THE REPORT AT HAND IS A DETAILED NARRATION OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE AFRICAN CSO CONSULTATIVE MEETING ON THE ROAD TO THE 26TH CONFERENCE OF PARTIES AS HELD FROM 12TH TO 13TH JULY 2021 AT THE SHERATON HOTEL IN ABUJA, NIGERIA.
# Table of Contents

1.0 INTRODUCTION ...................................................................................................................................... 3

Participant’s and Objectives Description ........................................................................................................ 4

2.0 OPENING SESSION .................................................................................................................................. 5

2.1 Opening remarks – Dr. Mithika Mwenda – the Executive Director; Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) ................................................................................................................................. 5

2.2 Opening remarks – Wanjira Mathai - the Vice President and Regional Director for Africa at World Resource Institute (WRI) ................................................................................................................................. 6

2.3 Opening remarks – Raoul Kuoame, Climate Change Coordinator, ECOWAS ....................................... 7

2.4 Opening remarks – Mr. Harsen Nyambe – Head of Environment, Climate Change, Water and Land Management Division, Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture – African Union Commission African Union Commission .......................................................................................................................... 9

2.5 Opening remarks – Mrs. Hajia Sadatu – Focal Point, Implementation of Nigeria’s NDC – Federal Ministry of Environment, Nigeria .............................................................................................................................. 10

2.6 The 26th Conference of Parties Presidency Representative (UKAID) .................................................. 11

3.0 PRESENTATIONS AND PANEL DISCUSSIONS ........................................................................................ 12

3.1 PRESENTATION: State of affairs in Africa and the global climate policy processes in the countdown to COP 26 – Dr. James Murombedzi - Climate and Resource Governance Specialist – UN Economic Commission for Africa. ................................................................................................................................. 12

3.2 PANEL DISCUSSION: Outcomes of the SBSTA conference .................................................................. 15

3.3 PRESENTATION: Just Transition by Mr. Robert Muthami – FES Kenya .................................................. 20

3.4 PRESENTATION: The nexus between fair trade and climate justice – Mr. Martin Mubisi – Fair Trade Africa ........................................................................................................................................................... 21

3.5 PANEL DISCUSSION: The role of the youth in catalyzing climate action – moderated by Nisreen Elsaim ........................................................................................................................................................................... 23

3.6 PRESENTATION: The role of the African faith based organizations and institutions in climate justice advocacy – Rev. Dr. Ezekiel – Programmes Director All African Council of Churches ........................................................................... 24

4.0 Development of the African CSOs position to the 26th conference of parties – Group Work outcomes ........................................................................................................................................................................ 27

5.0 LAUNCH of the report on the impacts of Covid-19 on the implementation of the Nationally Determined Contributions in Africa Moderator: Salina Sanou, PACJA Head of Programmes ................................................. 29

Annex 1: Draft Africa CSO position for COP 26 ............................................................................................... 31

Africa’s Roadmap and key issues in the countdown to UNFCCC-COP26 ................................................................ 31
1.0 INTRODUCTION

After more than one year during which COVID-19 stalled critical decisions and actions, the 26th Conference of Parties (COP26) in Glasgow, UK, will be crucial in ramping momentum to address the climate emergency. Earlier this year, the UNFCCC Executive Secretary, Patricia Espinosa, advanced four elements that will constitute a successful COP26: (i) promises made to developing countries are kept, especially the pledge by developed nations to mobilize $100 billion in climate finance annually by 2020; (ii) governments wrap up outstanding items and negotiations to fully implement the Paris Agreement; (iii) countries lower emissions and raise climate ambition, not only concerning emission reductions but also increasing ambition in adapting and building resilience to the impacts of climate change; and (iv) no voice or solution is left behind, through re-engaging with observers and Non-Party Stakeholders in a unity of purpose.

Ahead of the UNFCCC COP 26 conference, African Civil Society Organisations (CSO) and other Non-State Actors (NSA) intend to press for an outcome that reflects the “special circumstances and needs of Africa” created by the injustices of climate change such as the disproportionate vulnerabilities and warming its people face despite insignificant contribution to global warming. In this regard, a successful COP26 will also deliver for Africa by triggering actions and financial flows that in addition to reducing emissions create thriving and resilient communities in every corner of the continent, however remote.

It is with this view in mind that the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) convened the African Civil Society Organizations’ (CSO’s) consultative meeting on the road to COP 26 on 12th and 13th July 2021 in Abuja, Nigeria to provide platform for airing the perspectives and expectations of different African stakeholders ahead of COP 26. The forum brought the public, private and non-profit sectors in the same room to strengthen capacities and harmonize strategies for engaging with pre-COP26 negotiation processes. The dialogue also generated key recommendations for a sustainable and low carbon COVID-19 recovery that addresses the full range of economic, social, health and environmental impacts sustained by the African people.
Participant’s and Objectives Description

Attended by 127 participants physically and 43 participants virtually, the African Civil Society Organizations’ (CSO’s) consultative meeting on the road to the 26th conference of parties aimed at achieving the following objectives;

I. To elucidate key issues, concerns and needs that are of priority to Africa ahead of COP 26.
II. To prepare African stakeholders for a meaningful engagement with pre-COP negotiations as well as nationally and globally led COVID – 19 recovery processes.
III. To develop a unified African CSO position ahead of COP 26 and share the same with the African leaders and negotiators.

The resultant participant’s list; including gender and age description of the participants; is annexed on the report.
2.0 OPENING SESSION

2.1 Opening remarks – Dr. Mithika Mwenda – the Executive Director; Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA)

While expressing his gratitude to the fellow African CSOs for the overwhelming attendance of the high level road to 26th Conference of Parties consultative meeting, Dr. Mithika highlighted the need to hammer out collective strategies that reflects African peoples’ shared needs, concerns, and desires ahead of COP26. He further highlighted the increasing climate crisis in the African continent leading to irreversible impacts including cyclones which devastated Southern Africa and to drought in Horn of Africa; unpredictable rains to shifting seasons in various ecosystems across continent; flash floods to desertification. Other silent yet very visible issues highlighted by Dr. Mithika included the widening financing gaps plunging the African continent into unsustainable debts thereby derailing the achievement of the aspiration of key plans of the continent including the ones highlighted in the African Development Agenda 2063 despite decades of strong declarations and promises, the international community has yet to fully respond to the unique needs and special circumstances of African countries.

Figure 1: Dr. Mithika Mwenda – the Executive Director; Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) giving his opening remarks during the African CSOs consultative meeting on the road to the 26th Conference of Parties. Photo Credits: PACJA Comms Team
While concluding his opening remarks, Dr. Mithika shared his thoughts on how the global dialogue leading to COP26 can deliver for Africa as follows;

- Africa must be at the centre of negotiations. Parts of the continent are already warming at a rate that is twice the global average. Even if we met the targets of the Paris Agreement, Africa would suffer most from the so-called runaway climate change. Therefore, issues related to adaptation and loss and damage, which have unfortunately been endlessly pushed to the margins, must be fully addressed. Equally, new long term targets for climate finance must prioritise the implementation of NDCs in Africa.

- Climate action must now be tailored to change the situation of poor communities. As COVID-19 has demonstrated, high concentrations of vulnerability amplify the negative effects of global crises and make them more expensive to address.

- Steps must be taken to increase the effective participation of Africa in climate decision and policy making, through healthy and safe in-person meetings. Current discussions about virtual negotiations fail to consider the unreliability of power supply, internet connectivity and access to technologies that will undermine the full participation of African countries and deprive the continent of opportunities to advance its interests.

As such, Dr. Mithika, recounting on the infrastructural challenges Africa is faced with such as power issues, limited access to internet and general technology access and alive to the discussions with the Africa Group of Negotiators on procedural justice, one more time pointed out the impossibility and the stand against a virtual COP by the African constituency.

2.2 Opening remarks – Wanjira Mathai - the Vice President and Regional Director for Africa at World Resource Institute (WRI)
Providing her opening remarks virtually during the African CSOs consultative meeting on the road to the 26th Conference of Parties, Mrs. Wanjira Mathai stressed on the importance of prioritization of the climate agenda for Africa given the increasing challenges the continent was already seeing as a result of climate change despite contributing the least to the cause of climate change. She further stressed on the need to build solidarity and a common position to the 26th conference of parties in Glasgow, United Kingdom to ensure that the African
continent achieves resilience amongst her people, societies and economies.

“the impacts of climate change are today far reaching in Africa, we must reflect and start active policy outreach highlighting the various impacts and damages this has on our people and economy.” Wanjira Mathai.

2.3 Opening remarks – Raoul Kuoame, Climate Change Coordinator, ECOWAS

Joining virtually, Mr. Raoul Kuoame provided an outline of the international Post Paris and climate change negotiation and dialogue process with key milestones including the landmark adoption of the Paris Agreement in 2015 in Paris France with a goal of limiting global temperatures at 2 degrees or well below 1.5 degrees celcius.
To achieve the agreement; Mr. Kuoame recounted; the global community agreed to adopt the nationally determined contributions as means of implementing climate action initiatives at the national levels. To this regard, Mr. Kuoame reported that all the ECOWAS member states had ratified the Paris Agreement and most if not all were in the process of reviewing and revising their NDCs to be more ambitious considering the raging impacts of climate change in the region. Other issues under the directorate of climate change at ECOWAS as reported by Mr. Kuoame included;

- Internal and regional negotiations to gather a stand on transparency mechanisms in line with the Paris Agreement ahead of COP 26
- Consolidation of member states views on article 6 of the Paris Agreement ahead of COP 26
- Consolidation of member states views on climate finance – including the need to increase adaption fund
- Consolidation of member states views on reporting periods on the implementation of the agreement and mitigation timeframe
- Planning for an ECOWAS member states 26th conference of parties preparatory meeting

In concluding, Mr. Kuoame hinted that in partnership with the region’s main stakeholders, ECOWAS had developed a west African regional climate change strategy to guide climate change response in the region to be presented at the 26th Conference of Parties in Glasgow.
2.4 Opening remarks – Mr. Harsen Nyambe – Head of Environment, Climate Change, Water and Land Management Division, Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture – African Union Commission African Union Commission.

In his remarks, Mr. Harsen Nyambe indicated that Africa is bleeding from the double from the double effects of climate crisis and COVID-19 due to the following reasons;

Africa spends limited resources (about 6% of Africa’s GDP) to respond to the impacts of climate change yet it contributes the least to the crisis – this might end up crippling the economy of the continent. Furthermore, the continent’s borrowing and the increased debt will be a challenge to service and might lead to generational debt burden. He also mentioned that the AU’s annual review report pointed that the increasing infrastructure in Africa are not climate resilient hence the question on climate justice in Africa and the Africans. The impact of climate change in Africa is seemingly making Africa forgo its development agenda to shift to climate change response despite Africa’s negligible contribution to the global emissions.
Despite the outlined challenges, Mr. Nyambe explained that Africa was already being pushed to the concept of just transition notwithstanding the knowledge that:

- the continent requires a little more time to transit and the non-compliance of the global west to the USD 100 billion pledge to deal with the impacts of climate change
- African countries’ nationally determined contributions being extralry ambitious and the same trend not being followed by the global west
- African countries’ national budgets being unable to finance the implementation of the already ambitious nationally determined contributions

To counter the challenges above, Mr. Nyambe suggested that there is an urgent need for the continent to negotiate just transition while providing clear conditions to achieve just transition through preparation and involvement of all stakeholders at the climate change and development conference of Africa.

2.5 Opening remarks – Mrs. Hajia Sadatu – Focal Point, Implementation of Nigeria’s NDC – Federal Ministry of Environment, Nigeria

While giving her welcoming remarks, Mrs. Hajia Sadatu; the Focal Person for the Implementation of Nigeria’s NDC from the Federal Ministry of Environment of the Nigerian government indicated that an interim report (NDC) on the Nigerian government had been shared with UNFCCC inclusive of all the stakeholders input.
Amongst the changes in the revised Nigerian nationally determined contribution as presented by Mrs. Hajia Sadatu included:

- Improvement from 5 to 7 sectors including the addition of water, sanitation and hygiene sector in the NDC; thanks to CSDVNET and PACJA
- Inclusion of just transition and energy sectors including prioritization of clean cooking
- Inclusion of youth, NDAs and CSOs as implementing partners in the NDCs

### 2.6 The 26th Conference of Parties Presidency Representative (UKAID)

Recognizing that the world is headed towards a catastrophic impact of climate change, the representative of the 26th conference of parties highlighted the need for Africa to face the negotiations well aware of the continent’s increasing fragility and uniqueness – which was notably recognized by the host of the 26th COP. Some of the identified lobbying points for Africa identified by the 26th conference of parties’ presidency representative included;

- The need for increased commitment to adaptation by the developed member states
- Increased and facilitated access to climate finance and renewed commitment to the contribution of the USD 100 Billion dollars in order to achieve both adaptation and mitigation financing
- Enhanced partnership by all actors including the governments, non-state actors and the private sector in the fight against climate crisis and commitment to the global 2 degrees Celsius or the well below 1.5 degrees’ Celsius goal.

3.0 PRESENTATIONS AND PANEL DISCUSSIONS

3.1 PRESENTATION: State of affairs in Africa and the global climate policy processes in the countdown to COP 26 – Dr. James Murombedzi - Climate and Resource Governance Specialist – UN Economic Commission for Africa.

In his remarks, Dr. Murombedzi pointed out that the 26th conference of parties marks a very important event in the body of global climate change negotiation processes, given the increasing yet unevenly distributed impacts of climate change in the African economies, societies and people.
As a result of the increasing extreme climate events in the African continent, successful climate negotiation would be very important to Africa as it could provide a renewed commitment support both mitigation and adaptation by increasing ambition for mitigation, increasing adaptation financing and enhancing financing for technology transfer and capacity building.

In order to build Africa’s resilience post-covid-19, Dr. Murombedzi noted that Covid recovery plans must be tailored to meet sustainable development goals and mostly the reduction of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere while tailoring investments to be carbon neutral. He also mentioned that African CSOs amongst other stakeholders must question the availability of financial resources to support green recovery post Covid – 19.

In terms of Climate Finance, Dr. Murombedzi pointed out that the commitment to replenish the GCF still in limbo, the promise to contribute the USD 100 billion is yet to be met and with the increasingly limited accountability on the amounts provided to the African continent, African CSOs must stand their ground to shape the trajectory of climate finance as follows;
- Demand for honouring of the USD 100 billion and subsequent annual contribution of similar amount by the developed states
- Weigh the USD 100 billion commitment against the losses and damages alongside the other injustices caused by climate change and determine its adequacy
- Push for clear definition of climate finance with a possibility of establishing and appropriate governance structure for both climate change and climate finance
- Demand for innovative climate financing including through green and blue bonds
- Negotiate for debt reliefs while adequately negotiating article 6 of the Paris agreement to regulate carbon markets
- Begin to negotiate from the stand points of what is going to be needed for Africa to justly transit with the evidence provided on the WMO state of climate change in Africa report.

PLENARY SESSION – Moderated by Eugene Nfornwga and Charles Mwangi – Thematic leads – PACJA

Dr. Mithika asked how ACPC and ClimDev are linking the state of affairs of climate change in Africa and the world to develop a common African position at the oncoming conference of climate change and development in Africa (CCDA).

In his response, Dr. Murombedzi indicated that there were various processes ongoing to support an African position. Such processes; he mentioned; included the 9th CCDA; an initiative of the African Development Bank amongst other stakeholders to shape resilient development in the continent and promote an inter African Dialogue towards the conference of parties.

With the 9th CCDA focusing on just transition, financing Africa NDCs and article 6 on carbon markets among others, Dr. Murombedzi indicated that there was need for the African CSOs to find opportunities for supporting policies that would regulate just transition in the continent including financing of the same to ensure the realization of the targets of the African countries’ nationally determined contributions. Other emerging issues towards CCDA for consideration included nature based solutions and Pre-CCDA initiatives.
In terms of the COVID-19, Dr. Murombedzi mentioned that UNECA is undertaking a comprehensive assessment on the impact of COVID in all Africa economies and what it takes to support a green recovery in Africa.

The issue of natural gas and coal in Africa was also discussed and it was evident from the discussions that Africa has contributed the least to climate change because there is limited investment in fossil fuels or carbon intensive resources. It is however obvious that there is a clear link between fossil fuels and GDP but Africa cannot claim to develop using fossil fuels. The Africa Union is however pushing for the use of natural gas as a transitional gas for development.

3.2 PANEL DISCUSSION: Outcomes of the SBSTA conference

Panelists: Tracy Sonny, Nisreen Elsaim, Dr. Augustine Njamnshi and Mrs. Hajia Sadatu

Mrs. Hajia Sadatu from the federal government of Nigeria elaborated the process and experience in updating of the Nigerian nationally determined contribution as follows;

- The updating of the Nigerian NDC was officially launched on 5th March 2020 through a multistakeholder platform convened by the ministry
- The aim of the government was to get as much divergent experience and opinion as possible throughout of the process as opposed to the initial NDC that was rushed to meet the deadlines of the UNFCCC
- Most notably, the new Nigerian NDC is premised on credible evidence on vulnerabilities of the country, much aligned to the adaptation priorities of the country, keen on gender and social inclusion and aligned with the national strategies and COVID – 19 recovery plans with a strong coordination framework.

- Moreover, the government also produced a tool for mainstreaming NDC in national plans for civil servants training to enhance the implementation of the newly developed NDC.

- The power and ability of the private sector in the implementation of NDCs was equally considered in the development process hence a full component on private sector action on the implementation of the nationally determined contributions.

- To obtain the required political buy in necessary for the implementation of the Nigerian nationally determined contributions, parliamentarians were intentionally involved in the revision and updating processes despite the challenges of virtual meetings.
Experience of the virtual UNFCCC SBSTA negotiations- Tracy Sonny and Nisreen Elsaim.

While providing the updates of the experience of the SABSTA negotiations, Mrs. Tracy highlighted technical difficulties with the virtual conference as well as fatigue given the difference in time zones rendering it difficult for Africa to effectively participate in the negotiations. A lot of issues were not discussed substantially and there were a lot of informal notes to be discussed at COP 26. Tracy also mentioned that a lot of key issues, mostly of concern to Africa like adaptation and loss and damage and climate finance were either unresolved or missing in the agenda.

On the other hand, Nisreen Elsaim, a junior negotiator under the AGN provided the following updates on the SBSTA virtual conference;

- There was no progress made at the negotiations. The actual intention was to refresh the discussions
- Although there was no negotiating text, there were informal notes for the co-facilitatoes at the end which shall form the basis of the COP discussions
- Increased challenges as a result of virtual negotiations – African continent continuously lagging behind

Figure 8: Mrs. Nisreen Elsaim sharing the experience of the SBSTA negotiations in Sham El Sheikh during the African CSOs road to COP 26 in Abuja Nigeria. Photo Credits PACJA Comms

Evaluation of the gains, loses and opportunities from the AGN meeting in Sham El Sheikh – Augustine Njamnshi

Recognizing the twin challenge of climate crisis and the prevailing Covid – 19, Mr. Augustine shared the following gains, loses and opportunities from the AGN meeting in Sham El Sheikh;

- The re-joining of the Paris by the United States of America presented a huge opportunity to the body of climate change governance processes – African constituents need to utilize this in ensuring the global commitment to the GCF is achieved.

- The negotiations in and around article 6 of the Paris agreement still revolved around market mechanisms, a condition which needed heightened advocacy for enhanced reference to non-markets in the article in order to propagate equal advantages to the African continent.

- The fact that the 27th conference of parties will be in Africa requires early planning to exploit on the low hanging fruits for the continent.
PLENARY SESSION: Moderated by Eugene Nforngwa, PACJA

The following is a summary of discussions and reactions that came from the participants following the panel discussion on the outcomes of SABSTA;

- There’s an urgent need to define climate finance to ensure the African continent is at the centre of discussions as regards the topic
- Need to ensure that climate finance meets the needs of the developing countries both through adaptation and mitigation targets; while pushing for mobilization of support for the implementation of NDCs especially of the African countries
- We need to inspire and support our young people by building capacities and transferring knowledge in order to enable them to take the rightful spaces in the climate governance/negotiations
- Need for enhanced coordination of the civil society organizations
3.3 PRESENTATION: Just Transition by Mr. Robert Muthami – FES Kenya

In his presentation, Mr. Muthami mentioned that Just Transition is a tool aimed at smoothing the shift towards a more sustainable society and providing hope for the capacity of a green economy to sustain decent jobs and livelihoods for all. It is an opportunity to ensure planning security, create jobs, ensure social safety and sustainable development for regions, and strengthen public infrastructure. Pursuing just transition in the context of the African continent presents an opportunity for ensuring the continent finds climate justice.

In order to achieve the targets of just transition, the continent must;

- Move fast – with the increasing threats of climate change both in Kenya and Sub Saharan Africa, there is a general need to move fast to avoid the catastrophic and or worst impacts of climate change; which can only be through just transition.

- Move just – just transition is about limiting negative impacts mostly felt by the marginalized and most affected in the communities whose voices go unheard locally, regionally and internationally

Additionally, Just Transition needs to be well contextualized - African countries need to position themselves well in the Just Transition policy discourse. Key issues to look at will include: What does Just Transition really mean in a specific context? How will Countries Champion Just Transition? What kind of partnerships are required? Who is already working on Just Transition? How do we work with other like-minded institutions? How do we collectively work on the issue through innovative initiatives?
Even so, to ensure that just transition achieves the intended goals, implications of just transition on the resilience of the African people must be relooked through a collaborative approach of the CSOs and social groups like the trade unions.

3.4 PRESENTATION: The nexus between fair trade and climate justice – Mr. Martin Mubisi – Fair Trade Africa

In his presentation, Mr. Mubisi noted that smallholder farmers are an essential component of our global food and farming systems and more than 500m small-scale farms provide over 80% of the food consumed in the Global South; contributing significantly to poverty reduction and global food security. Despite this, smallholder farmers are disproportionately threatened by poverty and hunger, and are among those most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

Mr. Mubisi indicated that Fairtrade is committed to advancing economic justice, and has deep concerns about the negative effects that climate change is having on smallholder farmers all over the world. Furthermore, he mentioned that trade justice is an important way to achieve climate justice, by prioritizing the needs of smallholder producers and taking into account their increased vulnerabilities. Empowering smallholder producers to access a fairer share of global value chains,
thus increasing their access to finance and knowledge to adapt and develop resilient modes of production.

Fair Trade encourages climate-friendly farming practices through a premium for organic production and promoting environmental stewardship; while strengthening the negotiating power of producers and workers and enhancing their individual and collective autonomy to rebalance the power within supply chains.

Fair Trade Support Climate Resilience: Small-scale farmers practicing regenerative, organic farming techniques and agroecology are some of our best hopes for sequestering carbon and feeding the world.

**PLENARY DISCUSSION on just transition and fair trade presentations—moderated by Charles Mwangi**

The following considerations were fronted during the panel discussions on the just transition and fair trade presentations;

- Need to mainstream fair trade issues on EFTFA
- Need for increased lobbying and advocacy on gender mainstreaming especially in both just transition and fair trade considering landlessness
- Need for increased youth participation in just transition as well as sustainable consumption as a concept of just transition.

3.5 PANEL DISCUSSION: The role of the youth in catalyzing climate action – moderated by Nisreen Elsaim

![Panel discussion on the role of the youth in climate justice during the African CSOs road to COP 26 in Abuja Nigeria. Photo Credits PACJA Comms](image)

Under this session, youth leaders from Kenya, Nigeria and Ivory Coast shared their experiences on how they are working with other youth’s in their country to catalyze climate action. In Kenya, Mr. Swaleh Abusaidy, a young climate activist from Kenya narrated how they are empowering commmunities through community resource persons. In Nigeria, CSDEVNET is working with Young Digital Actors (YDA’s) in their climate advocacy and awareness campaigns which has led to a strengthened youth movement. In Ivory Coast, the PACJA platform is working with young digital activists and regional coordoinators to amplify their climate advocacy work through networks and social media.
Some of the key outcomes of the youth involvement in climate justice advocacy included;

- Bottom up mobilization of the youth to spearhead advocacy and policy transformation
- Capacity building and awareness creation on climate justice
- Spearheading transformative agendas through creation of youth champions on climate justice
- Digital advocacy majorly through the young climate digital activists, community resource persons and thematic leads

3.6 PRESENTATION: The role of the African faith based organizations and institutions in climate justice advocacy – Rev. Dr. Ezekiel – Programmes Director of Programs All African Council of Churches

The following position was presented by Rev. Dr. Ezekiel – Programmes Director All African Council of Churches as the outcomes of the faith institutions on climate justice advocacy to the 26th conference of parties having met in Addis Ababa Bole Ethiopia;

1. For the COP 26 Presidency
• Should bring back the trust and confidence that is needed in negotiations to urgently deal with climate crisis.
• Ensure that the climate negotiations take into consideration historical climate injustices in order to ensure accountability, serve justice and achieve reconciliation (transitional justice approach).
• Facilitate meaningful and effective engagement of faith communities in the COP processes as required in Article 12 of the Paris Agreement.

2. Developed countries parties
• Should enhance their ambitions to cut down Co2 emissions.
• Realize their commitments on climate financing in accordance with Article 9 of the Paris agreement for African governments to meet their commitments (mitigation) and build their resilience to climate change (adaptation).
• Ensure meaningful technology transfer, innovation and capacity building to support a just transition system.

3. African governments
• Mainstream climate change in development planning to achieve Paris Agreement commitments.
• Develop mechanisms for domestic resources mobilization.
• Enact and enforce laws and policies that are responsive to climate change
• COVID-19 recovery strategies should be aligned with Paris Agreement commitments especially in areas that contribute to achieving the NDCs targets.
• Ensure meaningful technology transfer, innovation and capacity building to support a just transition system.

4. UNFCCC Parties
• Recognition of faith actors as being the closest to the communities that suffer / are victims of loss and damage and call upon parties to hasten the operationalization of the Warsaw mechanisms on loss and damage and ensure sufficient funding to implement the same.

5. African Union (AU)
• To develop mechanisms of mutual accountability among governments.
• To collaborate with faith organisations to reach out to the grassroots.
• Ensure coordinated harmonization of all African parties participating in COP negotiations.
4.0 Development of the African CSOs position to the 26th conference of parties – Group Work outcomes

Technology Transfer
- support technology needs assessments
- as far as CTCN support education on technology
- support financing of technology transfer initiatives
- support African market for technology transfer

Climate Finance
- need to define who bears the cost for NDC implementation
- increased adaptation and loss and damage financing
- enhance access to climate finance especially in Africa
- enhanced transparency on climate financing
- need for predictable financing
- support and enhance capacity on access to climate finance

Gender Mainstreaming
- support gender mainstreaming in climate governance processes
- support the implementation of the Madrid plan
- support and mentor women negotiators
- enhance adaptive capacity of women
- support engendered allocation of resources
- relax access to finance by women
- take gender into consideration while drafting Covid recovery plans
Special Niche for Africa
• enhance support for adaptation
• push for the 100 billion USD commitment
• support capacity building for access to climate finance
• push for support for adaptation and loss and damage
• push for representation of Africa at the negotiating tables

MVR
• increase the level of ambition to cutting down GHGs
• push for increased climate financing
• push for support for transparency and accountability
• push for increased unconditional commitments by developed nations
• push for the adoption of the rule book

capacity development
• enhance support for climate change adaptation capacity development initiatives
• push for enhanced locally led adaptation initiatives for the African continent
• support and push for increased resources for capacity development
5.0 LAUNCH of the report on the impacts of Covid-19 on the implementation of the Nationally Determined Contributions in Africa
Moderator: Salina Sanou, PACJA Head of Programmes

This session focused on launching a study that was undertaken by (PACJA) in partnership with the Glasgow Caledonia University’s Centre for Climate Justice and academic partners from eight African universities. The study that was undertaken in Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Morocco and South Africa sought to explore the impact of COVID-19 on the implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

In his remarks, Dr. Mithika stressed the importance of a COVID-19 recovery which anchors climate change and considers gains achieved on the transition to low carbon development pathway but also fair, equitable, ecologically just. According to Dr. Mithika, Climate change must be treated with the same level of urgency as the COVID-19 pandemic, and funding commitments towards climate action in Africa must not be stopped or curtailed despite economic fallout caused by the pandemic in wealthier nations.

In her key note speech, Prof Tahseem Tahseen Jafry, Director, Centre for Climate Justice, Glasgow Caledonian University mentioned that the study comes at a critical time right before COP26 and provides a good platform for African CSOs to amplify their voices and their role in the upcoming negotiations. She stressed how COVID-19 has now overlapped with the climate crisis in return bringing devastating impacts on people’s lives. The study therefore looks at the key challenges brought by COVID-19 in tackling the climate crisis and provides recommendations for climate action and implementation of the NDCs amid the pandemic.

According to the study, the public health restrictions placed on gatherings and face-to-face contact for consultations were singled out as the most devastating impact of the pandemic for the NDC development process, which caused “significant delays” while workarounds were developed. The economic impact of COVID-19 has also raised concerns about finance and allocation for conditional NDCs.

A number of interviewees observed that climate change, despite “ultimately being deadlier than the COVID-19 pandemic”, has failed to elicit the same level of
urgency among governments and civil society. It was suggested that climate change should receive the same kind of attention from decision makers. The study recommends treating climate change with the same severity as COVID-19, replicating the real-time reporting used during the pandemic for climate disasters, as well as adopting a precautionary approach to climate policy and programming.

The study also indicated that the Civil Society has a major role to play in shaping the implementation and raising the ambition for NDCs and Climate action.

During the event, there was a panel of researchers involved in the study to explore the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on climate action and the development and implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) from the perspective of African organisations. The following is a summary of key takeaways/reflections from the panel discussion;

- COP 26 presents a very good opportunity to share the key findings from the study and PACJA was encouraged to host a side event in order to showcase to a wide range of audience
- The findings from the study can form the basis of the CSO advocacy especially now that countries are in the process of revising their NDCs
- The study reveals that the funds meant to implement NDCs have been reallocated to address the COVID-19 crisis- we need to readjust ourselves and change our advocacy tactics coupled with public diplomacy to ensure the recommendations from this study are taken forward
- The study has revealed that Africa organizations are in the frontline in addressing climate change
- Countries need to develop implementation plans for each of the sectors under NDCs and CSOs can help in tracking the progress of the commitments as part of their advocacy
- Governments should try as much as possible to commit resources needed for the implementation of the unconditional commitments in their NDCs
- Climate change is equally an emergency as COVID-19. If countries are mobilizing funds to address the pandemic, they should also mobilize funds for climate change
Annex 1: Draft Africa CSO position for COP 26

Africa’s Roadmap and key issues in the countdown to UNFCCC-COP26

Introduction

On 19 April 2021, UN Secretary-General António Guterres warned that “time is fast running out to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement, as a new State of the Global Climate Report by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) showed that 2020 was one of three warmest years on record. ‘The global average temperature in 2020 was about 1.2-degree Celsius above pre-industrial level... “dangerously close” to the 1.5-degree Celsius limit advocated by scientists to stave off the worst impacts of climate change,’ said the UN in a statement. Despite a temporary dip observed in 2020 due to COVID-19-related economic restrictions, the WMO report notes that the emission of major greenhouse gases has kept rising. “We need to do more, and faster, now,” Mr Guterres said.

The alarm sounded by the UN Secretary General, who has become almost a lone voice to the obstinate global leaders who have undeniably prioritised domestic, inward-looking populist demands in place of science-based, planet-saving actions, builds on several other warnings, which have pointed that the current levels of emission reduction pledges will lead to a global mean temperature rise of more than 30 C this century, twice the recommended 1.50 C needed to keep life on Earth bearable. Equally, “huge gaps remain in [adaptation] finance for developing countries and bringing adaptation projects to the stage where they bring real protection against climate impacts such as droughts, floods and sea-level rise,” according to UN Environment.

The global public health crisis occasioned by COVID-19 has exacerbated an already dire situation particularly in the global South and Africa in particular, where restrictions imposed around the world to deal with the pandemic have resulted in broken supply chains, limited market access for millions, set off inflation in many countries and undermined livelihoods for the most marginal in society. As estimated by the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), COVID-19 could potentially cause GDP to drop from 3.2 per cent to 1.8 per cent and put more than 250 million jobs in the urban informal sector across the continent at risk. Ongoing
recovery plans can only be deemed successful if they address the climate and health emergency integrally.

This is the context with which the global community finds itself as conversations around the COP26, which was postponed to 2021 due to the pandemic, gathers steam. Though the clouds of uncertainty still linger across the world, consultations spearheaded by the COP26 Presidency-designate as well as the UNFCCC Secretariat, have kept the momentum high and some levels of optimism that the north-south divide that almost collapsed the COP25 in Madrid will be closed.

And for the African continent and its people, the breakdown of COVID-19 and its aftermath to the global economies is a stark reminder to the global community that there will come a time when the entire humanity will be put at the same scale irrespective of the level of technological sophistication, resources, race or region. The global shutdown and the trillions of Dollars mobilized within record time to tackle the pandemic signaled that with political will, those who bear the biggest responsibility to address climate crisis have ability to raise sufficient resources to build resilience of communities and the acceleration of actions towards net zero emissions at the turn of the century.

Africa’s roadmap to COP26 thus seeks to galvanise the continent into a strongly collective voice capable of securing major victories in the UNFCCC negotiations that redefining global economies in a manner only witnessed during the industrial revolution of 1880s.

Meeting in Abuja on 13 and 14 July 2021, over a hundred representatives of African CSO, under the umbrella of the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance made the following observations:

1. Adaptation and loss and damage continues to remain low on the list of priorities in global climate action, despite strong evidence of the devastating impact of extreme climate and weather events on African people and economies. As a vulnerability hotspot, Africa faces a wider adaptation gap than the rest of the world, with far-reaching impacts already being felt in agriculture, health, infrastructure, and livelihoods. Floods and cyclones have killed more than 1000 people and affected millions on the continent in the past few years alone. Since 2012, the number of undernourished people in drought-prone parts of Africa has
increased by 44 per cent, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization. Excluding the negative impacts on economic growth, the World Health Organization estimates that climate change will cause 250,000 additional deaths, globally but mostly in Africa, between 2030 and 2050 from factors such as malnutrition, heat stress and malaria. The World Bank also warns that climate change could push 100 million people into extreme poverty – again mostly in Africa – by 2030.

Yet, discussions of adaptation and loss and damage were rushed during the SBs due to limitation of virtual negotiations.

2. Emission reduction pledges are way off mark: Combined, current emission reduction pledges only amount to a one per cent drop in emissions between 2010 and 2030 – way off the 45 per cent mark projected by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) as needed to keep global warming at 1.50°C this century. The UN emission Gap report: with the current levels emissions the world is on track to exceed 3°C this century. This is way off the two-degree (and 1.5 ambition) target of the Paris Agreement – at which, Africa is still expected to experience a dangerous level of warming, droughts and floods.

3. In his speech, the UN secretary general has indicated the need for countries to submit ambitious new nationally determined contributions (NDCs) that were designed by the Paris Agreement; he indicated that the countries’ climate plans for the next 10 years must be much more efficient. The African civil societies reiterate this call by the UN secretary general and demand for meaningful emission reduction commitments by parties

4. Africa’s special circumstances and needs are yet to be fully addressed in global climate change negotiations. Despite accounting for barely four per cent of global emissions, African is both the region that is most vulnerable to and the least capable of protecting itself from the adverse impacts of climate change. Currently estimated to be warming 1.5 times faster than the global mean, the region is also experiencing
disproportionate exposures to climate risks, which will worsen in a three-degree-future. African negotiators have requested and failed to obtain any acknowledgement of the needs of the continent, which since the Paris Agreement, is no longer part of the least developed countries and island development states.

5. Current COVID-19 travel protocols in the United Kingdom are disproportionately disadvantageous to many African countries on the so-called red list. On 15 April, the UN, the UK and representatives of developed and developing countries agreed to hold virtual negotiations from late May and mid-June. As COVID-19 restriction remain generally stringent across parts of the world, the idea of virtual negotiations – and potentially COP – had become both prominent and popular, especially in the north. But they fail to acknowledge Africa’s low capacity to participate in virtual negotiations due to weak infrastructure (energy access, internet connectivity and lack of gadgets), the remote location of most of its constituents and time zone differences. However well-intended and organised, virtual negotiations will disenfranchise the Africans at forefront of climate change impacts and create procedural injustices that will be difficult to repair. The meeting welcomed assurances that COP26 will be held in person but expressed worry that many Africans will be unable to attend, if current the UK’s COVID-19-related travel restrictions remain in place.

6. The non-market component of Article 6 (Art 6.8) is yet to draw the kind of attention and progress seen with market mechanism. Article 6 presents a great opportunity for cooperation, for clean development and show the spirit and willingness to continue the path of the original climate change convention between the developed and developing countries, while keeping the targets of lowering emissions in mind. However, the previous SB sessions proved that the business interest is higher on the agenda, of especially northern Parties, than the spirit of cooperation.

7. Developed countries have repeatedly failed to fulfil every financial pledge, notably the $100 in support first pledged in 2009 and reaffirmed
in 2015; and adaptation finance remains disproportionately smaller than mitigation finance.

Having so observed, the CSO delegates adopted the following position:

- Adaptation remains crucially important to the African continent, which already experiences devastating impacts of climate change. Call on Parties to dedicate sufficient time and resources to discussing and addressing adaptation issues, especially in Africa.

- Developed countries do need to reduce emissions, they must do so, given that they have and continue to emit the vast majority of greenhouse gasses and benefit from doing so. Therefore, demand that developed countries lead the way in raising the mitigation ambition to levels that are commensurate with limiting global warming at 1.5 degrees this century.

- Africa’s special needs and circumstances are not privileges but actual requirements for the survival of the continent that are based on science and lived experiences. We, therefore, call on Parties to acknowledge and integrate these needs and circumstances in UNFCCC decisions and texts.

- Discussions on Article 6 must be finalised and reflect the full range of issues addressed by the Article. Therefore, Parties must ensure that non-market components of the Article receive the same prominence and attention in UNFCCC discussions and decisions as market mechanisms.

- Ongoing COVID-19 recovery plans and strategies must reflect the urgency of addressing the climate emergency. Therefore, ask governments and multilateral agencies to design COVID-19 recovery strategies that are inclusive, ecologically-just, locally led and people responsive.

- Climate finance plays an important role in facilitating climate action for the developing Countries. We call on developed Country Parties to scale up climate finance towards the USD100 billion. We further call on Parties to consider the technical meaning of ‘mobilising’ climate finance. We recommend that Parties have a clear definition of climate finance and what it entails. We propose that Parties adopt, ‘providing finance’ in reference to mobilising finance. Mobilising finance means that Developing Countries
contribute to the 100 billion finance goal. We note with great concern that priorities may be misplaced with national development funds being diverted to climate finance.

- Integrating gender must remain central to UNFCCC processes and decisions. Call on Parties, to continue enhancing the integration gender considerations in UNFCCC processes; notably through the financing of the Gender Action Plan.

- Technology development and transfer plays a crucial role in ensuring effective implementation of Country climate change response actions. We therefore reiterate the concerns on the slow progress made on the Agenda. We urge Parties to speed up the process of improving work of the technology mechanism, and its support to the developing Countries.

- Need to drive emission reduction ambition under the Paris Agreement; particularly by “the original members of the Major Economies Forum on Climate and Energy, which together represent 80 per cent of global emissions and 80 per cent of global GDP”.

- A COP26 outcome that is desirable to the African people, and that is consistent with the continent's realities. After the failure of COP25 to deliver meaningful progress, Africa now counts on COP26 for a global climate policy and action framework that responds to their unique circumstances created by the injustices of disproportionate vulnerability, exposures to risks and
incapacity to protect itself without help – despite its insignificant contribution to climate change.

- Provision of sufficient finance to support African nations to meet their NDC targets which are largely conditional on external funding. We call upon industrialised countries to substantially increase climate finance flow to Africa and address the challenge of disproportionately small flow of desperately needed adaptation finance to Africa, which today stands at only 25%, despite the global commitment to raise it to at least 50%, at par with mitigation spending.

- Foster a low-carbon, just and equitable pandemic recovery that fully integrates climate change and the need to strengthen the resilience of African countries and communities, and other developing regions to minimize the adverse impact of major disruptions.

- Facilitate meaningful technology transfer and capacity building targeting the developing nations especially in renewable energy to address the energy needs of the African people by harnessing the already abundant natural resources like solar, geothermal and wind resources.

- Push for physical negations and COP to increase the participation of African governments and peoples, who would be otherwise cut off because of technological limitations, energy and internet access. In a recent letter to Parties, The Rt. Hon Alok Sharma, the COP26 President-Designate, observed that conversations he has had with countries and negotiating groups reinforce “the necessity of arriving in Glasgow in person.”

- On Article Six. Call on Parties to make progress holistically, placing equal importance on non-market approaches, which are more beneficial to African and other southern countries.

Key moments to drive Africa’s priorities and aspirations

1. G7 and G20 Meetings
2. UNFCCC SBI and SSBTA
3. Climate Change and Development in Africa Conference (CCDA-IX), Cape Verde
4. Commonwealth Heads of State and Governments Meeting, Kigali, Rwanda
5. AMCENT
6. AGN Meetings
7. AU special meetings
8. UN General Assembly
9. Individual convenings of stakeholders