

# NAIROBI SUMMER SCHOOL ON CLIMATE JUSTICE

COHORT - IV



## Quotes and Vote of Thanks



### Inside the Brief

*This brief features key messages from different speakers who graced the opening and closing ceremonies of Nairobi Summer school on Climate Justice.*

*Furthermore, it includes vote of thanks from graduands representing five regions of the continent and Asia.*

## About Nairobi Summer School on Climate Justice - Cohort IV

The fourth Cohort of Nairobi Summer School on Climate Justice started on June 24 with International Symposium on Climate Justice under the theme: **Igniting Youth Power for Enhanced Global Solidarity on Climate Justice.** It ended on July 6 with Certificate awarding ceremonies.

The fourth cohort of Nairobi summer School on Climate Justice brought together over 300 youth from 87 countries of Africa, and beyond. It was hosted by Chuka University in partnership with other 6 Mt Kenya region Universities namely: Meru University, Tharaka Nithi University, Dedan Kimadhi University, the University of Embu, Karatina University, and Kirinyaga University.



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## Dr Mithika Mwenda

We want young people to not just listen, but to take action because the future belongs to them. We are proud that the school has undergone a remarkable transformation through the efforts of individuals who have passed through our instruction. The knowledge imparted has contributed to the advancement of climate justice in Africa, as evidenced by the number of alumni who have utilized their skills and networks to further their education and secure jobs in NGOs, intergovernmental organizations, and even in governments. Looking ahead, let us be inspired by the successes we have achieved and the potential that lies before us. Our youth are the catalysts of a sustainable future. They are the activists, advocates, innovators, and changemakers we need. Together, we are building a resilient and fair world, driven by the energy and passion of our promising future. Carry the spirit of the Nairobi Summer School on Climate Justice with you, wherever you go, just as our NSSCJ alumni have done. You will be our ambassadors.



*Dr Mithika Mwenda is the Executive Director of Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA)*



## Abbas Jabbarov

Climate change is one of the critical issues of our time. Hosting COP29 is a tremendous responsibility for my country. We are committed to making the conference a success and we are inspired by the active participation of African youth. It's a privilege to contribute to the NSSCJ symposium, and we are grateful for this opportunity. Together, we can make a meaningful impact on our planet. We gather here for climate justice, and we want it now!



*Mr. Abbas Jabbarov is the Deputy Head of Mission, Azerbaijan Embassy to Kenya*

## Beatrice Inyangala

The Nairobi Summer School on Climate Justice (NSSCJ) is another shining example of our drive for change. NSSCJ serves as an incubator for innovative ideas. The interactive experiences foster a deeper understanding of climate justice and inspire collective action. I applaud each one of you for rising to the call of co-creating knowledge to bridge the gap between local solutions and global challenges. You are the change makers that will break barriers and energize the world to embrace the green agenda. We must preserve our rich biodiversity, support the livelihoods of our communities, and secure the future of our children. Let me reiterate that the Nairobi Summer School of Climate Justice is more than just a conference; It is a beacon of hope and a catalyst for change. This forum provides a wide spectrum of opportunities to learn, collaborate, and innovate. I laud each one of you for taking the bold decision to seize this opportunity.



*Beatrice Inyangala is the Principal Secretary, State Department for Higher Education and Research, Ministry of Education, Kenya*

## Prof. Daniel Mugendi

Climate justice is a philosophy that doesn't only ensure emission cuts but also seeks answers about who bears the burden of the climate crisis and how Just transition can be achieved. It challenges the existing power relations associated with race, gender, class, generations, and north-south biasness. The summer school conceptualized by the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance, and hosted by our universities herein Chuka for the convening of two weeks is designed to be a continuous learning process where graduands are expected to spearhead communal actions to solve challenges caused by Climate Change at local levels. Addressing Climate change at these lower levels provides a good foundation for scaling up climate action at National and Regional Levels. This bottom-up climate consciousness is important for effective mobilization and eventual awakening of communities to the potential opportunities to the human living independently with good nature. To achieve this socioeconomic transformation, the role of young scholars is critical; and climate justice is more important at the high depth. This is the gap that the 4th cohort of Nairobi Summer School on Climate Justice is seeking to address.



*Prof Daniel Mugendi is the Chairman of all Vice chancellors of public universities in Kenya and Vice Chancellor of the University of Embu*



## Ayele Kabede

We know that the future is for the young people, for you brothers and sisters sitting in front of me, and hence, decisions about the future should only be taken with you and for you. You are not the only victim of climate change. You are also valuable contributors to climate action. If I am here to say only a sentence, I would prefer to remind you once again, that the critical role you could play in shaping the future of the continent is irreplaceable.



*Ayele Kabede is the Programme Manager, Sida Regional Office, Africa*

## Hon. Charity Kathambi

I want to express my gratitude to the organizers for bringing us together from different countries to discuss such an important global issue. I am truly impressed and thrilled by the focus on inclusion, especially for our capable and determined youth who are ready to make a positive impact on the world and our continent. It's heartening to see everyone here today united for this purpose. I urge all of you, ladies and gentlemen, to take action and raise your voices. We must wake up and remind each other of the importance of this cause. We have recently experienced significant losses due to climate change, including the loss of lives and millions of livestock in Kenya alone. However, I am encouraged by the diversity in this room, which includes women, youth, and people with disabilities. This indicates that everyone is being called to action. As legislators, we have not only acknowledged the issues, but we have also committed to taking action. I deliver this message to everyone who traveled from different regions to be here today.



*Hon. Charity Kathambi is a Member of Parliament & Chair, Parliamentary Caucus on Climate Change, Kenya Parliament*

## Dr. Rev Ezekiel Lesmore

[Youth] For our call for Climate Justice, please add that silence is violence. When you are silent in the face of injustice and brutality and destruction of the mother earth you are guilty as church. I choose to address you all here as excellences because I expect you and all the churches that are represented in one way or the other, require that when you step out of hear your action will be excellent. PACJA you are doing a great job on behalf of the All-Africa Conference of Churches, and Africa's Faith Actors network we are saying we cannot be silent anymore, and that is why we are confident and excited to work closely, hand in hand, shoulder to shoulder with PACJA to demand for accountability, responsibility and integral leadership of our leaders.

Friends and excellences you are all here to be radicalized so that when you get out here you can change the narrative about our continent Africa and the world. This is possible with each one of you. We can all commit to being the change agents. Our academia has a responsibility; you have to decolonize the academics and our educational systems.



*Dr Rev Ezekiel Lesmore is Director of Programmes, All Africa Conference of Churches*



## Dr Augustine Njamnshi

Integrating a transitional justice approach into climate finance negotiations and provision can help rectify historical wrongs, ensure fair distribution of resources, and support vulnerable populations in adapting to and mitigating the impacts of climate change



*Dr Augustine Njamnshi is the Chair of Political and Technical Affairs, PACJA*

## Hon. Jacqueline Amongin

If there is no climate change law in your country, please call your parliament and urge them to implement one. It's important to have legislation in place to ensure that resources are used effectively. Having a climate law allows us to advocate for the interests of people, especially for the allocation of resources for young people. Let's all stand together as part of the summer school cohort IV. Even after you leave here, you can continue to be an advocate within your household, village, or workplace thanks to the training we've undergone. By doing so, we're forming a strong force that will champion climate action from various standpoints. In the future, some of you may become Permanent Secretaries, honorable members, civil society activists, or decision-makers, and you will play a crucial role in climate negotiations.



*Hon. Amongin is a member of Parliament, East Africa Legislative Assembly*

## Prof. Erastus Njoka

You from all over the world, at the end of this symposium each one will go home country with a successful participation. Today I stand before you as a citizen of our shared planet united with our collective responsibility to address one of the most pressing challenges of our time. The world is already in this stance as a result of climate change. We must pull the youths. Young people today are not merely passive observers of this crisis. They are catalysts for Change, champions of sustainability, and advocates for our future where environmental stewardship and social equity go hand in hand. Their voices are loud, their actions are impactful and their commitments are unwavering. Whether through grassroots activism, scientific Research, or policy advocacy, young leaders are shipping the discourse and shipping the future for us, our children, and the children of our children.



*Prof Erastus Njoka is the Founding Vice Chancellor of Chuka University*

## Peter Odhengo

This is my third time speaking to young people from across the continent. During our last NSSCJ training, I discussed many of the same topics we're covering today. Our country is currently dealing with the impacts of climate change, which has left several vulnerable people living in IDP camps. Recognizing the potential in our youth, FLOCA has initiated an innovative program to invest in the current and future generations of Kenya. The program has already supported 98 young girls and boys in 47 counties. This demonstrates Kenya's confidence in and commitment to the younger generation. Our goal is to empower youth, women, children, individuals with disabilities, and indigenous peoples as they are the present and future of our journey. This is why we have significantly invested in the Financing Locally-Led Climate Action Programme.



*Peter Odhengo is the Coordinator of Financing Locally-Led Climate Action programme, Kenya*

## Amb. Ali Mohammed

Africa has the ambition and potential to transform the world, and it is you, the young people of Africa, who can help us achieve that target. As you are aware, every single month, 4 million young Africans join the job market. In Kenya, where you are today, 1 million young Kenyans join the labour market every year. All these young people require opportunities and development. Climate justice is crucial and necessary; however, climate action must precede everything, and climate action comes through innovations and technology. There are enormous opportunities in this area, and it is undeniable that climate action requires our collective effort.



*Amb. Ali Mohammed is the Chair of the Africa Group of Negotiators (AGN) 2024*



## HE Dr Joyce Banda

This 4th cohort couldn't have been organized at a better time than now. Few weeks ago, Kenya witnessed one of the worst flooding in her history. My country Malawi, has a long way to go to recover from destruction inflicted by cyclone Freddy that left over a thousand people dead, 2 million people displaced and over 6-hundred thousand houses destroyed. Other African countries have also in recent days suffered human and infrastructural destruction due to climate change-induced weather events.

The future of Africa rests on your shoulders. The 2063 Agenda of the African Union and other national development aspiration documents prescribe a future to be lived by you. It is your proactive action on matters that threaten our survival like climate change and demand for climate justice, that will assure a better place for future generations. I am sure you will be returning to your respective countries enlightened and energized to be a force for good.



*HE Dr Joyce Banda is the Former President of the Republic of Malawi and Pan African Climate Justice Champion*

## Martha Bekele

To the participants, you have now been trained to recognize injustice in climate finance, in global health, in gender, and in many more matters related to climate. But you are also equipped with the knowledge and skills to push back in advocacy and in producing data and evidence; to be unapologetic when you hold neo-colonialists to account. You have been exposed to the idea that we need to decolonize our minds, our systems, our ways of thinking, our values, and our beliefs. Interrogate, ask, take a step back and interrogate again and again until it makes sense to you.

I implore you to ignore and forget the naysayers. You'll meet fellow Africans who say you are up against a wall; that what you are pushing for – climate justice and social justice – is futile, and that your efforts are in vain. But I want to remind you there is a reason why you are in this space; there is something different about you. There is a fire in you. Take care of that fire, that passion.



*Martha Bekele is Africa Impact Lead, Development Initiatives*

# VOTE OF THANKS FROM GRADUANDS

## Evans Muchanga

Observing you brimming with the requisite knowledge on climate justice serves as a clear testament that we are all ignited to awaken, equip and inspire generations to come of the very essence of preserving our mother nature.

Imperative to say, Nairobi summer school served a great role in my life and the lives of my fellow East African community members by imparting knowledge on just transition, climate justice and finance, green economy and entrepreneurship, climate justice advocacy and communication, climate gender and social justice and my favourite, human and environmental rights.

We were challenged to go beyond the books and bear the brunt to ensure our communities own the solutions we picked from this high-level training. this gathering was not just a meeting of minds but a convergence of passion, purpose, and unwavering commitment to combat climate change. . As we leave the venue, we ought to a share the understanding that this is not the end, but merely the beginning of a transformative journey.

**Thank you very much.**



## Nordine Shutang Tandangwe

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My reflections/intervention will be only on three points: Africa is the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change yet they emit less than 4 % of total greenhouse gas emissions. Adaptation and mitigations are in too many ways to address the climate crisis. However, the countries of the global north must support Africa with climate finance especially adaptation finance in the form of grants and not loans as per Article 9.4 of the Paris Agreement. Secondly, energy efficiency is the cheapest and most reliable way to limit the use of fossil fuels. As an engineer, I can contribute to this by designing systems that use lower energy for better output within a specific period. And most probably to use renewable energy to design systems. Finally, Climate advocacy can always be effective when key facts accompany it. It is therefore important for us to do more research to be equipped and informed, to read conventions and protocols on climate change such as the Vienna Convention Kyoto Protocols and Paris Agreement. It is also crucial for us to engage with our local populations to ensure that they have our solutions to their needs that align with the country's goals. I must say that I am truly ignited, I have been empowered to make change in my community. **Thank you!**

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*Nordine Shutang Tandangwe graduate from is NSSCJ -IV and he spoke on behalf of NSSCJ -IV Graduands from Central Africa region*

## Ms Smriti Shah

I am glad to be here as the sole representative of Asia at the symposium organized by the Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance. I am deeply grateful to PACJA and Chuka University for expanding their reach and including me in this vital programme. I am amazed by insights, expertise, passion and African Energy. I have delved into the program which has allowed me to explore climate change issues and better understand the intersections of climate justice and equity. My roles involve exploring and designing strategies in WASH, Health and Nutrition. Now to combat undernutrition in the humanitarian setting it's for climate change. I have learnt here that humanitarian aid and Climate Financing are completely different from one another. PACJA's Commitment to climate justice and bringing youth together in solidarity is truly inspiring. The diverse perspectives and live discussions we have shared have been invaluable tools. The knowledge and insight about the African continent I have gained here will enhance my advocacy efforts back to my region.



*NSSCJ -IV Alumnis from Nepal who spoke on behalf of Asia region representation*

## Ms Reem Elsayed

This gathering doesn't just represent an event but a powerful movement dedicated to the pursuit of a just and sustainable future for all. All partners and organizers thank you for providing us the platform to learn, connect and inspire one another. Thank you to the speakers and facilitators who have shared the knowledge and insights with us from understanding the interlinkage between climate change and social justice to climate mitigation and adaptation strategies, climate financing, climate policy, advocacy and communication, to climate change, peace and health and gender. We have delved deep into critical issues of climate justice and explored innovative solutions and actionable strategies. To address the challenge with these, the knowledge and skills we have gained here are invaluable tools and will guide our ongoing efforts in advocacy, policy and research to create a more sustainable and equitable Africa.



*Ms Reem Elsayed, NSSCJ -IV Alumna who spoke of behalf of graduates from Northern Africa Region*

## Aboubacrine AG Aklini

It's a feeling of pride, of honor but above all of regret because we will be leaving each other in a few days. But during these few days, I do not regret having known brothers and sisters, children from Africa. We leave with the satisfaction of having learned from you, our elders. You have made us lions. Thank you for showing us today the importance of our continent. Thank you for sharing with us today the importance of fighting climate change, issues of adaptation, good governance, and negotiation techniques. If this school was not there, it had to be created. Thank you to this school which is quite simply a source of knowledge, the key to success. I inform you today that you have just awakened in us old lions, you have just awakened great white elephants, you have just awakened in us black hawks which from this moment guarantee you that they will not scurry before absolutely anything for the defense of the well-being of our community. Thank you so much!



*Aboubacrine Aklini is NSSCJ -IV Alumnus who spoke of behalf of graduates from Northern Africa Region*

## Christine Mhone

Representing the Southern African region, I can say that our experiences and perspectives have added a crucial dimension to the discussions. The region faces unique challenges and opportunities in addressing climate justice, and our participation here has been invaluable in shaping a collaborative approach to these issues.

Over the past two weeks, we have delved into the intricate relationship between climate justice and national, regional, continental, and global development, and health. My key learning point has been the critical need to integrate climate justice into our national, regional, continental, and global development practices to build resilient and inclusive communities. This sentiment was echoed by my fellow delegates, who have shared diverse perspectives and insights, enriching our collective understanding.

Our takeaway from this experience is profound. We are now equipped with the knowledge and drive to embark on projects that serve climate justice. We are committed to advocating for sustainable urban development that prioritizes the well-being of our communities and addresses the disproportionate impacts of climate change on vulnerable populations. I am excited to share that I will be implementing what I have learned here at the upcoming African Smart Cities Congress in Lilongwe, Malawi, which I will be hosting in my capacity as the ambassador.



*Christine Mhone is NSSCJ -IV Alumna from Southern Africa Region*