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TO: UNANIMA International Board Members

7th November 2022

My Dear Sisters, Friends, and Family of UNANIMA International,

Greetings to each of you, your communities, networks, and all our collaborators. In a few days we as the world community will journey to COP27 in various ways and means, Lara Hicks and myself with travel to Egypt to attend the session in-person. We are attending on your behalf, and on behalf of women, children and girls displaced because of the climate crisis.

The impacts of climate change are disrupting the natural, economic, and social systems we depend on. We are witnessing the effects: food shortages, energy insecurity, fires, floods, droughts, hurricanes. The cost of the climate crisis is being felt far and wide and even sooner than previously believed possible. All of us need to act fast wherever we can.

In recent times we have been hearing the voices of young activists from around the world, speaking with clarity and urgency about the need for climate justice. We hear from Vanessa Nakate, Greta Thunberg, Ineza Umuhoza Grace, Makoma Lekalakala, they say they find their strength in one another to be able to raise their voices in unjust situations, especially in the climate crisis. They ask us to consider how we can create a sustainable, just future where the rights of the most vulnerable communities are upheld.

Many Africans, including our Sisters, are thrilled that this year's United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC/COP) is taking place in Africa, with the hopes that African issues will be prioritized. This of course is not the first time that COP is being held on this continent. In fact, this is the fifth time – the first being held in Nairobi, Kenya, then Durban, South Africa, and twice in Morocco. Africa, for many years, has called for climate justice. We have yet to see it materialize. The issue of loss and damage, particularly, has now made it more evident that the climate debt owed to southern countries has not been paid.

As we journey to COP27, we are hopeful that this COP may be different. We are hoping that the plight of those most negatively impacted by climate change will be acknowledged. We ask you, our members and friends, to journey with us during COP27.

Warmly and with Blessings,

Jean Quinn, DW
Executive Director
UNANIMA International

UNANIMA International –an NGO in special consultative status with ECOSOC, United Nations & in affiliation with UN DGC