

Motion to SAFCEI AGM 2023

We, members of faith communities from across Southern and Eastern Africa today reaffirm the declaration made in 2019, when faith communities came together for *A New Vision for Sacred Life and Living Earth*.

In the richness of our faiths, and great variety of beliefs and practices, we share a mandate to care for our sacred common home, which sustains and nourishes the whole community of life.

We witness with grave concern the climate disruption, environmental degradation and ecosystem collapse threatening not only the flourishing of life, but the very survival of all living beings. We face chronic socio-economic injustices and a widening poverty gap.

Time is running out, and we are at a tipping point. The global climate crisis and ecological collapse is so extreme that a new level of mobilisation is required. Our response is underpinned by ethical principles and indigenous knowledge systems, and driven by visionary and co-operative leadership. We recognise the central role played by women and young people.

We remain united through our shared calling and common commitment to care for the community of life and to seek justice for the Earth and future generations.

Today, we declare that the energy crisis in the context of the climate crisis requires a rethinking of what a just energy transition looks like. We reject plans for development of new nuclear energy and new fossil fuel exploitation such as gas and oil exploration, and new coal fired power stations. We must now act with the knowledge that our dependence of fossil energy use contributes to climate change.

And as before, we recognise that whilst we are able to take individual measures to mitigate this, it is the systems that regulate, produce and price energy that are prohibiting the systemic change that is necessary.

Therefore, as faith leaders, we must be a prophetic voice of the energy and climate crisis. We must offer a vision of a just transition from fossil and nuclear energy to renewable and equitable systems, with affordability and access for all. We call on faith communities to help collectively shape a new narrative of economic development that supports the wellbeing of all living beings.

We commit to carrying the message of climate and energy justice, from ourselves to our households to our places of worship and beyond. We also commit to campaigning for efficient public transport systems, and to measuring and reporting on our own energy justice initiatives.

We call on governments of Southern and Eastern Africa to act in the public interest – to put people and the planet ahead of profits and vested interests. To this end, we call on those countries involved in the EACOP pipeline project to rethink; and to Southern African Governments to expedite proper integrated energy planning process whereby all people living in Southern Africa can have a say over their energy future.