REPORT OF THE AFRICAN ROUNDTABLE ON POST-COP26 REFLECTIONS AND COP27 STRATEGY

Cairo, Egypt

December 16 – 18, 2021
A. INTRODUCTION

This report is structured into sections summarizing the nature of deliberations, opportunities and challenges as the world shifts its focus to UNFCCC-COP27 set to be held in Egypt, key priorities for Civil society organizations’ advocacy work and action planning.

The report captures key deliberations and outcomes of the Roundtable convened in Cairo by the Pan African Climate Justice (PACJA) in collaboration with several other partners to take stock of the key outcomes of the 26th Conference of Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change COP26 held in Glasgow, UK last November. It highlights key achievements, misses and lessons out of the COP which was delayed for a year as a result of COVID-19 outbreak in March 2020.

The overall objective of the roundtable was to review, reflect and analyze the Glasgow Climate Change outcomes, and build broad consensus on a collective strategy for COP27. The specific objectives were:

1. To interrogate the main COP26 outcome, the Glasgow Climate Pact, and its implication for the Africa’s Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) implementation, overall climate action and pursuit for climate justice.
2. To explore and deliberate on converging areas of lobbying, advocacy and mobilization towards, during and beyond COP27 in Egypt.
3. To review and discuss the draft the roadmap towards COP27, identify and define the action agenda for different stakeholders.
4. To discuss and recommend “the COP27 African people want” for African Governments and partners.

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1 [Glasgow Climate Change Conference – October-November 2021 | UNFCCC](https://unfccc.int/home/cop26)
2 [The Glasgow Climate Pact – Key Outcomes from COP26 | UNFCCC](https://unfccc.int/cop26/)
The Roundtable aimed to achieve the following outcomes:

1. Collectivize understanding of the implication of the Glasgow Climate Pact to Africa’s Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) implementation, overall climate action and pursuit for climate justice for the continent.
2. State of affairs for Africa’s resilient pathways and strategies to implement the NDCs implementation from various Actors outlined.
3. Strategic approaches and key milestones, major events and activities towards COP27 are outlined.
4. A set of recommendations in the form of a communique “the COP27 African people want” to the COP Presidency discussed and adopted.

Scope of stakeholder participation:
This Roundtable adopted a hybrid model, and drew participants from across the 54 countries in Africa from National and International NGOs, CBOs, women’s movements, indigenous groups, the Private Sector, representatives from Governments and UN Bodies, research and academic institutions, Scholars and activists. In addition, a hundred (100) participants shared their reflections through online participation.

B. Key deliberations on Analysis of Key issues from Glasgow Climate Pact (COP 26)
This section provides topline presentations of key issues based on analysis of COP 26 and it is organized into sectors and contains an overview of general issues of discussions.

I. Adaptation:
Adaptation financing is critical for Africa. Africa should tackle adaptation pursuant to the global goal on adaptation by having clear mechanisms to track targets under adaptation beyond a work-plan on how to deliver on this. More funds are going into mitigation interventions and African governments must push for scaling up finance for

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3 COP26 Outcomes: Finance for Climate Adaptation | UNFCCC
adaptation. Notable in COP 26, success elements related to contributions of over US$350 Million being pledged to the Adaptation Fund, while pledges totaling US$600 million dollars were made to the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) is notable. The Standing committee on Finance will continue with the discussions on Long-Term Finance until 2027. Nevertheless, The Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) still lags behind. While Adaptation does not deliver profits for developed countries, investing in it will save lives in the Least Developed Countries. It is important to strengthen resilience and eradicate poverty in the context of Sustainable Development Goals, at the same time, Africa should push for balance between mitigation and adaptation financing. There is need for methodologies and matrixes to assess adaptation needs for Africa. Since 2018, a proposal to operationalize the GGA has been blocked, so there is need to establish a process with efforts that materialise from the Glasgow Climate Pact. The Adaptation committee that was established as part of the Cancun Adaptation Framework, should work on a GGA, establish a work program that allows civil society to contribute. The African Group of Negotiators (AGN) (in consultation with other key stakeholders) should provide guidance on what adaptation finance needs to look like in the African context, and how private finance can be unlocked. The civil society inputs will be much needed in this process.

II. Loss and Damage:

It was noted that it is not possible to avoid and reduce all losses and damage from climate change. This is despite the estimated economic cost of Loss and Damage to developing countries by 2050 ranging between USD 1 – 1.8 trillion. The G77+China demanded a separate funding facility to be established for Loss and Damage as outlined in the Paris Agreement which separates between Loss and Damage (Article 8) and Adaptation (Article 7), but this was resisted by the developed countries which are failing to systematically provide Loss and Damage finance. COP26 called for further development of the institutional arrangements of the Santiago Network4 that was further enhanced with

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4 Santiago Network | UNFCCC
the operationalization and the elaboration of its functions and the provision of funds to support its work.

### III. Just Transition:

A just transition should address decent work and economic transformation. The question is whether Africa has tools and methodologies necessary to response measures. Important issues include how to address cross-border imports, stranded assets, international trade, and transition issues arising from providing decent jobs, tools and methodologies to assess impacts. Africa needs to develop and own such tools, engage in consultations that train African experts on such tools and offer all the required support for a just transition as part of subsidiary bodies. The mid-term review is important, and submission is scheduled for April, 2022. We need to unpack what a just transition looks like for Africa as required by parties. On response measures, gender considerations for communities and vulnerable groups should form part of work-plans and building awareness for submission by 31\(^{st}\) March 2022.

### IV. Technology Transfer:

Capacity building under the Paris Agreement, Article 11\(^5\) addresses capacity building for developing countries and LDCs and it is important to close capacity gaps in technology. Africa must employ different strategies including:- country-driven capacity building to address specific needs of countries, fostering country ownerships and building institutions on the existing capacities in an integrated and programmatic manner, facilitating technological development, access to climate finance and guided by lessons learnt; it should be gender-responsive and participatory in all aspects; ensure capacity is realized at regional level as part of the special needs and circumstances. Capacity building should focus on facilitating the implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions, focusing on technology for disaster mitigation and look at aspects of adaptation and technology uses.

\(^5\) Capacity-building in the negotiations | UNFCCC
V. **Energy:** Africa continues to live in energy poverty with Sub-Saharan part of the continent having the lowest energy access rates in the world, where roughly 600 million people lack access to energy. It was noted that in the COP26 key decisions, there is nothing explicit on energy access, apart from promises to South Africa by Denmark on energy transition. South Africa relies heavily on coal as a major energy source, so they are likely to have stranded assets in the transition phase. There is enormous and unexploited geothermal, wind and solar potential in Africa that needs to be taken into consideration to increase energy access and this is where the focus should be.

VI. **Climate Finance:**

At the COP 26, Parties welcomed how vulnerability is integrated into the level of concessional loans. The debate on Loss and Damage financing was a difficult one. The architecture of the Paris Agreement that lacks space for calling for compensation for Loss and Damage as governed by the Conference of Parties. So, it is important to interrogate and interact in setting out a finance goal collectively. On the long-term financing, the tracking of the $100 Billion is on track, and a report will be coming out in 2022 detailing to what extent countries have committed in delivering on goal. It is only GCF and GEF that have provisions for local NGOs and private sector to access climate finance. Leaving private sector as the only reliable source of climate finance is a dangerous trend for Africa. Africa’s climate finance is dominated by the EU and the West, and thus need to expand the scope should be explored. Participants emphasized the need grants-based financing for adaptation as it has no returns for investment.

VII. **Fossil fuels:**
The countries that have signed and ratified the Paris Agreement (the CMA) Cover Decision included a language on “phase down” as opposed to “phase out” as previously proposed, thus postponing the crucial action in the transition to low-carbon, climate-resilient, equitable development pathways. This was after China, India, South Africa and Nigeria, intervened on the floor for the final plenary to insist on the changes to the language.

VIII. Reflections on African Position:

From the analytical presentations, data and information shared by the presenters, it was felt that there is still a lot to be done to strategically position Africa’s issues ahead of the COP27. African countries are the ones living the climate crisis, and facing the adverse impacts of climate change. Given the global power relations that works against the continent, Africa at one time walked out of the negotiations in Barcelona but this has not been an effective instrument in the negotiations. Governments must take leadership to address this. Questions were raised on the transparency of African governments and the abundant natural resource-base that the continent is endowed with and what role this can play in alleviating the losses incurred as a result of climate change. The need to sharpen Africa’s negotiations skills, including a mechanism that makes it possible for the continent to access Green Climate Fund, took the centre-stage in the session. The Climate Finance question is of concern and has dominated the process for a period of time. That things are not improving means that Africa needs to strengthen her expertise to access climate financing under GCF and other bilateral funding. From the session, it was noted that; climate justice should shape Africa’s climate demands. There is need to quantify and ascertain the level of risks and damages that African countries have faced and continue to face, with a focus on loss and damage, and the socio-economic impact on the continent.

There was a feeling that African countries should not allow to be divided (into least, medium development counties) since the people face common problems. The salvation for the African continent is to unify its voice towards key issues under negotiations – Adaptation, mitigation, technology transfer, capacity building and climate finance. A
central theme and key message in the countdown to COP27 should be Adaptation, and loss and damage for the “African peoples COP”.

ix. **Civil Society Perspectives on the Glasgow Climate Pact:**

A crucial question was raised on the role and effectiveness of the civil society in the COP negotiations? CSOs exist because they want to defend and confront all the Climate crisis issues, collaborate and work together with other stakeholders on the continent and work on agendas such as the development of renewable energy to create opportunities that empower women (and other critical groups) to innovate and take advantage of the manufacturing in Africa. There were reflections on exchange of knowledge amongst the CSOs and other stakeholders as important so as to deeply align climate action into African Union’s Agenda 2063 and SDGs. There was emphasis on the need to learn from each other and open horizons, engage governments to embrace change, and start imagining the future. CSOs are the voices of the voiceless, taking into consideration the rights and needs of vulnerable groups. There is need to elevate the voices of those at the frontline of climate change impacts – smallholder producers, women, youth, indigenous peoples, etc. PACJA’s role to expand the outreach and consolidate a broader multi-stakeholder, all-inclusive and broad Pan African Strategy for COP27 and beyond emphasized.

C. **Opportunities and challenges in the countdown to COP27:**

1. Noted lack of consensus on recognition of Africa as a ‘special needs and circumstances region’ despite the compelling Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report.

2. The growing ambitions geared towards lowering greenhouse gas emissions and less commitment to ask related to additional climate financing for Loss and Damage. These were either expunged or watered down.
3. Institutions such as the African Development Bank (AFDB) that have for 12 years participated in the COP processes with continued efforts to amplify the African voices and priorities on Climate change, commit to working with all stakeholders including Egypt, CSOs, Governments, African Union Commission with a view of delivering a progressively suitable outcome for COP27 in Africa.

4. The 54 African should work with civil society (and other NSAs) to formulate African specific Action Plans that draw synergies as well as collaborate with the key continent’s financial institutions in aggregating financing expectations.

5. The need for strong collaboration among civil society and other NSAs from diverse sectors and the Private Sector ahead of COP27 was underscored. Noting that private sector is emerging as a dominant Actor in global climate change processes, the place for Africa’s nascent businesses was questioned. The Federal Industrial Association of Egypt offered to support and collaborate with the Egyptian government in order to co-organize and showcase the wins (and possibly the potential for Africa’s business and industry) in the ensuing conversations towards Sharma-El-Sheikh.

**D. Key Priorities for African civil society:**

1. Though Africa’s key aspiration during the COP26 - recognition of the continent as special needs and circumstances region – was dropped at agenda stage, our political leaders and negotiators should ensure the agenda is unconditionally reinstated into the Sharma-El-Sheikh conference.

2. Adaptation and resilience-building is central to Africa’s fragile economies, whose vulnerability has been exacerbated by climate change. Loss and Damage (L&D) arising from climate change has emerged as a key issue among the continent’s stakeholders. As an imperative of climate justice, financing for adaptation and L&D should form the central demands for Africa during the “African Peoples COP”, COP27.
3. To ensure COP27 meets the priorities and aspirations of the continent’s people, galvanization and unification of diverse voices in the countdown to Sharma-El-Sheikh, and beyond, is essential. The mobilization and narrative-setting towards this end should not be limited to civil society and NSAs alone, but should be extended to African governmental and Intergovernmental agencies, as well as developed countries sympathetic to African aspirations.

**E. Useful hooks for advancing influence:**

1. Lobby African Development Bank, other Multilateral Development Banks, as well other financial institutions and the private sectors to scale-up commitment to integrate climate finance in their development financing, and including grant-based financing.

2. The African Union should play a more proactive role in galvanizing and unifying the African continent towards COP27. A multi-stakeholder platform under the auspices of Climate and Development in Africa Initiative (ClimDev), mandated by the Summit of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, should be re-energised.

F. The Paris Agreement acknowledges the role of NSAs and decentralized Units of Governments in NDCs implementation. As such, national-level mobilization, ensuring “from-below”, community-driven, people-owned processes build into broader levels of conversations should inform ClimDev interventions.

**G. Immediate next Actions**

1. A robust outreach spearheaded by PACJA and to build alliances with critical groups – sectoral, thematic, regional, intergenerational for an all-inclusive pan-African platform to unify in the countdown to COP27.
2. Seek audience, and conversation with key leaders in Africa - Senegalese Presidency as the Chair of the LDC Group, and the Egyptian COP presidency, ClimDev Secretariat at UNECA, etc - to forge a strong mobilization towards COP27.

3. Finalise the draft strategy considering the participants’ inputs, to be concluded at a side-event during the 35th Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the African Union.

**Notable Facilitators and speakers during the Roundtable:**

1. Dr. Augustine Ndjamnshi, Chair, Political and Technical Committee at PACJA
2. H.E Dr. Jasmine Fouad, Minister of Environment of Egypt
3. Ahmed Faty, local host and PACJA Platform leader for Egypt
4. Dr. Najwa Bourawi, is the Vice Chair of the PACJA’s Continental Executive Board.
5. Amb. Seyni, former Spokesperson of the AGN and coordinator, African Adaptation Initiative
6. Prof. Seth Osafo, Legal Advisor, African Group of Negotiators
7. Ms Wanjira Mathai, Vice President and Africa Director, World Resources Institute