

PRESS STATEMENT

Adaptation and Finance are top priorities for Africa:

The Global Goal on Adaptation and the New Collective Quantified Goal should reflect this reality.

The Pan African Climate Justice Alliance in collaboration with CARE International and other partners, organized a comprehensive and outcome-oriented forum to promote accountability and advance the climate finance agenda, with a particular focus on the adaptation needs of the African continent. The primary objective of the forum was to contribute to the outcomes of the Tenth Session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development Goals (ARFSD-10) and make preparations for SB60. Held over two days on April 17 and 18, 2024, the dialogue aimed to explore ways to secure climate adaptation for Africa within the Global Goal on Adaptation and provide critical recommendations to inform the design of the New Collective and Quantified Financial Goal (NCQG).

The forum brought together experts and stakeholders from diverse sectors to deliberate on the most pressing issues related to climate adaptation in Africa and identify practical solutions to address them. The discussions centred on key themes, such as building momentum towards COP 29, enhancing accountability and transparency in climate finance, and leveraging partnerships to mobilise resources for climate adaptation in Africa.

The forum's recommendations are expected to inform the design of the NCQG and contribute to the broader global efforts to tackle climate change. The outcomes of the forum will also be instrumental in advancing the climate adaptation agenda in Africa and ensuring that the continent's unique needs and priorities are well-represented in global climate negotiations.

Aware that Article 7 of the Paris Agreement, established the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) to enhance adaptive capacity, strengthen resilience, and reduce vulnerability to climate change;

Recognizing the ongoing work under the Global Goal on Adaptation by the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience and that adaptation is a global challenge with various dimensions and emphasis on the long-term global response to climate change to protect people, livelihoods and ecosystems;

Taking into account the urgent and immediate needs of developing country Parties, front-line communities and indigenous people that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change;

Concerned about the lack of commitment by developed countries to provide adequate, predictable, timely and needs-based financial support to developing countries to fast-track the implementation of adaptation programs, despite the Paris Agreement being underpinned by the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities;

Noting that the Adaptation Gap Report 2023 highlights that adaptation is underfinanced and that countries are least prepared, with only 26 countries in Africa having developed their National Adaptation Plans.

Concerned about the slow progress in the formulation and implementation of NAPs at the country level and that the UNFCCC negotiations have not made any significant progress, especially on the critical aspects of financing which is essential in their implementation.

Recalling the IPCC-AR6 report that asserts that Africa will be impacted by climate change under all mitigation scenarios, setting a stage for demands for accelerated adaptation and response measures on loss and damage actions to enable communities at the frontline of the crisis.

Disturbed by the fact that the climate crisis persists as a formidable obstacle to Africa's development and the well-being of its inhabitants and that there is a lack of urgency in addressing critical issues relevant to the continent.

Concerned about the continuous double counting of Official Development Assistance (ODA) as climate finance and Norway's proposal to augment the same given sluggishness in defining climate finance;

Deeply concerned that access to climate finance, whether through direct or indirect mechanisms, is not working for African countries and that bureaucratic and highly technocratic processes make the process lengthy and create complexities that deter community institutions from accessing it.

Noting the guiding principle emanating from COP28 that underlines fairness and equity, calling on parties to collectively align with just and equitable pathways towards achieving 1.5C without overshooting the Purpose of the Paris Agreement in Article 2.1 and to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change in the context of sustainable development and the eradication of poverty.”

Aware that the UAE Belem Work Programme must acknowledge that the impacts of climate change are unequal, therefore, it is pivotal that the principle of CBDR-RC is applied while developing indicators to ensure equity and justice in access to means of implementation

Conscious of the funding challenges that constrain the processes of developing comprehensive and agile national and regional frameworks to respond to climate change and its potential ramifications in framing the GGA indicators and targets in African countries.

Hopeful of the possibility of establishing a new collective and quantified financial goal in 2024.

Here and in securing the adaptation and financing interests for Africa recommend:

A. Securing the Global Goal on Adaptation

a. Centering adaptation in NAPs and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC 3.0)

1. We call on African Parties to accelerate the integration of adaptation into local, national and regional planning, including developing and implementing participatory, inclusive and gender-transformative National Adaptation Plans.
2. Enjoin developed countries and Multilateral funding bodies, including those under the United Nations Framework on Climate Change (UNFCCC) like the GCF, to prioritize and accelerate access to new, additional and grant-based funding for African countries to formulate and implement their NAPs as an integral component for achieving the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) target on planning and implementation by 2030 as per decision 2/CMA.5
3. We demand that developed country Parties update and submit ambitious NDCs consistent with the provisions of Articles 3 and 4 of the Paris Agreement to keep alive the goal of limiting global warming to 1.50C.

b. On actualizing the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA):

1. We call for specific context-based indicators that align with the realities of local communities, indigenous people, and marginalised communities. These indicators must align with thematic and dimensional targets within the GGA and be gender-responsive.
2. We request that the GGA indicators be flexible to allow for periodic review to accommodate the climate change dynamics for communities likely to repeatedly face the same crisis.
3. We recommend that the UAE-Belem work programme integrates the development of indicators highlighting the means of implementation (finance, capacity and technology) required to achieve the GGA across each of the 11 targets

4. We call on parties to adopt a standardised methodology for monitoring, evaluating and reporting progress at the global level and contextualised at national and local levels, building on countries' existing MEAL systems

5. We reiterate the need to identify and judiciously align relevant indicators from existing frameworks such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Sustainable Development Goals, the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), and other multilateral agreements.

B. Securing climate finance for sustainable long-term climate action

a. A progressive outlook for the New Collective and Quantifiable Goal on climate finance goal

1. We underscore that the NCQG must rely on a science- and needs-based approach to deliver an urgent scale-up of public climate finance in line with principles of equity, common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities
2. That NCQG should be anchored on the provisions of the Paris Agreement Article 2.1c on making climate finance flows consistent with low carbon and climate resilient development pathway
3. The NCQG- quantum should be informed by national data reflecting actual needs for Climate Change adaptation, mitigation and loss and damage and must adopt a people-centred, locally led inclusive approach including the use of National Adaptation Plans and National Determined Contributions to inform the NCQG
4. The Adaptation finance subgoal of the NCQG should be new, additional, grant-based – or grant-equivalent
5. The NCQG should have a robust mechanism for direct access to finance and decision-making for local institutions and communities

6. Phased milestones in the mobilization of NCQG for ease in tracking and accountability goals with means of accounting for climate finance to eliminate double-counting

7. The NCQG process should develop a consistent and standardized approach for accounting climate finance to eliminate the problem of double counting that has characterized the climate finance landscape.

b. Anchoring the loss and damage fund (LDF) in the NCQG

1. Loss and Damage Fund (LDF) should have a fundraising strategy complemented by a clear sub-goal for long-term funding enabled by NCQG.

2. LDF should be grounded in the principles of climate justice, CBDR-RC, human rights including children rights, and gender equality and financed from grant-based or grant-equivalent sources

3. LDF should be directly accessible to governments, civil society groups and vulnerable and marginalised groups in developing countries.

4. Provide for a readiness facility should support countries and communities to better prepare and set up agile and inclusive policy and institutional frameworks for responding to loss and damage.

c. In securing just access modalities for enhanced access to climate finance to frontline communities:

1. Call for access mechanisms that are direct and flexible to accommodate the needs of developing countries and their people

2. Continue to advocate for a robust and gender-responsive mechanism for direct access to grant-based finance for the most vulnerable communities (women, youth, elderly, children, indigenous people) and their institutions

3. In a broad sense call for elimination of bottlenecks to climate finance under NCQG that have hitherto impeded access to funds by the developing countries.

d. Advancing for a climate just definition of climate finance

1. Pursue a definition asserting that climate finance consists of only cross-border flows from developed to developing countries that have been actually disbursed and are new and additional, climate-specific and in the form of grant/grant equivalent consistent with principles of climate justice
2. In principle, pursue a definition under which loans from developed countries to developed countries, fully paid for and in interest are not computed as part of the climate finance contribution of developed countries

A. A further Call on African political leadership to demonstrate leadership in:

1. Pursuing high-level political dialogues with leaders from the north to secure political commitment for actionable and ambitious NCQG, and securing climate finance flows as per the commitment
2. Positioning Africa as a champion for developing the Global Goal on Adaptation through demonstrated leadership in reviewing their National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) with strong adaptation targets and utilising these in influencing the framing of the goal.
3. Leveraging on its leadership to form formidable influence blocks to exert pressure towards the securing of the Global Goal on Adaptation by strengthening South-South cooperation through the G77 and China and building alliances with other developed countries' blocks.
4. Provide political leadership regarding whether loans to African countries meant to finance climate action and which are paid with interest by African countries should be computed as climate finance contribution of developed countries
5. Collectively as a continent, under the convenorship of the CAHOSCC, pursue strategic communications on GGA harnessing our collective voice and utilizing all strategic spaces in pursuit of this goal.

6. Call on regional technical bodies such as UNECA to provide synthesis information to the political leadership to enhance their effectiveness in the influencing process on GGA and NCQG.

7. Emphasis on their leadership role in holding leaders in developed countries and in their role in creating ample conditions for facilitating non-state actors and other stakeholders' actions in enhancing transparency and accountability in financial contributions adaptation.

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