FROM RATIFICATION OF PARIS AGREEMENT TO IMPLEMENTATION

AFRICAN CIVIL SOCIETY DEMANDS FOR UNFCCC – COP22

MARRAKECH 2016

The Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) is a continental coalition of Civil Society Organizations from diverse backgrounds in Africa. Founded in 2008, the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance has emerged as the most vibrant and largest Civil Society platform in climate change and sustainable development, with a membership of more than 1000 organizations and networks in 45 African countries. The Alliance brings together Faith-based Organizations, Community-based organizations, Non-Governmental organizations, Trusts, Foundations, Farmers and Pastoralists’ Groups to campaign for pro-poor sustainable development and a response to climate change based on principles of equity and justice.

RATIONALE FOR OUR DEMANDS

The outcome of the 21st UNFCCC Conference of Parties was a major step in the climate change dialogue process, following the inability of the parties to reach a binding agreement at COP 15 in Copenhagen five years earlier. The Paris Agreement heralds bold steps towards decarbonizing the global economy and reducing dependency on fossil fuel. Furthermore, references to climate justice, human rights, indigenous people and the roles of non-state actors in addressing climate change are enshrined in the Agreement.

As an important block of countries that share many things in common besides its land mass and resource endowments, Africa played a crucial role in shaping the outcomes of the Paris Agreement. Despite bearing the greatest burden posed by climate change compared to other global regions, the strengthened political will and leadership demonstrated by CAHOSCC, the exemplary participation of several African Heads of States and Government and who made statements in Paris during COP21. The strong foundation laid by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) and the African Group of Negotiators (AGN) in the negotiation process, firmly established Africa’s confidence and commitment before, during and after the COP21. A common and highly sequenced African position provided consistency and coherence among the African negotiators and the engagement of African ministers with their counterparts. PACJA was also able to contribute to the Paris Outcome through its several interventions with CAHOSCC, AMCEN, AGN and other related engagements. How much gains were made in safeguarding Africa’s core interests, can only be adjudicated using the pre-defined position prior to Paris.
Moving forward with the Paris Agreement encompasses a twin track approach. Firstly, the implementation of the binding aspects and secondly, the continuous negotiations on the non-binding aspects of the Agreement. The implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for example, will be preceded by stocktaking after five years to gauge and evaluate the progress made on the commitments made by Parties.

With the Paris Agreement coming into force ahead of the UNFCCC-COP 22 to be held in Marrakech, Morocco from 7th – 18th November, 2016, referred as “An Action and Implementation COP” is expected to begin the process of delivering concrete solutions vital to addressing climate change. Among the key issues to be addressed in Marrakech – include transparency, capacity building, agreeing on common accounting guidelines for NDCs and the provision of climate finance to developing countries. With considerable progress in the ratification of the Paris Agreement this year, an obvious, overarching issue of this year’s meeting will be the operationalization of the Agreement. Several African countries are in the process of reviewing or operationalizing their NDCs as they are instrumental in the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

At the frontline of climate change impacts with least capacity to adapt is the African continent. The desire is that the implementation of the Paris Agreement should be urgent, fair, equitable, ecologically just and legally binding in line with the continent’s realities and aspirations. It is with the above rationale that PACJA’s UNFCCC-COP22 Demands are anchored in ensuring that the implementation of the Paris Agreement is urgent, based on justice and fairness, equitable and incorporates the aspirations of the African people faced with the reeling impacts of climate change.

**The Core of our demands**

The ratification of the Paris Agreement elicited varying views on its efficacy, and indeed its very substance. Some have hailed it as a “major leap for mankind” while others, particularly civil society consider it as “insufficient” to adequately address the planetary crisis.

Our core demands for the UNFCCC –COP22 revolves around three key pillars that:

- All countries play their part, in accordance to their capability and their contributions to global warming.
- The principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and respective capabilities is upheld.
• Parties at COP22 come up with clear targets, verifiable measurement indicators and plans for implementations which are clearly outlined including the common accounting systems for the NDCs

OUR DEMANDS

Demand 1: Global warming must be limited to 1.5 degrees Celsius this century.

In line with Article 2 of the Paris Agreement:

• All parties must practically commit beyond their current level of emission target in their NDCs to limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius this century
• All parties must raise their ambition target of cutting their GHG emissions in their NDCs
• Developed countries should drastically cut domestic GHG emissions beyond what is proposed in their NDCs
• Developing countries pursue a low-carbon sustainable development pathway

Demand 2: Adaptation is crucial to protecting and promoting development gains, especially in Africa.

Adequate finance for adaptation is crucial to success. Article 9.1 requires that developed country parties provide “financial resources to assist developing country parties with respect to mitigation and adaptation.”

In line with Article 7 of the Paris Agreement:

• Develop country Parties clearly state the amount and provide adequate and predictable finance for adaptation for developing country Parties needed to implement the adaptation obligation of their NDCs.
• Developing country Parties fully demonstrate their readiness to commit their resources in the implementation of the unconditional aspect of adaptation component of their NDCs.

Demand 3 (Public Awareness): Education and Information sharing.

In line with Article 7.7 of the Paris Agreement:

Sharing of new technologies, scientists in developing countries should be trained so as to be able to gather information on adaptation and mitigation needs and develop appropriate responses. One advantage of the reporting mechanisms and 5-year meetings of the Agreement is that developing nations will be able to build their capacity, and become active providers of solutions.
Demand 4 (Climate Financing): The Green Climate Fund must be sufficiently resourced.

In line with Article 9 of the Paris Agreement:

- All parties and especially developed country Parties must ensure to sufficiently resourced the GCF as soon as possible and with the fulfilment of their outstanding pledges
- Developed country Parties provide a minimum of USD 100 billion a year for climate action by 2020
- All Parties must ensure the GCF funds only sustainable projects and protects human rights

Demand 5 (Gender, Indigenous People -IP): Addressing gender and IP issues is a key part of tackling climate change and putting African countries on the path to sustainable development.

In line with Article 7.5 of the Paris Agreement:

- Parties consider the extension of the Implementation of the Lima Work Programme on Gender
- Implementation of the Global Environment Fund (GEF) Gender Equality Action Plan
- Parties in Marrakech provide a clear fixed timelines for achieving gender-responsive climate policy
- All policies, programmes and actions implemented by all Parties must adopt FPIC for IPs and promote indigenous knowledge including all projects with the GCF support.

Demand 6: Transfer of technology and knowledge are crucial to supporting the adaptation and mitigation ambitions in Africa.

In line with Article 10 of the Paris Agreement:

- To avoid mis-interpretation of terminologies, Parties should clearly define the term ‘technologies’ and ‘actions’ to avoid false solutions (like BECCS and others).
- Developed country Parties commit to technology transfer from developed to developing countries and removal of intellectual property rights that hinders the flow of appropriate technologies to developing countries
- African governments’ support to encourage the transfer of clean technologies to Africa that can promote the African Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI) flagship programme.
- Parties dedicate sufficient resources to the stimulation of research into future technologies through public funding
Demand 7: Loss and Damage in Africa.

In line with Article 8 of the Paris Agreement:

- Parties should commit to full implementation of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage

Demand 8: Implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

In line with Article 6 of the Paris Agreement:

Develop country Parties should support developing countries in terms of finance, technology development and transfer, capacity building and investments required to implement their NDCs as provided for in Article 4 paragraph 5 of the Paris Agreement

Finance:

Provision of adequate and predictable financial resources from developed country Parties to developing countries to enable them meet their commitments in their NDCs as stated in Article 9 of the Paris Agreement is paramount. A common and agreeable reporting and accounting framework for financial support provided by developed country Parties to developing countries be established by the COP. This will enhance transparency of actions and avoidance of double counting (Article 13 paragraph 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6 of the Paris Agreement).

Technology development and transfer:

The role of technology in the realization of the global target through mitigation and adaptation actions can never be over-emphasized. Support to developing countries in terms of technology development and transfer is key to achieving African countries’ commitments in their NDCs even as developed countries embark upon drastic domestic economic-wide emission reduction efforts (Article 10 paragraph 5 & 6 of the Paris Agreement).

Capacity building:

The Paris Agreement has made a provision for capacity building in any identified areas of need that will assist developing country Parties to meet their NDCs mitigation and adaptation commitments in the Agreement (Article 11 of the Paris Agreement). We demand Developed country Parties to honour their commitment under this Article and provide concrete plan on how to achieve this goal.