategic politics of the CJCM. It deals with the critical question of how we think and act in climate politics, build mass power and shape the transition to transformative politics. It argues for building the Climate Justice Charter Movement as a mass-based people- and worker-driven movement, anchored in accelerating and deepening the just transition from below in communities, workplaces, sectors and the state, while being tactically flexible to also contest state power. It plays a movement-party role during elections as part of a broad paradigm of power.



The document argues that vanguard, horizontal and electoral politics are all incapable of mainstreaming climate politics. What is needed is transformative intersectional politics. This means a politics that is rooted in decoloniality, emancipatory feminism and radical queer, anti-eco-cide, and anti-capitalism. The CJCM reflects this kind of politics because it seeks to defend the natural commons from below and advance democratic systemic reforms, which are people- and worker-driven, to provide systemic solutions to the poly-crisis of capitalism and achieve its pluri-vision. Current and typical mainstream political parties are not up to these urgent tasks.

The document argues for the CJCM to embrace a new paradigm of power, including contesting the 2024 national elections, to ensure the corrupt and carbon-addicted ANC does not get a majority and we are able to mainstream the climate emergency through a parliamentary presence.

Access all the strategic perspective documents on the CJCM [blog here](#)

Send your comments on these documents to cjcm@mweb.co.za or post a comment on the blog before the 16th March 2023. Your comments will inform the revision of these documents before they are taken to a national conference.

RESPONSES TO DOC 1: INTERNATIONAL SPEAKERS AT CJCM'S ALTERNATIVE COP

Below are inputs from four international respondents at the Alternative COP event, hosted by the CJCM on Friday 11 November. Each speaker gave input in response to [Strategic Perspective Document 1](#). Speakers include: Quincy Saul, from Ecosocialist International, Eriel Deranger from Indigenous Climate Action, Nnimmo Bassey from Health of Mother Earth Foundation and Varsha Gandikota-Nellutla from Progressive International. A full recording of the event can be accessed at this [link](#).

QUINCY SAUL (ECOSOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL)

Thanks sincerely to the South African Climate Justice Charter Movement!

I am part of the First Ecosocialist International, and I am calling in from the Uva mountains of Sri Lanka, where I am a resident at the Belipola Arboretum. I hope that a few of you might look up and read the programme of the Ecosocialist International, and look up also the work we are doing in Sri Lanka.

The document prepared by your team is excellent. The CJCM is a model for the world – both in terms of its ideological clarity and its strategic movement building.

In Cairo today the 27th conference of polluters is meeting. Back in 2011 at COP17 in Durban, Nnimmo Bassey said that if Africa is shaped like a gun, then Nigeria (where most of the continent's oil comes from) is the trigger, and South Africa (where it is refined) is the nozzle. To add to this dreadful metaphor, today Egypt is the hammer on the gun of the "global eco-fascist project", now cocked to execute the death sentence of Mother Africa.

The fact that this is the 27th meeting, and that the world is in the state we know it is – should be enough to demonstrate the comprehensive failure of the COP system. The only greater failure, arguably, has been the failure of NGOs and activists to have any significant effect on the proceedings. Perhaps their failure is the more shameful of the two. I have friends who still go to COPs; there are adherents of the Ecosocialist International in Cairo today, but I struggle with them. Ya basta comrades. Ca suffit. Enough already! Who pays for your plane tickets, your room and board? Maybe you should go back to your organisations and admit to them that their money may be better spent another way. Would you still go if nobody paid for you?


Hugo Chavez famously said that he and all the world's presidents go from summit to summit, while the people who elected them go from abyss to abyss. The NGO professionals and professional activists are just as guilty of this. Many of them have gone to COPs for decades, and what do they have to show for it? What will future generations think of them?

The language of the CJCM is correct – what gets ratified by the conference of polluters is "a global gas chamber." This is the same language used by Lumumba di Aping, way back in 2009 Copenhagen, at COP15. Back then he condemned the agreement as a premeditated "holocaust". Over a decade ago Desmond Tutu warned that catastrophic climate change would cause the deaths of 100s of millions in Africa alone. The numbers of victims of the conference of polluters are in the billions.

We need to stop telling lies, masking lies and claiming easy victories. (Amilcar Cabral presente.) Let me be frank. There is no climate justice. I've never seen it – have you? People who have never got in a car or an airplane in their lives will be the ones who suffer the most; they are suffering the most already. Sri Lanka where I'm calling in from, is predicted to be one of the worst hit by climate change, and its contributions to global carbon emissions are a fraction of a percent. There is no climate justice now, and if we go on like this, there will not be any in the future either. It might sound good in the board room but it falls flat when you're talking to real people on the front lines. We need to stop talking like NGO staffers accountable to their donors, and start talking like revolutionaries accountable to future generations. It's time to stop posing and profiling, time to stop faking the funk.

But the Paris Agreement! James Hansen said it: "Bullshit." Greta Thunberg said it: "Blah, blah, blah... how dare you?" I wish all the talk about the Paris Agreement might





bring to mind another "Paris Agreement", signed in 1973, to end the war in Vietnam.

It was much discussed and debated in the global press, and the war was back on in earnest within months. The Paris Climate Agreement is the same. The war on nature has only picked up steam since it was signed. Lets please not forget, this is not an abstract struggle; this is a war on nature. This is about life and death, on a planetary scale. Are we going to win the war by protesting the conferences of our enemies? Will we somehow achieve climate justice by following the biggest polluters around the world for a quarter century, revising the data every year so that we can spin it (every time, yet again) as The Last Chance? That's not how the Vietnamese turned the tide against climate criminal #1.

Can we imagine a Tet Offensive for climate justice? A militant disruption of fossil fuel infrastructure at strategic bottlenecks in the supply chain - a People's Climate War - combined and coordinated with mass nonviolent protest - a Climate Satyagraha - in the centres of world political and economic power... Think about it.

And in the meantime, comrades, most urgently of all, we must tend to our respective bioregional rear-guards. We must all get very busy restoring forests and rehabilitating watersheds. If we don't do this, then nothing else will be viable, period. We must prefigure the elements of an ecosocialist mode of production. The program of the Ecosocialist International weaves all these threads

together. And as Jose Marti said, the best way to say, is to do.

Thanks sincerely again to the South African comrades for convening us. Your work organising global activists around your clarity of ideology and strategy, is more important than all the handwringing and politicking in Cairo. Keep it up: we need you. Stay in touch. Long live ecosocialist Azania! Amandla.

ERIEL DERANGER INDIGENOUS CLIMATE ACTION

Thank you so much for having me, I'm here in the COP venue space trying to find a quiet corner and reliable internet which is very difficult here.

I think first off, I just want to echo a lot of the speakers here around how what was presented was just so articulate and so needed and refreshing particularly after spending the last week here in UN spaces, where we're seeing the negotiations really focusing around loss and damages, climate finance and article 6 which are carbon market mechanisms and also looking at who are negotiating the parameters of what this all looks like.

Who is entitled to loss and damages, where is climate finance going, and what are these carbon market solutions going to look like (market mechanisms for addressing the climate finance)?

I'm going to quote Kumi [Naidoo] from last year at the end of COP26 in Glasgow where he stated COP26 was 'male, pale, and stale'.

And that continues to ring true here, where we're seeing the same sort of colonial powers and white voices from white colonial imperial states driving the negotiations where it's become a sort of a power struggle between human rights approaches versus economic and market-based approaches.


And the big question that came up with the indigenous people's caucus which I am a very big part of as a north American representative is that who are these people here saving the planet for, who are they saving it for? They're not saving it for indigenous people, they're not saving it for humans anymore. What we're seeing is that this is purely an economic negotiations platform where they're trying to find ways to greenwash industries so they can continue business as usual so corporations can continue rearing record-breaking profits in the billions of dollars and despite the fact that there were commitments to over a hundred billion U.S dollars within climate financing - we've not seen that met. In addition, there's no indicators of how that's actually going to reach communities and those that are at the forefronts of this. There's also a pledge for 1.7 billion dollars to indigenous peoples within climate finance sector. Again nothing, all of it gets lost in the bureaucracy so that they can continue business as usual, and the need for a climate justice movement outside of these spaces, an alternative to these sort of colonial driven spaces, male, pale and stale spaces is this alternative space venue.

We need to be articulating a movement that is driven from the

grassroots. As an indigenous person who has seen first and foremost the impacts of the oil and gas sector with the Alberta tar sand in my traditional territory how its wreaked havoc in our water systems, our ecological systems and our culture and the rights of our communities; and how that very same industry that has been directly implicated in the degradation to the quality of life and health and the environment of our people is also contributing to rising greenhouse gases emissions which is exacerbating the climate crises which we're feeling on top of the environmental crises. And I can feel the connections to my brothers and sisters globally, that are being forced to believe that these are the only sectors that are economically viable. That we have to save these sectors in order to save the planet, we really must be coming together as a global movement with labour, indigenous rights, people of colour, poor communities to demand justice for all of us, because we can no longer afford to be a part of the status quo.

So, my role here in COP isn't to try to uplift the structures and the agreements that are being negotiated here but rather to interrupt those narratives and to really demand more. And this really gets to this ideology around what is decolonisation, how do we do decolonise these spaces. And the presentation earlier was really that picture, that's that first step of how we go forward. Being a part of the indigenous caucus here within these spaces has been of indigenising which is really representation and visibility. But representation and visibility is not about changing, it's not about systemic change, its just about representation to interrupt the status





quo but we simultaneously need to be building those alternative pathways that we can utilize instead of trying to fix the system that's broken.

A friend of mine, Nick Estes, was asked a question around how do we fix these economic systems, can't we just tweak what we currently have to make it work for us? And his response was, 'we're not going to wake up tomorrow and hug the murder out of capitalism just as much as we can't hug the genocide out of colonialism. We have to be moving towards alternatives that embody centring human rights and indigenous rights and the knowledge of those that have those connections to the lands and territories at the centre of this work and I'm just so moved by the movement that we're starting to see pick up and be articulated, not only within these spaces but within the global movement for climate justice for all communities.

The liberation of my community in Northern Alberta in so-called Canada is directly tied to the liberation of my brothers and sisters in Africa, in the Pacifica, in the global South over and over again. I am not willing to be a participant in division and conquer with carbon markets that try to divide our communities and pit us against each other. I would rather be a part of alternative movements that try to find ways to coalesce our collective struggles to become unified for a better tomorrow.

Thank you and merci

NNIMMO BASSEY HEALTH OF MOTHER EARTH FOUNDATION

Thank you comrades for inviting me.

I really have to apologise that I am jumping away, it is because I am taking part in an action against militarism in the context of climate change. Because militarism and wars we are seeing in the world, include the conflicts across Africa, they all weaken resilience and render our people more vulnerable to climate impacts. Moreover, we don't have the kind of finance that is needed to tackle the climate impact that we are seeing daily. Whereas the money, much money is being invested in warfare and militarism.

The world today, the state of the geopolitical system, is such that we need a charter such as the one being discussed today. We need it not just for South Africa but for the entire continent and indeed across the world. The COP itself has become a clearly neocolonial construct, and so we do need these kinds of counter COPs and charters to delegitimise the COP itself and replace the failed system. The action promoted by the COP, the false solutions including, I mean they are very ecocidal as you have mentioned already in the intro to this meeting and they are all promoting environmental racism.

This is what makes extractive activities even worse in Africa because extraction don't consider the planet neither do they consider the people and communities that are being impacted. The false solution being promoted by African nations is really

very outstanding, astonishing. At the present COP in Egypt, African nationals are promoting the creation of a new carbon market system because governments think that getting money from carbon will kickstart economic progress or whatever, I don't know that they are thinking. It really shows that there must be a mindset shift in the continent. Our leaders must understand the fundamental causes of climate change which include colonial extraction, colonial exploitation, so that we can find ways to tackle the challenge. And not to just fall into the pit that brought us to where we are in the first instance.

Article 6.4 has a new definition that is being debated in the Conference of Parties which truly speaking is actually Conference of Polluters; is the definition of carbon removal, includes the storage of carbon in ocean reservoirs and we know the struggle of communities of fishers and activists in South Africa has so far kept away the claws and the appetites of oil and gas companies trying to explore and extract gas on the South African coast. But if this definition, comes kicks in and is adopted it is going to give the oil and the gas companies a license to open up those oil wells and gas wells and that would be a big setback for the health of the ocean, the economy of our communities, the cultural basis, everything related to the environment will be damaged by this new definition of carbon removal which is driven by obviously the fossil fuel industry. I mean there are other things which are so dangerous and will deepen the geopolitical power inequalities that

favour polluters and the governments that back them.

Finally, let me just say that... maybe not finally, almost finally. The massive presence of fossil fuel lobbies that the present communities... is astonishing. The number of lobbies has exceeded the number that we saw at Glasgow last year. Which shows the COP itself is getting more and more grabbed by the industry. I tell you this COP will not come up with anything that will be worth celebrating by those who are already victims of climate change.

My conclusion about the COP is that the COP is lost and damaged completely. So, the loss and damage discussion is a metaphor for what is a fact that the COP itself is lost, is damaged and it should either be replaced or grossly, totally redefined. And right now, we should ask for one thing, truly just transition that takes care of the needs of the people, the needs of labour and the needs of just not changing one energy system to another, but the complete system change.

Instead of asking for loss and damage we should be demanding the payment of climate debts which has historical basis and is continuing even as we speak. This is what we should be asking for, but shockingly African governments are out here with empty bowls begging for tokens, it is something that should be completely denounced which is not what we need. We need true justice. And justice must come with dignity. And the ideas captured in this charter that has been presented so eloquently is something that we have to embrace, promote and bring to life.



So, thank you so much for giving me this quick opportunity. I go to the COP to denounce militarism. Of course, I will share the ideas that I have picked up from this meeting. AMANDLA!!!!

VARSHA GANDIKOTA-NELLUTLA
PROGRESSIVE INTERNATIONAL

Thank you so much and really wonderful to hear Nnimmo, because he's also a comrade from Progressive international and its always wonderful to see him and so many other friendly faces here.

So I'll keep my comments brief, I was thinking about the topic today and I was really interested that peace was a part of the broader discussion, which I know isn't often the case for climate conversations. And I was thinking that peace is really about living without distress and disturbance. For me, few things are more urgent than the fact that close to 2.7 billion people in the world are hungry. 2.7 billion. I remember first hearing that number and just not being able to wrap my head around it, because it isn't about food shortage; it isn't that we can't make enough food for the entire world, but there are still billions of people who can't access it because they can't afford it or we're producing food that is going to waste.


I am speaking to you today from Mysore which is a small city in Southern India where thousands of farmers have just gathered today to discuss the very serious challenges facing agriculture in India at this time.

I mean, this year alone as you have seen, we have had a scorching summers, sweltering heatwaves, temperatures that were regularly about 40 degrees that stunted and damaged crops across the country. But it's not just heat. All of us know its water depletion, its water shortage, that's been affecting farmers to the extent that we have at this moment something close to 30 suicides daily. There are 30 farmers daily that are dying by suicide because they can't produce food anymore and they're in debt traps that are keeping them in this kind of extreme poverty.

So in that sense we've talked about nature's revenge. I think what's going on right now is also in that sense it's a kind of war. It's also a cruel, cruel war where billions of people are forced to be at war with their own lives forcing their bodies to work through starvation, to care for their families so that they can live to see another day.

My comrades have pointed out that often when I give these speeches I say things like 'its stunning to me that more people aren't talking about this', but I think that when it comes to the food crisis and when it comes to climate, actually, everyone is talking about it, right. It makes the front pages all the time, from the wall Street Journal to the Economist and New York Times. Everywhere, and all of our political leaders are talking about it, but it's under their very leadership that this genocidal project, as the themes from CJCM laid out, is being waged against the third world.





Having said this, I think the overwhelming feeling that I have at this juncture and even as I read the incredible document put forth by the Climate Justice Charter, I couldn't help but feel like we've been here before. Right, think about the 1970s, rocketing energy prices that robbed families of light, heat and fuel. Droughts and floods that drive displacement and famine, soaring inflation that swells the cost of living for our communities and swells the cost of borrowing for our governments. In short, this is not our first poly-crisis as again, the document mentions, but back in the 70s when the nations in the third world had just won their independence from colonial powers, were confronted with their own series of great crises.

They did come up with an answer. The vision for a new international economic order or the NIEO. And I think this is an idea that both I personally believe that we at that progressive international are quite excited about because the NEIO back then did at least have seemingly a vision for and addressed the very source of the poly-crisis, that I think we are facing today as well, right. So you think about the soaring cost of food, the NIEO urged global action against food shortages both real and artificial, enabled countries to import food without running down foreign exchanged, assurance of global access to fertilizer.

Think about the severity of sovereign debt; called for cancellation, called for IMF special drawing rights, called against foreign extraction of oil, metal, minerals and so on, and called

for full permanent sovereignty of every state over its resources. Critical technology; very, very clear kind of rules against coding of intellectual property by rich countries, demands for tech transfer and real international cooperation and trade. And I think these energies very much exist today. I don't want to overstate the possibility for something like a new international economic order again, but when we hear someone like Mia Motley from a hurricane ravaged Barbados who's calling for a complete reform of the global financial system. Or you hear ideas for a sovereign wealth fund from a resource rich country like Namibia following in the footsteps of Angola, Botswana and Libya and others who had sovereign wealth funds, who are trying to kind of, have a critical effort against extractivism and to keep Africa's wealth within the continent. Or if you look at what we are hearing from the new pink tide in Latin America, where governments of Mexico, Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, lithium countries, are coming together to say, we will only share lithium together and actually create an association so we can share knowledge and experiences.

I think these ideas are really exciting to me not just of course, from states, from people's movements like the Cochabamba People's movement, the South Africa Food Sovereignty Movement from which this Climate Justice Charter group came to be. I think that precisely the spirits of unity, solidarity and creativity that I think animated the new international economic order back then and I think it's what will animate this new order that we could build today.

So what I'm very excited about in this strategic perspective is that it provides this answer by calling it the global climate justice bloc of governments, workers, peoples and movements that has the potential to emerge. I absolutely agree especially because as COP has made it very, very clear that the people of the global South, I think, simply cannot wait for the great powers to reorder the world around them whether we think of Bandung, we think of Cairo, we think of how we formed an online movement behind the principle of peace and sovereignty in New York City, we had the UN declaration established for a New International Economic Order.

So I think that's exactly what we need today as well, especially because things are very similar but different in one crucial way, because it's no longer just a matter of social justice, in this age it's about a climate crisis. It is very very clear that a new order is a necessity for our survival. So I'm really happy to be part of these discussions. And hopeful that we are going to get ideas about how to make the Climate Justice Bloc a reality.

Thank you so much.

PRESS RELEASES, MEDIA COVERAGE AND ENGAGEMENTS

26 August: Charles Simane Interviewed by Legeso Chepape of the Mail and Guardian. [Clean Energy explainer, What is a just transition.](#)

16 August: Daily Maverick article: [South Africa's Framework for a Just transition fails to recognise the climate emergency.](#)

28 August: [Press statement](#): CJCM mass assembly, celebrating two years of the Climate Justice Charter

31 August: Francesca De Gasparis and Charles Simane Interviewed by Kristin Engel of the Independent Online. [New Project build climate resilience in rural communities.](#)

24 September: News24 profiles African Climate Alliance and Feed the future's action and protest to get CoCT to adopt the Charter: [SA youth take to Cape Town's streets for urgent action on the climate crisis.](#)

25 September: Geronimo De Klerk of Feed the future is [interviewed](#) on ENCA about their action and getting CoCT to adopt the Charter.



11 October: Charles Simane interviewed by Adele Sulcas of the Daily Maverick. Climate Crisis exacerbates food insecurity, plan to overcome it remains dormant.

12 October: [Press statement](#): #HungerSouthAfrica

13 October : Charles Simane Interviewed by Nasreem Naidoo of Salaamedia. #HungerSouthAfrica

13 October: Charles Simane [Interviewed by ENCA](#): #HungerSouthAfrica



13 October: Charles Simane Interviewed by Channel Africa Radio.

16 October: Charles Simane and Marcus Solomon interviewed by Denzil Taylor on PowerFM: [Unpacking food insecurity this World Food Day.](#)

17 October Charles Simane Interviewed by Radio 786

7 November: Vishwas Satgar interviewed by Stephen Grootes on Newzroom Afrika: [What can Africa expect from the COP27?](#)

10 November: [CJCM press release](#): CJCM Alternative COP and the Launch of CJCM strategic perspective documents.



9 November: IOL profiles the Durban Civil Society's festival of alternatives: [Festival of Alternatives to highlight effects of gas and oil exploration on SA.](#)

15 November: [CJCM press release](#): South Africa has sold out the African continent and the rest of the developing world!

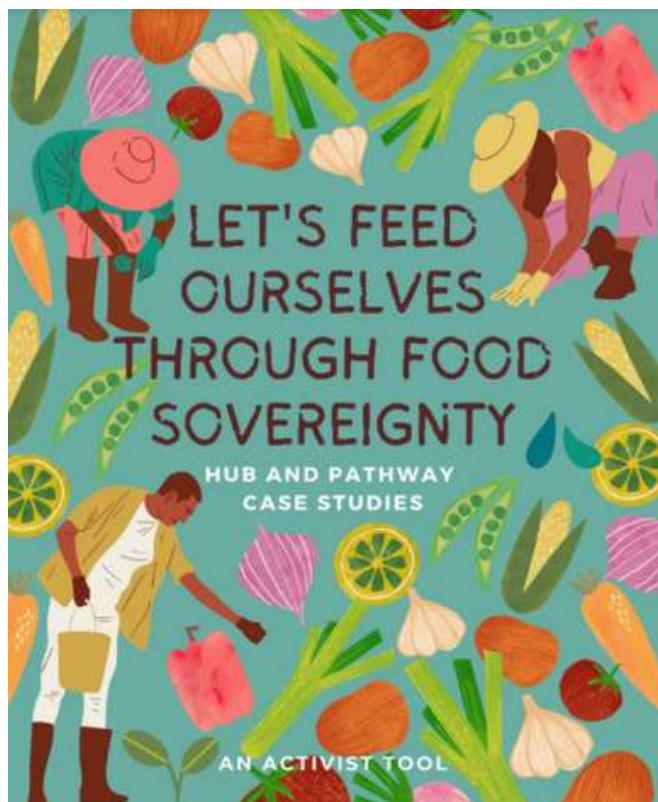
18 November: Daily Dispatch profiles CJCM's alternative COP: ['Earth democracy' needed to fight 'colonial climate apartheid'.](#)

22 November: Mail & Guardian profiles CJCM: [Activists say 'Ramaphosa sold Africa out at COP'.](#)

28 November: CJCM-Daily Maverick article by Rev Rachel Mash: [We must heed 'the cry of the Earth', for our scriptures call us to protect the sanctity of creation.](#)

RESOURCES

ACTIVIST GUIDES TO ADVANCE ALTERNATIVES



Download the guide [here](#)



Download the guide [here](#)

CJCM WEBINARS

CJCM alternative COP: Launch of CJCM Strategic Perspectives

View the webinar [here](#)

Activist tool launch: Let's feed ourselves through food sovereignty: Activist tool launch.

View the webinar [here](#)

CJCM assembly: Celebrating two years of the CJC

View the webinar [here](#)

Book launch: Addressing the crisis of socio-ecological reproduction through a #UBIGNow

View the webinar [here](#)

Public talk: Zero waste: Waste recycling and waste management alternatives

View the webinar [here](#)

Public talk: Zero waste jobs: potential job creation through zero waste systems

View the webinar [here](#)

CJ DEAL PODCAST SERIES

Anthropocene, Ecofeminism and Pluriversality [Part 1] (w/ Ariel Salleh)

In this episode, we're joined by Dr Ariel Salleh an Australian Sociologist and Ecofeminist who writes on humanity-nature relations, political ecology, movements, and ecofeminism.

Listen [here](#)

CJCM PETITIONS

Link to the [petition](#) for parliament to adopt the Charter

Link to the [petition](#) to make ending coal, gas and oil investment a condition for financial support to South Africa