

JOINT DECLARATION

by the Presidents of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)
and the African Union Economic, Social and Cultural Council (AU ECOSOCC)
Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FFD4), Seville, 2025

We, the Presidents of the EESC and AU ECOSOCC, representing the voices of organised civil society in Europe and Africa, reaffirm our shared commitment to advancing a fair, inclusive, and sustainable global financing system that upholds climate justice, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the principles of multilateral cooperation.

- 1. We call for a rebalancing of climate finance to prioritise adaptation, loss and damage, and Just Transition, especially in vulnerable regions.**
2. Public finance remains indispensable, especially for adaptation, which faces a finance gap of USD 215-287 billion annually up until 2030. In addition, about USD 4.3 trillion per year needs to be invested in clean energy up until 2030. Therefore, a greater mobilisation of private finance becomes essential. **We endorse blended finance strategies that de-risk private investment and call for expanded access to climate and SDG-linked bonds.**
- 3. We call for an urgent reform of the international financial system, including multilateral development banks, to reflect the realities and rights of the Global South.** The governance of global finance must become more inclusive, democratic, and responsive to Africa-led priorities.
- 4. We support the institutionalisation of comprehensive debt cancellation mechanisms, including debt-for-climate swaps,** to relieve fiscal pressure and unlock investments for climate resilience and human development.
- 5. Access to finance in general, and access for grassroots and local communities in particular, must be enhanced.** There is an urgent need to dismantle barriers to access to international climate funds, including embedding equity and gender-responsiveness across all financing modalities.
- 6. Our institutions underscore that social partners, civil society and local groups should be at the centre of climate finance governance and initiatives.** We call for their formal participation in global financial governance and national financing strategies.
7. The SDGs remain our universal blueprint. **We call for integrated strategies, strong political commitment, and multilevel governance to localise the SDGs, enhance coherence, and address structural inequalities**—particularly affecting youth, women, and marginalised populations.

The Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development must be remembered as the moment when the global community committed not only to increase and improve the mobilization of climate finance, but to correcting historic injustices, enabling inclusive development, and placing people and planet at the center of finance. **The EESC and AU ECOSOCC stand ready to support this transformation through dialogue, cooperation, and action.**