The Katowice Climate Change Conference in Poland is a critical, “do-or-die” moment whose outcomes will determine whether the World will march towards precipice, or trigger a reversal of the growing global warming threats by laying a solid foundation to cement global cooperation for effective implementation of the Paris Agreement.

There is no option B. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special report on 1.5 Degrees should be a guiding inspiration to the global community that any further delay to drastically cut emissions will not only be ominous to the current and future generations, but also the health of the planet.

Endless negotiations, thus, should be viewed as delaying tactics and COP24 should send signals that, indeed, World leaders are genuinely committed to the implementation of the various provisions of the Paris Agreement¹ by adopting detailed rules and procedures – otherwise referred to as the ‘rulebook’.

¹ These will include among other matters provisions on transparency, accounting, compliance, periodic assessment of collective progress and use of market-based mechanisms.
We join the African Governments and other stakeholders in underscoring the vital importance of a Paris Work Programme that upholds equity and justice with a balanced “rulebook” as an anchor in the Paris Agreement’s implementation, and reiterate that it is a MUST DELIVER in COP 24 facilitate effective implementation.

To this end, we call for the delivery and adoption of a robust framework that takes into consideration transparency and accountability, upholds rights-based approaches and embraces the opportunities to build capacity, channels technological and financial resources to support implementation within the purview of the following as submitted by African Civil Society to the Talanoa Dialogue 2018 (annex 1):

1. Just and equity-based transition to low carbon climate resilient development pathways
2. Implementation of climate commitments at country level within supportive, enabling policy environment
3. Assessment of progress in implementation vis-à-vis climate commitments at global and national level
4. Development and institutionalization of non-state actor engagement strategies to unleash potential for climate actions through effective and efficient coordination and partnerships at nation (and sub-national) levels.
5. Support to countries on Integrating climate change into development for low carbon development
6. Bottom-up, inclusive low carbon development

**SPECIFIC DEMANDS**

**Demand 1: Global warming must be limited way below 1.5 degrees Celsius this century**

*Acknowledging the special IPCC report that re-emphasizes and call for urgency to limit global temperature way below 1.5 degrees within the global climate goal of the Paris Agreement set out in Article 2(a), and which calls for countries to take action:*

- We call for enhanced ambition and innovation to limit global temperature rise way below 1.5 degrees
- We further call for urgent, just and equitable transition to low carbon climate resilient development pathways in the implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)
• We re-emphasize that NDCs pertain to mitigation, adaptation and means of implementation (MOI)

**Noting DECISION 1/CP.21 of the Paris Outcome:**

• We call for enhanced efforts in defining features of the NDCs considering that the Paris Outcome decisions provides information such as time frames and/or periods for implementation, scope and coverage, planning processes, assumptions and methodological approaches which should be demonstrated in the features.

• We demand flexibility to consider the various NDC types taking note of the differentiated actions within national context. Development of accounting modalities that facilitate and promote enhanced ambition and progress should be accorded priority.

• The guidance to support information on NDCs as provided in Decision 1/CP.21 paragraph 27 should be mandatory to facilitate clarity, transparency and understanding of NDCs provided by parties.

**Noting Mitigation mechanism Article 6.4 of the PA:**

• We affirm that additionality should be taken to consider further actions beyond NDC commitments to contribute to reduction of GHG emissions.

• We call for the development of the mitigation mechanism to consider lessons and experience from the Joint Implementation mechanism and Clean Development mechanism and further advocate for a centralized governance system of the mechanism for easy coordination, accountability and transparency

• We acknowledge the importance of having a mechanism that supports both public and private entities engagement, but reiterate that public overrides all other options in addressing climate change.

**On common timeframe for NDCs:**

• We note that there is need for common time frames for all NDCs and communicate that the next NDC communications be in 2025 with the Global Stock-take in 2023 facilitating a review of NDCs and facilitating development of new, more ambitious and progressive NDCs post 2025.
• We note the push by developed countries to introduce notions such as ‘common MPG’s’, ‘common approaches’, ‘common time-frames’ with ‘some flexibilities for developing countries according to their respective capabilities’ and through other methods such as ‘all countries’ having the collective responsibility to address the emissions gap. We retaliate that historical emissions or the historical responsibility of developed countries has to be met as not everyone had the same starting point.

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

Basing demand on Article 7 of the Paris Agreement

On the Adaptation Fund,

• We call for enhanced discussions and prompt consideration of the governance, funding arrangements and modalities of the Fund within the CMA in COP 24 to facilitate the Adaptation Fund serving the Paris Agreement noting its potentially important role in facilitating adaptation actions within the Post 2020 regime.

• We are concerned by the intricate negotiation issue on whether the fund exclusively serves the Paris Agreement or serves both Kyoto Protocol (KP) and Paris Agreement (PA) as well as the time at which either or both should be undertaken; The Adaptation Fund should serve both the KP and PA until the global stock take (2023) after which it will exclusively serve the Paris Agreement. There should be smooth transition with CDM proceedings supporting the Adaptation Fund during the transition phase.

Further noting Articles 9.1 and 9.3:

On adaptation finance:

• We call for a robust scaling-up financing for adaptation efforts, considering the need to avoid a finance gap; advance finance; enhance access to finance and achieve balance between mitigation and adaptation finance in recognition of country capabilities and capacities

• We emphasize that there is need to provide public and grant-based resources for adaptation in developing and vulnerable countries.
• We demand that mobilisation of climate finance should be based on the felt needs of developing countries as stipulated in Article 9.3 of the Paris Agreement.

We demand developed country Parties to channel new, additional and substantial public climate finance to support adaptation activities in developing countries, recognizing On Adaptation communications:

Acknowledging the importance of adaptation communications informing the global stock take and the importance of adaptation communications as a key step toward achieving the global goal on adaptation of enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change.

• We call for further cooperation by Parties to achieve the purpose of adaptation communications to facilitate progress towards the global adaptation goal.

• We urge parties to fast-track discussions to provide guidance on adaptation communications, and further request that the guidance be flexible in view of the fact that adaptation communications should not be a burden to developing countries.

• Adaptation communication should follow country-driven approaches.

Demand 3: Climate Financing should be long term and achieve a balance between mitigation and adaptation support

Noting the role of climate finance in facilitating climate actions and that enhanced actions require enhanced support: And aware that attaining progress on the Paris Agreement and implementing commitments requires finance;

• We welcome the high-level ministerial dialogue on climate finance to be held at COP24 and call for outcomes that address commitments on finance as well as focus on access to finance.

• We emphasize that adaptation and mitigation financing be balanced 50/50 and include additional finance for loss and damage.
• We emphasize the scaling up of provision and mobilization of financial support by developed countries to developing countries to support climate action

Concerned about the slow progress by developed country parties towards reaching the US$100 billion goal of jointly mobilizing annually by 2020 and the road map to achieving this goal and reiterating the importance of realizing the US$100 billion finance commitment as soon as possible.:  

• We call for continued scaling up of climate finance towards the USD 100 billion.

• We call for tracking of progress towards the USD$100 billion through synthesis of biennial submissions by developed countries in COP 24. It is our genuine submission that meaningful and transparent consideration of identified approaches and strategies of developed countries on how to achieve the USD $100 billion between 2018-2020 will be critical to support scaling up of climate finance.

• We call for the definition of climate finance and subsequent separation between climate finance and Official Development Assistance (ODA) to facilitate transparency and accounting of finance for climate actions.

• We demand further commitment and provision of finance within supportive policies and enabling environments in mobilizing finance at scale (Article 9.3 PA) put in place for the achievement of this goal.

• We are concerned by the dwindling financial resources in the GEF as evidenced in the GEF 7 replenishment where funding for climate change will decrease by 47% in developing country allocations. This impacts negatively on climate actions in these countries specifically on efforts in adaptation

Noting the importance of provision of information on climate finance by developed countries:  

• We emphasis that quantitative and qualitative information (Article 9.1 PA) should be generated and provided biennially (Article 9.5 PA) to facilitate tracking of climate finance and efficient/effective planning towards implementation of the Paris Agreement. This information should
enhance transparency, predictability, comparability and clarity in the information provided on expected levels of climate finance.

**Demand 4: Capacity building should be enhanced under the Paris Agreement**

*Noting the place of capacity building under the Convention, Paris Agreement and the Kyoto Protocol;*

- We emphasise that there is need to build long-term capacity among developing countries which includes strengthening capacity of climate change institutions.; capacity building should at all times be focused on the needs of countries and driven by countries. Further, capacity building should adopt a multi-stakeholder approach, including all stakeholders and supportive legislation to facilitate this.

- We call for provision of support to the Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT), setting aside of additional resources and meeting of existing voluntary contributions pledges.

- We further call for provision of financial resources to support country driven capacity building initiatives.

- We note that it is important to have capacity building actions under the Convention and the Paris Agreement in line and well-coordinated and demand that the PCCB take into consideration measures, actions and initiatives under the Convention and Paris Agreement and further take into consideration ways including creation of a process that facilitates capturing of information on capacity building activities annually to enhance reporting on capacity building with clear linkages to CBIT. It is therefore important to see how the PCCB fits into the Capacity-Building Frameworks and links with the CBIT in to facilitate transparency.

**Demand 5: Loss and damage**

*Noting Article 8 of the Paris Agreement:*

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

- The WIM as a standing agenda item should be an Agenda in Katowice.
• We call for enhanced action within the five-year rolling workplan Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM) on loss and damage, taking note of the need to ensure loss and damage concerns are fully taken into consideration as the WIM shifts to serve the PA after 2020

• We call for enhanced efforts towards strengthening of the WIM in the Post 2020 period.

• Urgently mobilize and provide long-term financial and technological resources to address L & D (Loss and Damage) in line with the third objective of WIM for L & D

Demand 6: Technology development and transfer should be supported to enhance resilience and low carbon development

Noting the need for financial support for technology development and transfer:

• We call for the provision and enhancement of support to implementation of Technology Action Plans and further assistance to African countries in the development of both Technology Needs Assessment and Technology Action Plans

Noting the need to further linkages to advance technology development and transfer:

• We call for continued actions by the Technology Executive Committee (TEC) to facilitate consideration of linkages between the technology needs assessments (TNAs), NAPs and NDCs processes to enhance implementation; development and transfer of relevant technologies

• We call for further consideration of country-level collaboration between the GCF national designated authorities and focal points, the GEF focal points and the technology Designated National Entities to foster provision of climate finance to facilitate Technology Needs Assessments (TNAs) and develop Technology Action Plans and submit technology-related projects, including those resulting from TNAs and from the technical assistance of the CTCN, to the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism for implementation

Demand 7: Gender agenda should be enhanced in the implementation of the Paris Agreement

We take note of the progress on gender and climate change, including development of the gender action plan within the Lima Work Programme and further call for implementation of actions within the action plan
Demand 8: Common timeframes and enhancing ambition within the NDC process

Taking note that the first round of NDCs submitted to the Paris Agreement by Parties varied in their implementation timeframe, and that some set mitigation and other targets with end dates in 2025, while others set them for 2030; and acknowledging that continuing this status quo with differing timeframes runs the risk of significantly complicating assessments of collective efforts, especially in the context of equity, since Parties would be implementing their NDCs on different time schedules

- A collective decision about the timeframes for NDCs should be made to make them consistent and fully comparable across countries.

- Alignment of NDCs and their revisions to should be informed by the global stocktake process, which will occur every five years beginning in 2023. This will ensure that the timing of the stocktake between NDC communication points impacts the ability of Parties to use the stocktake to inform their NDCs and thus enhance ambition.

- We further retaliate that the global stocktake should be in 2023 as within the Paris Agreement

Demand 9: Enhanced transparency framework

Aware that the enhanced transparency framework will build confidence in efforts undertaken by all Parties to implement their NDCs, and that the framework will do so by creating tools, venues, and processes that encourage Parties to share their progress, exchange lessons, and strengthen capacity, based on identified gap and needs from developing countries.

- The new Enhanced Transparency Framework established by the Paris Agreement should supersede the existing UNFCCC transparency framework. Specifically, the new framework, once operationalized, will supersede the existing measurement, reporting, and verification systems.
1.0 WHERE ARE WE?

Climate Action in Africa

Although the African continent contributes negligibly to the problem of climate change, its people face the worst consequences of climate impacts manifested by shifting seasons, persistent droughts, erratic rainfall, all which have exacerbated the prevailing poverty levels in the region which relies on climate-sensitive sectors for economic development.

With high levels of vulnerability occasioned by inadequate finance, technological and adaptive capacities, the continent suffers the brunt of climate change with impacts having negative implication on the African countries’ ambitious sustainable development blueprints, notably the Agenda 2063 of the African Union, Agenda 2030 of the United Nations and National development plans of individual countries.

In reality we live in a world that is heating up and the commitments made within NDCs are not ambitious enough to assure 1.5 degrees pathway; a world where the
most vulnerable communities continue to be exposed to climate change threats; one where the climate change discourse has not included discussions on equity noting that it is an essential element of the Common but differentiated Responsibilities and Respective capabilities Principle within the UNFCCC and we find ourselves in a paradoxical situation as the ambition to safeguard the world from warming and implications thereof is compromised.

Development is at the core of African countries as the need to protect citizens from harm and provide services is in line with citizens’ rights. Cognizant of this, African countries, while acknowledging that per capita income is not the only measure of development but environmental and social development are imperative, have embraced the Green Growth path in their 2063 development blue print (Agenda 2063) and further committed to a low carbon development pathway by signing up to the Paris Agreement and developing Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

In view of this, the continent is re-examining its development options to ascertain the protection, conservation, right-use of environmental assets for future generations and sustainable development at national level. Countries are putting in place green economy strategies and national climate change frameworks to support low-carbon climate resilient development as part of their efforts to combat climate change and its impacts.

Significant milestones have been achieved in crafting national policies and strategies to address climate change, but this has been hampered by inadequate research and political will to implement the policies. Transformation of the African economy into Low Carbon Development and sustainable economy demands that efforts be made to mainstream climate change into planning and development strategies. And beyond national level planning, sectoral mainstream and facilitation of green growth is crucial in supporting mitigation and adaptation actions. A number of African countries and institutions are making critical steps in integrating climate change into the entire development cycle with budgetary allocations to support mainstreaming of climate change into development. The process involved therein is intensive requiring technical capacity and financing, which pose key challenges to African countries.
Inclusive and equitable low-carbon climate resilient growth should be responsive to the realities and aspirations of African people, such as democratic governance and participation of all actors in decision-making processes. Though non-state actors remain central stakeholders in climate change discourses in the African, shrinking civil society space coupled with lack of institutionalized framework for engagement has hampered their optimal contribution in the conversations. Consequently, approaches to support effective engagement acknowledging contexts are required.

2.0 WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO?

African Civil Society organizations envisions a world where implementation of climate actions is fair, equitable and ecologically just. Response measures should enhance resilience of the most vulnerable with each country contributing a fair share of actions within the principle of common but differentiated Responsibilities and respective capabilities in transition towards a low carbon climate resilient development.

3.0 HOW DO WE GET THERE?

Effective implementation of climate commitments and actions requires international and national cooperation. There’s need for a rapid increase in mitigation efforts to contain global warming to 1.5°C coupled with increasing ambition in adaptation and building climate resilience while promoting sustainable development. Africa civil society recommend the following strategies that are critical to facilitate achievement of low carbon climate resilient development pathways;

7. Just and equity-based transition to low carbon climate resilient pathway
Addressing the climate challenge creates an opportunity to explore new sources of growth by placing the climate imperative at the core of national growth and development strategies. We however cannot achieve the transition to low carbon
climate development pathway and meet the Paris Agreement goals without acknowledging the disparities existing among nations and the people which calls for fairness in climate action. Without the rich in the world, who greatly contribute to climate change while acknowledging that such nations have greater capacities to act compared to other countries, addressing the climate crisis is jeopardized. We have to acknowledge that equity discussions within the UNFCCC can facilitate ambitious commitments that are in line with the ambition of the Paris Agreement. Further, support for all vulnerable is critical to facilitate a just transition. Protecting and strengthening vulnerable communities’ resilience to climate change is critical noting that the least contributors to climate change are the most affected. The call for enhanced action still remains critical.

8. **Implementation of climate commitments at country level within supportive policy environment**

Implementation of commitments within the Paris Agreement requires strengthening of regional and national climate institutions, building capacity to advance mitigation and adaptation actions across all sectors, technological development that enhances resilience building and green growth, mechanisms that promote bottom-up climate solutions as within the ambition of Paris Agreement, adherence to rights-based approaches in implementation of actions, development of responsive mechanisms at regional and national levels for gender integration in implementation, sustained financing mix availed from both public and private sources that is employed within innovative and responsive finance instruments and approaches. Developed country parties have a responsibility within the UNFCCC to support international action to climate change as they enhance their own domestic commitments and action. The global community has a key role in facilitating this and the mandate on the Talanoa Dialogue to facilitate honest sharing on approaches that enhance implementation is one that cannot be downplayed.

9. **Assessment of progress in implementation vis-à-vis climate commitments at global and national level**

While noting the critical role that action at national level plays in addressing climate change, call to action needs to be supported by mechanisms that assess progress. To achieve the global climate goal in the Paris Agreement while underlining the urgent
call to action as within the recent Special IPCC report on 1.5 degrees, it is of critical importance that effective mechanisms to facilitate assessment of progress in implementation as well as in the facilitative means of implementation against global and national commitments are developed and supported to ensure that everyone undertakes their fair share of actions. The non-confrontational spirit of the Talanoa dialogue provides an opportunity for parties to focus on this important element of implementation with the aim of progressively raising ambition.

10. **Development and institutionalization of non-state actor engagement strategies to unleash potential for climate actions through effective and efficient coordination and partnerships at country level.**

The Paris Agreement underscores the important role of NSAs, and particularly the private sector. Climate challenge demands all-level that is local, national and international cooperation at unprecedented scale. Objective and informed engagement of NSAs should be pinned on enabling, policies, structures and mechanisms to promote partnerships. NSAs spur innovation and investment in green technologies. They have potential to advance NDCs and promote transition to low-emission, climate resilient green growth. The Talanoa Dialogue has the potential to build and provide key entry points for collaboration including desired policies that will unlock partnership for climate action.

11. **Support to countries on Integrating climate change into development for low carbon development**

The Talanoa dialogue is a space for new conversations that advance the climate agenda for sustainable development. Within a highly dynamic climate change sector, the climate conversation at country level is evolving. Countries require space to exchange lessons and further technical capacity in the realms of mainstreaming climate into sectors and development processes.

12. **Bottom-up, inclusive low carbon development**

Solutions, approaches and mechanisms for effective implementation of actions cannot be prescriptive. All countries of the world are dynamic and therefore it is imperative that frameworks that support implementation retaliate the role of bottom-up and inclusive processes to build ownership, a key driver in implementing climate solutions and facilitate sustainability.
A bottom-up, inclusive approach secures local and national level solutions, raises ambition at these levels to tackle climate change and supports equity and rights-based solutions.

3.0 Conclusion
The climate crisis at hand requires coordinated global action. Inaction will make it extremely difficult to achieve the Paris Climate goals. Implementation of commitments at global and national levels pursuant to *common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities* is essentially important as it provides for all countries to act and contribute their fair share to mitigate and adapt to climate change. Of greater importance is the need to ensure all actions are informed by climate needs identified within an ambitious, well-coordinated, and transformative. It is imperative that climate change is viewed as a broader development challenge, rather than viewing it as a limited environmental-meteorological-scientific concern. In their efforts to mainstream climate change in development planning, developing countries should ensure that relevant actions take into consideration inclusive and transformative development paradigms that address poverty and inequalities.