



Afrikagrupperna's Strategic Plan

2022-2026

www.afrikagrupperna.se

1. Introduction

Afrikagrupperna is a feminist member-based solidarity organisation working on development cooperation in Southern Africa with a focus on fair power structures and fair distribution of resources. We also support the struggle for a free Western Sahara. Our vision is *A Just World*. We act in solidarity with people in the struggle to fight poverty and other injustices. We act to change the conditions causing inequalities in the global economic system. Afrikagrupperna's partner organisations are key actors in this work.

Afrikagrupperna's highest decision-making body is the annual general meeting. Members and local groups all over Sweden organise activities which include different types of engagement such as mobilisation, awareness-raising, fundraising, participation in our campaigns, information and education, cultural events, spaces for discussions, manifestations, demonstrations and other solidarity actions. The local groups are well established in their communities and many, both groups and individual members, have a long and solid commitment within the organisation.

Afrikagrupperna's Strategic Plan 2022-2026 was adopted by the board in April 2021. It is grounded in Afrikagrupperna's core values solidarity, equality, feminism and respect, adopted at the annual general meeting in 2020. This Strategic Plan covers all different parts of our organisation (the member-based association and the offices in Stockholm and Johannesburg) and our operations (development cooperation, communication, fundraising and advocacy work).

This document describes Afrikagrupperna's strategic choices and focus areas the coming five years. Towards the end of 2026 Afrikagrupperna wishes to see the following:

- Afrikagrupperna has grown slightly in number of partnerships and may also have started up collaborations in other parts of the region. We have developed our strategic partnerships, including collaboration with approximately 30 organisations and non-formal actors in the Southern Africa region. We have started up collaborations with youth-led movements/organisations. Our focus on support to movements has increased and our methods in supporting non-formal actors have been further explored and refined.
- We have improved our capacity in giving support and strengthen solidarity under difficult and risky circumstances, given the conflicts present in the region at different levels, including threats and attacks on activists and organisations.

- Afrikagrupperna is providing core support to our partner organisations. In order to strengthen civil society and as part of the aid efficiency agenda, we are still pushing for this funding modality to influence other donors to do the same.
- Afrikagrupperna is more well known in Sweden as our capacity in reaching out with our messages has increased. We are using digital tools effectively to strengthen links and connections with activists in Sweden and activists in southern Africa.
- The knowledge, awareness and capacity around feminism is high and Afrikagrupperna is well-informed on how the environment and climate change is linked to the issues we and our partners work with.
- Afrikagrupperna has stable finances relying on a diversified base of donors, including institutions and private donors.
- We have a proper and reliable system in place which allows us to track results and monitor and document change over time.

The Strategic Plan will be used as a base for Afrikagrupperna's operational plans for the different parts of the organisation, some funded by external funds and some by own equity. The document will be revisited by the board annually to evaluate how Afrikagrupperna's operations mirrors the strategic choices.

In section 2 our theory of change and goal hierarchy is visualised and explained. In section 3, the four principles guiding our work are presented more deeply. In section 4, Afrikagrupperna's approaches used in all operations are presented and explained, this is followed by section 5 where our different areas of work are elaborated on and formulated as impact objectives.

2. Figure of goal hierarchy and theory of change

Afrikagrupperna has identified a problem that we want to address. We see how our world is characterised by unequal power structures and unfair distribution of resources. In order to contribute to change, we have identified a set of principles to guide our work towards a just world. Our analysis shows that these principles are crucial when challenging oppressive structures and systems of power. Guided by our principles, we assume that by applying a combination of our different approaches, Afrikagrupperna and its partner organisations are able to contribute to change within our focus areas. Afrikagrupperna's focus areas are specified in our impact objectives. It is around these issues that our work, mainly together with partner organisations and members, is concentrated.

The world is complex, and issues are intertwined. Therefore, changing power structures and distribution of resources need multifaceted approaches addressing several issues simultaneously.

Below is a visualisation of our theory of change to guide the reader through this Strategic Plan. It indicates causal relationships, starting from the problems we want to address, showing the principles that guide our work and the approaches we use. Afrikagrupperna works to achieve several outcomes, which contributes to our impact objectives. Our impact objectives capture the strategic areas where we focus our work. Fulfilling these impact objectives contributes to fair power structures and fair distribution of power, which brings us closer to our vision of a just world. The expected outcomes are not included in the Strategic Plan since they give us more detailed directions for our work and will be further operationalised and broken down in our different operational plans.

See illustration at next page.

An unjust world characterised by unequal power structures and unfair distribution of resources.

FEMINISM

SOLIDARITY

HUMAN RIGHTS & DEMOCRACY

SUSTAINABILITY

Rights-based approach: People who are directly affected are able to drive their struggle, participate and have influence on different strategies.

Organising & Mobilisation: Activists, Partners, Communities and constituencies are able to work together for a common cause.

Partnership & Cooperation: Selected organisations & movements convene, learn and evolve.

Knowledge & Awareness: Activists, partners, communities and constituencies have evidence and information to support their causes.

Advocacy: Constituencies and citizens are able to influence power structures and distribution of resources.

Expected outcomes are presented in operational plans

Contribute to strong, inclusive and vivid civil societies.

Support demands for democratic accountability and transparency on local and global level.

Contribute to sovereign control of resources by different constituencies, particularly women in local communities.

Work towards sustainable production and consumption of natural resources, goods and services.

Work towards environmental and climate justice.

Contribute to gender equity and gender equality for everyone through an intersectional analysis of justice and needs.

Contribute to strengthened right to bodily autonomy and full access to sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Support solidarity movement building.

FAIR POWER STRUCTURES & FAIR DISTRIBUTION OF RESOURCES

A JUST WORLD

Problem that need to be addressed.

Guided by these **Principles.**

Using the these **approaches.**

This joined-up approach works towards achieving these **Outcomes.**

Which contribute to achievement of these **Impact Objectives.**

Which in turn contribute to this **Overall Goal.**

Which moves the world closer to this **Vision.**

3. Principles

The guiding principles are a concretisation of the above-mentioned values adopted in 2020. The principles are deeply rooted in Afrikagrupperna's history and continuously informed by our members and partner organisations on the ground. These principles will guide all our operations in the upcoming years.

FEMINISM

Feminism is one of the fundamental principles crosscutting our Strategic Plan and theory of change. Therefore, as a feminist organisation, a feminist analysis shall inform all aspects of our being, on societal, operational and policy levels. Afrikagrupperna's everyday actions should be imbued with an intersectional perspective and a joint commitment to transform power relations and ultimately leading to a fair distribution of resources and power. The concept of intersectionality is a theoretical framework and tool to analyse how power differentials interact, and in so doing (re)produce different kinds of inequalities and oppression. These power differentials can be based on sexual orientation, gender identity and/or expression, ethnicity, race, class, culture, tradition, age/generation, ability, geographic location, nationality, religion, language and/or other forms of social exclusion.

Human rights for women, LGBTIQ+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Intersex and Queer) and other groups facing marginalisation, fair power relations and gender equality are central for structural change and prerequisites for social justice. The root of feminism is the belief that inequality is wrong and aims to confront all oppressive systems such as patriarchy, colonialism, capitalism, homophobia and racism. Feminism embodies the battle to eliminate exclusion and oppression particularly against women, LGBTIQ+ communities and other intersectional groups.

Since Afrikagrupperna is a solidarity organisation based in Sweden, supporting organisations in Southern Africa, it is central for us to recognise several locations. For example, Afrikagrupperna relates to both African and Western discourses and definitions of feminism. Members, staff, partner organisations and their constituencies all carry different experiences from our past, hence, feminist solidarity becomes crucial.

It is important to respectfully recognise the complexity of our work and address power within our own organisation as well as within our partnerships. Afrikagrupperna aims to live its feminism through our strategic methods and approaches for change. Actions include, among many others: Creating safe spaces and platforms for feminist training and sharing of experiences on SRHR; Recruiting new partners with a feminist agenda; Acknowledging privileges and the locations of knowledge/research; Using a feminist language in our communication; Allying with vibrant women, LGBTIQ+ communities and youth movements; Participatory communication; Campaigns and fundraising letters should have a feminist framing.

SOLIDARITY

Afrikagrupperna continues to act in solidarity with people in the struggle against poverty and injustices through its circle of solidarity, which is based on equality and mutual respect. The circle of solidarity is built around issues relevant to both the global North and South, or with causal links between the two. The circle of solidarity is a way to address local injustices globally and to connect people working for the same cause and struggles, realising that people affected by injustice should be at the centre of all agenda- setting efforts.

Solidarity is essential for any process of social change based on mutually shared interests and human values. Solidarity can be extremely powerful yet can easily be undermined by the downsides of globalisation in an era of neo-liberalism. The engagement and activism of Afrikagrupperna's members and donors are crucial elements of global solidarity. Afrikagrupperna's partnerships are based on the idea of solidarity – understanding, supporting and contributing to various struggles. These partnerships and solidarity principles contribute to ongoing rights-based activism across partner constituencies and solidarity support and knowledge sharing between organisations.

Working from a solidarity perspective means that we see the world as one where everything is inter-connected and where everyone must take joint responsibility for the development we want to see.

HUMAN RIGHTS & DEMOCRACY

Our vision is a just world, a world where everyone can determine their own future. Without human rights being truly respected for everybody everywhere, a just world is not possible. The starting point is the recognition that human rights are basic individual and collective rights, which are universal and protected by national and international law (the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other UN declarations). Democracy cannot be delinked from human rights since human rights are a prerequisite for democracy (as we understand it). Included in this is the right and possibility to hold those in power accountable for their decisions.

The prime responsibility and duty to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms lies with the State. However, it has been observed that governments are increasingly failing to exercise their role in ensuring citizens their fundamental rights and freedoms. Human rights and democratic values continue to be disregarded in favour of capitalist interests. The persistent efforts by international finance institutions and corporations' lobby to capture democratic spaces of governance jeopardize the economic, social, and human development of the poorest. Civil society has reasons to resist such corporate capture, demanding respect for human rights, transparency on resources governance, fight against corruption, demand freedom of speech and assembly and citizen's inclusive participation in all development processes.

Local communities' resistance against exploitation is met by governments and transnational corporations with violence, relying on militarism and securitisation to restrict freedoms.

Southern Africa, as many other parts of the world, has continued to experience the shrinking of civic space, manifesting itself in gendered violations, femicide, misogyny, killings and abductions of activists. Reproductive justice, climate justice, and economic justice are intertwined and indivisible. Women and men, girls and boys, and gender non-conforming people must have equal power to shape society and their own lives.

Afrikagrupperna sees an active civil society as a necessity for the development of a democratic state. We have chosen to focus our support to women and communities facing marginalisation given the predominantly patriarchal norms that exist in all societies. Afrikagrupperna applies a rights-based approach in all work providing space for those less heard. A rights-based approach links development and human rights. People who (should) have these rights are rights-holders, and those who (should) provide and guarantee the rights (notably state/government structures) are duty-bearers. A rights-based approach implies that those affected should be the drivers for change and the ones setting the agenda.

SUSTAINABILITY

Our understanding of sustainability includes both environmental and social aspects and refers to the continued balance of co-existence between the biosphere and human civilization. This suggests that natural resources should be available and accessible to all who live on earth. The increased commodification of nature, however, means that not all have the means to access and enjoy natural resources, which are a source of growing vulnerability, inequalities, poverty and injustices.

The current global economic system is upheld by uneven power dynamics and unjust trade rules. Neo-liberalism is a driving force where corporations exploit natural resources and workforce. The profits made locally are transferred far away from the affected people and the environment that have enabled them. Instead, local communities are left with the consequences of negative impacts of extractives, agri-businesses and other environmentally damaging activities. This is worsened by patriarchal structures that allow the reproduction of capitalism. Women and other groups being marginalised based on class, ethnicity, sexual orientation and other forms of discrimination are disproportionately affected. The ones contributing the least to environmental damage are most likely to be the most affected by climate change and other forms of environmental degradation. Natural resources but also environmental burdens are unequally distributed both locally and globally.

A sustainable development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs, involves all sectors of society including health and well-being and achieving gender equality. In some parts of the world, the onset of puberty equals adulthood, and disproportionate responsibilities are placed on young girls, including heavy domestic labour, forced marriage, the onset of sexual activity, and consequently, early childbearing. This has far-reaching repercussions for health and sustainable development. Sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) are human rights, and all genders' abilities to fully exercise them is key to sustainable development.

Afrikagrupperna's vision of a just world speaks to the wellbeing of all; more equal societies that in total use fewer resources; different ways of production, distribution, consumption and waste. In Southern Africa (as well as around the world), local people continue to resist against extractives in defence for their water, territory, human rights and livelihoods. They are challenging the uneven power dynamics, unjust distribution and unsustainable use of natural resources.

4. Approaches

In order to carry out our work and reach our objectives, closely linked to and based on our guiding principles, we apply the following approaches.

Rights-based approach

Afrikagrupperna expands on the rights-based approach to focus on supporting agency and emancipatory praxis because of the limitations of the state to protect and promote people's rights. Emancipatory praxis is inspired by Paulo Freire's innovative approach to education. Freire outlines a theory of oppression and points to how liberation can be achieved. In his view, the key to this is the awakening of critical awareness within the individual and/or collective leading to agency, reflection, learning and action. Everywhere, even in consolidated democracies, we see that the realisation of people's rights is a continuous struggle for recognition. For this reason, we will continue to support organisations advocating for human rights and highlighting violations of human rights. We support organisations with a close connection to the ground and their constituencies. Our partner organisations support agency and emancipatory praxis to enable rights-holders to claim their rights and to apply pressure on duty-bearers to fulfil their duties. Existing laws and declarations can be used as leverages in this work and as support for awareness-raising about human rights.

In practice, we support the mobilisation of people who are directly affected and will benefit from a change, applying the principle "*Nothing about us, or for us, without us*". Those affected should be the drivers for change and the ones setting the agenda. Afrikagrupperna takes targeted action to work with and amplify the voices of people on the ground and is respectful of the way people choose to organise themselves locally. We also invite partners to influence our decisions. One concrete example of how we apply an emancipatory praxis is our work with participatory communication. Our purpose with this is to guarantee ownership for all parties involved in all steps in the communication chain/circle. It is fundamental to create conditions and possibilities for right holders, members and activists from our partner organisations to communicate their messages themselves.

Organising & Mobilisation

Change will not automatically be promoted by privileged people or people in power. It must be driven by rights-holders, especially people being marginalised and living in poverty. Civil society organisations have an important role to play in this. However, a process of change always begins in people's own engagement and organising efforts. Increasingly, people at the grassroots level must be the driving force in efforts to change their living conditions, as well as in the broader work for structural change. Boosting people at grassroots level includes supporting the building of capacity and consciousness, finding ways to access tools and resources for change, as well as developing a political understanding of society and processes and an ability to act for change.

Therefore, an important approach used in our work is to promote and support the mobilisation and organisation of people, including movement building, thus strengthening civil society. We mobilise and encourage activism in Sweden in support of our broader work for structural change. Afrikagrupperna recognises fundraising as a possibility for the general public to engage and support our work. We mobilise private donors spread across the country and strive to broaden the range of fundraising possibilities. Afrikagrupperna interacts with multiple constituencies and therefore has many stakeholders, such as institutions, politicians, organisations and networks, in Sweden and internationally. We connect global and local struggles, movements and individuals using digital tools to amplify the messages.

Afrikagrupperna believes organising is a key force for change, hence our approach is to develop our ability to support mobilisation and organisation, movements and other agents of change. We focus especially on finding and linking vibrant women's and youth movements in Southern Africa. We will continue to support existing local and global networks and solidarity initiatives, focusing on creating spaces. We will also investigate the possibilities of new ways of creating platforms for engagements.

Partnership & Cooperation

Afrikagrupperna provides core support to partner organisations with shared goals and values. Despite core support being our first choice, we provide project funding or support activities when appropriate (for example our support to movements or collectives). Afrikagrupperna also encourages and facilitates dialogue around issues or challenges of mutual concern, learning and accountability. The demographics of the Southern Africa region shows a young population, hence Afrikagrupperna needs to reach out and partner with youth-led movements and organisations focusing on children and youth.

Afrikagrupperna has chosen not to be an implementing organisation outside Sweden and therefore collaborates and supports organisations' own agendas and their institutions. We provide long-term financial support to partner organisations that share our values and vision. Having made that strategic choice, choosing the right partner organisations is extremely important. Even if Afrikagrupperna gives support to many different types and sizes of organisations and movements they all work towards changing power structures. This work comes with great risks, hence finding ways to navigate in areas of conflict including

appropriate support to organisations and activists is very high on our agenda. It is also crucial for Afrikagrupperna to ally itself with strategic stakeholders in other ways than providing financial support. This includes, for example, collaboration with researchers or journalists, and inviting representatives from academia, movements and organisations to our meetings and platforms.

Knowledge & Awareness

Internal knowledge and competence building are necessary in order to remain relevant as an organisation, to reassess problems and to engage in advocacy. Our partner organisations are an invaluable source of knowledge, and as we are supporting organisations in several countries in Southern Africa, we are in a good position to collate information and analyse it through a regional lens. As a knowledge-driven organisation, based on the circle of solidarity, we aim to remove hierarchical barriers and promote the dissemination of knowledge. The work carried out by members increases knowledge and awareness and thereby generates support for change in Sweden that can impact the conditions in Southern Africa. We strive to continuously share knowledge between Afrikagrupperna and partner organisations. An important method for this is creating platforms and spaces for partner organisations to meet and exchange best practices, experiences and develop ideas. Afrikagrupperna strategically chooses partners that build and share knowledge, especially when it comes to raising awareness of human rights and how to demand those rights from duty-bearers. Building and sharing knowledge includes learning and reflections from the past. Therefore, documentation of past experiences by us and our partner organisations is crucial.

One of Afrikagrupperna's most important resources is its staff. Members of staff should have a broad mix of competencies and experiences and be encouraged to continuously keep their knowledge up to date. The working climate should create space for participation, creativity and individual growth within the lines of accountability. Individual competence and experiences should be used most efficiently.

Advocacy

The successful influencing of politicians, policymakers and other stakeholders to effect change at policy level demands strong and well-grounded advocacy work based on concrete examples, evidence and authentic cases. These messages should ideally be delivered directly by the people affected by injustice. Therefore, when possible, we support them to bring their demands to the decision-makers, both locally and globally.

Afrikagrupperna will actively campaign and advocate for the deconstruction of unfair power structures and policy development through awareness-raising activities and strong allyships. We will advocate and lobby for gender sensitive international laws and regulations, including their implementation to strengthen rights relating to our focus areas and/or principles, including a free Western Sahara. We will make sure we partake in advocacy linked to the

awareness-raising perspective among the general public in Sweden meanwhile, lobbying is more specific, targeting decision-makers, and other stakeholders with power.

For the duration of this Strategic Plan, Afrikagrupperna will continue to cooperate with, and contribute to, existing alliances within Swedish and European civil society. This adds leverage to our messages and our advocacy efforts. In Sweden and the EU, we will continue our information and advocacy work by linking the causes and symptoms of poverty and injustices. We will continue to base our advocacy work on evidence provided by our partner organisations.

5. Impact Objectives

Afrikagrupperna aims to create long-term effect within different focus areas, all of them with clear connections to Agenda 2030. Guided by our principles, and by applying our different approaches, we will work with the strategic focus areas captured in our 8 impact objectives presented below. The impact objectives are operationalised into outcomes presented in our different operational plans.

Impact Objectives
1. Contribute to strong, inclusive and vivid civil societies
2. Support the struggle for democratic accountability and transparency at the local and global levels
3. Contribute to the sovereign control of resources by different constituencies, particularly women in local communities
4. Work towards sustainable production and consumption of natural resources, goods and services
5. Work towards environmental and climate justice
6. Contribute to gender equity and gender equality for everyone through an intersectional analysis of justice and needs
7. Contribute to strengthened right to bodily autonomy and full realisation of sexual and reproductive health and rights
8. Support solidarity movement building

1. Contribute to strong, inclusive and vivid civil societies

A strong civil society is a prerequisite for a functioning democracy. Civil society actors and organisations play an important role as watchdogs where governments and authorities are held accountable. Civil society actors are also pushing for agendas with progressive alternatives in re-shaping societies and systems. They also provide platforms for citizens where they can engage and where they can support each other.

Afrikagrupperna believes that ownership is key for organisations to be able to play this important democratic role. Organisations grounded in their own values with a clear vision of what they want to achieve are important when building strong civil societies. Hence, Afrikagrupperna supports a strong and independent civil society, simultaneously reinforcing our role as an important actor in civil society in Sweden. This is mainly done by increasing our capacity but also by providing funding and other types of support to civil society organisations in Southern Africa, allowing them to carry out planned strategies and operations without compromising their core values. This includes supporting organisations' institutional and internal systems which are needed to strengthen civil society.

Afrikagrupperna also encourages strong organisations to share knowledge and provide support to other organisations. In addition, Afrikagrupperna provides platforms and spaces for activists to meet and for multiple voices to be heard and strengthened. Our support to movement building also contributes to strengthening civil society and the opportunities for mobilisation on all levels.

2. Support the struggle for democratic accountability and transparency at the local and global levels

Afrikagrupperna's vision of a *just world* is informed by democracy, both ideologically and as a method to accomplish progress and development both within state institutions, organisation and society at large. In many of the focus and advocacy areas we are involved there are expectations on different stakeholders at the national (states, governments, municipalities, legal- and other institutions) and international levels (EU, UN, AU and other entities within both public and private sectors). State institutions should be accountable towards their citizens and should be responsible for guaranteeing basic needs and social services equally and for all.

Currently, the threat against democracy is reflected in the global political landscape often related to human rights, including SRHR, and the right to natural resources. Afrikagrupperna will keep and level up the demands and expectations on functioning democratic institutions and will expose the vulnerability in systems, such as the lack of transparency and other symptoms of shrinking democratic space, violations against the freedom of speech and assembly, the silencing of voices, threats, and violence.

Part of this work is Afrikagrupperna's continued support to liberation movements on the African continent stemming from the colonial era. This includes advocating for democracy, independence, and the recognition of Western Sahara's sovereignty at international level. Afrikagrupperna will support organisations advocating for democracy and human rights, denouncing violations of people's and communities' rights. The support includes contributing to the protection of and giving specific support to human rights defenders (including environmental human right defenders, femdefenders and LGBTIQ+) challenging

oppression and restrictions. Together with partners and stakeholders, we aim to find ways and means to, as far as possible, minimise the risks and contribute with concrete support such as legal assistance and protection when needed.

Important to bear in mind is that democracy is not only an end goal in itself but also a method in reaching a fair distribution of power and resources. Afrikagrupperna practises democracy, accountability and transparency and expects our partner organisations to do the same.

3. Contribute to the sovereign control of resources by different constituencies, particularly women in local communities

Increased commodification of nature has led to conflicts between companies and local communities who rely on natural resources for their livelihoods. Afrikagrupperna strives to contribute towards the sovereign control of resources by different constituencies, particularly women in local communities, by engaging with partners to ensure human rights are protected and communities have access, ownership, security and freedom over their natural resources and livelihood. Afrikagrupperna will continue to support local communities, and particularly women, organising themselves to resist the commodification of nature and unsustainable use of resources. This includes strengthened rights to land, food and water and enabling communities to say no to the establishment of extractive industries on their land. It is also relevant to strengthen local/rural food systems to support communities' livelihood and environmental sustainability which will have an impact in the struggle against climate crises.

Afrikagrupperna will work towards challenging the societal injustice regarding control of resources through an amplified intersectional analysis, supporting movement building and involvement of partners and members. This is also done through advocacy work towards legislation and policies that give priority to people and the environment over extraction and exploitation of resources, including the enforcement of consultations but also free, prior and informed consent of local communities. We will also advocate for, and ally with, movements engaged in Western Sahara's sovereign control of its natural resources.

4. Work towards sustainable production and consumption of natural resources, goods and services

Nature as well as the people working on and living close to production sites are the ones suffering most from the negative impacts of excessive consumption and unsustainable production of food, goods and services. Afrikagrupperna wants to contribute towards more sustainable consumption and production patterns. This is done by supporting the struggles of communities and environmental organisations fighting against the degradation of the environment connected to unsustainable extraction and processing of fuels, minerals and agro-commodities. It is also done by supporting sustainable alternatives and practices such as agro-ecology as a contribution towards sustainable food systems. The lived experiences of environmental degradation caused by production include water and air pollution leading

to health issues, damaged freshwater cycles, loss of biodiversity and destruction of important biotypes as well as of climate change. Unsustainable production also leads to negative social impacts such as land and water grabbing, displacement of communities, food insecurity, appalling working conditions and increased conflicts. Afrikagrupperna will continue to support workers and trade unions in their struggle for adequate and equal working conditions in the agricultural and health sector as well as for waste pickers, including the recognition and acknowledgement of their important contribution for sustainable waste management.

The work for achieving this impact also includes advocacy activities to address the causes of unsustainable production and consumption but also to increase the accountability and liability of businesses and to stop investments that are fuelling unsustainable industries. It also includes advocacy to encourage citizens to show solidarity and further push for change by using their consumer power to not enhance the unequal distribution of resources or to make a statement by boycotting or supporting certain products and services.

5. Work towards environmental and climate justice

The ones contributing the least to CO₂/greenhouse gas emissions are likely to be the most affected by climate change. Also, environmental degradation due to environmental damage is mostly affecting vulnerable communities. This is guiding Afrikagrupperna in all work related to the environment. We believe that the work relating to consumption and production as well as of the sovereign control of resources, mentioned above, will contribute to a more equal distribution of natural resources and environmental burdens and help the struggle against poverty and injustices. For example, we will explore and support alternative (food) production systems that contribute to sustainability and biodiversity. We will support and strengthen the struggles against multinational corporations' control over the food system. This also includes struggles against environmental degradation linked to production and consumption, including health issues, lived negative impacts and loss of biodiversity. We will also support and strengthen struggles for climate justice. We will support local initiatives on climate change mitigation and adaptation. This includes hands-on activities mitigating effects of floods, cyclones, wildfires and droughts.

Due to the global nature of this problem, we will continue to connect our international development cooperation with engagement in Sweden, amplifying voices closest to the issues, connecting global and local struggles, movements and individuals in southern Africa and Sweden and thereby create an ecosystem of engagement. This vision of circular mobilisation includes networking, solidarity actions, south-south, south-north and north-north exchanges, strategic collaborations with new actors and to tirelessly promote solidarity campaigns connected to multiple issues.

6. Contribute to gender equity and gender equality for everyone through an intersectional analysis of justice and needs

Afrikagrupperna aims to strengthen gender equity and gender equality through an intersectional lens. Gender equity means fairness of treatment for all genders according to their respective needs. We believe fair strategies and measures must be in place to make up for the historical oppression of women and other groups facing marginalisation. We will support feminist organising using an intersectional analysis and partnerships who contribute to this fundamental precondition for gender equality. This includes actions promoting systemic changes and fair distribution of resources, focusing on fair treatment of, and advantages for women. Intersectionality considers people's overlapping identities and experiences to understand the complexity of the prejudices they face. This means that we cannot talk about gender inequality as separate from inequality based on race, class, sexuality, or immigrant status. It is important to consider that some people are subject to all these inequalities.

Afrikagrupperna dares to challenge gender norms and expand possibilities for all. Harmful practices come from social norms and they can be changed. We will amplify intersectional feminism in our external representation and communication activities and challenge injustice through advocacy activities. This work also includes supporting the fight against patriarchal systems of oppression and demanding rights for girls, women, and gender-nonconforming people. We also support efforts to challenge norms, attitudes and stereotypes around gender and sexuality ensuring the right to be who you are regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics (SOGIESC), and to eliminate (sexual) gender-based violence and other harmful practices.

Women and people who do not conform to gender norms face discrimination, threats, and violations in all areas of life on a day-to-day basis. These issues are also linked to human rights defenders being threatened, the clampdown on civil society and conservative/religious authorities. Afrikagrupperna will collaborate at different levels to address the shrinking of civic space and attacks on human right defenders with a special focus on female defenders and LGBTIQ+ people.

7. Contribute to strengthened right to bodily autonomy and full realisation of sexual and reproductive health and rights

Afrikagrupperna works to advance SRHR of all people on the basis that dominant norms around gender and sexuality limit our ability to exercise agency, autonomy and take control over the decisions about our bodies and our lives. Sexuality is a core dimension of being human and SOGIESC issues are inseparable from SRHR.

One important aspect of this work is to support actions to eliminate (sexual) gender-based violence and other harmful practices in all areas (thematic as well as geographic) where we work, including forced unions, sexual harassment, sexual violence and sextortion. We will support efforts to improve SRHR for all, with a special focus on children and adolescents, in and out of school. These efforts include actions for access to information on SRHR in their

communities, including access to comprehensive sexuality education and youth friendly clinics and services. Our focus on children, adolescents and young adults mirrors the demographics of Southern Africa. We will also support efforts to increase access to inclusive SRHR services (including information, contraceptives, safe abortion, counselling, testing and treatment for HIV and other STI's) for women, girls, gender non-conforming and LGBTIQ+ people. These efforts include information on SRHR in communities and awareness on SOGIESC (sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics) among activists/health workers/clinic staff.

8. Support solidarity movement building

International solidarity is the backbone of Afrikagrupperna. In the international struggle, Afrikagrupperna is dependent on other organisations and movements. Only by having equal relationships and sharing experiences can we support and strengthen each other in this fight. Afrikagrupperna will continue to connect the work of our partner organisations in Southern Africa to communication, information, activism, fundraising and advocacy work in Sweden. We will also continue to create spaces for organisations, movements and activists to meet, network and build solidarity. All movements for justice – gender justice, racial justice, reproductive justice, climate justice, economic justice and more - are intertwined and indivisible. People affected by injustice and unequal standards of living must be the driving force in the efforts to change their circumstances and push for structural change. We want to enable connections between people and movements and allow them to grow organically. We want to support mobilisation at all levels – connecting local, national, regional and global struggles, movements and individuals. We will do this by joining solidarity actions; enabling south-south, south-north and north-north exchanges; and by strategic collaborations with new actors.

6. Final remarks

As stated in the beginning of this Strategic Plan: Fulfilling these impact objectives contributes to fair power structures and fair distribution of power, which brings us closer to our vision of a just world.

A luta continua!

Below the structure of our organisation is visualised to show how the different parts of Afrikagrupperna relate to each other and how we relate to other stakeholders.

