



AFRICAN CIVIL SOCIETY STATEMENT ON THE ONGOING UNFCCC 56TH SUBSIDIARY BODIES INTERSESSIONALS IN BONN, GERMANY

“NO COP27 WITHOUT A FIRM COMMITMENT ON LOSS AND DAMAGE”

BONN, GERMANY, JUNE 15, 2022

We, the members of Pan Africa Climate Justice Alliance have been following with deep concern the ongoing negotiations and particularly on the Loss and Damage agenda. It is worth noting that the G77 and China Group and all developing nations put a spirited fight in Glasgow last year during COP26 for the establishment of a mechanism for financing loss and damage. The Parties from the developed countries blocked this proposal, opting instead for the establishment of the Glasgow Dialogue as a compromise under Paragraph 73 of the CMA Pact-decision.

This paved the way for Parties, relevant organizations and stakeholders to discuss the arrangements of funding activities that could avert, minimize and or address loss and damage associated with the adverse impacts of climate change. The first dialogue happened here in Bonn, June 2022. The statements that were issued by the chair of SBI, UNFCCC Executive Secretary and the representative of the Executive Committee on Warsaw International Mechanism on loss and damage (WIM) during the opening session of the dialogue weighed heavily on the need for openness, pragmatism and practical solutions to the loss and damage agenda.

The Executive Secretary to UNFCCC reiterated the need to focus more on the communities who are most vulnerable to climate change. This is the position that PACJA has always communicated. In the words of the chair of SBI, every decimal degree in temperature rise is important to this process, which is well collaborated by the findings of the 6th IPCC assessment report which was presented in the first Glasgow dialogue meeting by Reinhardt Meckler- a researcher with IPCC. Reinhardt indicated that at 1.1 degree of temperature rise, climate change have already caused serious damages to ecosystems and livelihoods, in fact nearly 50% of the world's population is staring at the challenge of water scarcity.

The IPCC expert further indicated that the excessive death rate from non-optimal temperatures in sub-Saharan Africa is estimated to be nearly double the global average. This validates PACJA assertion that the African Continent is among the regions which suffers most to climate change impacts despite its meagre contribution to global GHG emissions of 4%. It is the epitome of continuing gross violations of human rights for communities in the frontline of climate crisis through climate unjust actions of commission and omissions by developed countries. It informs the clarion call by PACJA for consideration of Africa as a region with special needs and circumstances. Besides the economic losses emanating from climate change, the unquantifiable non-economic losses for Africa are massive. These range from destruction of fragile ecosystems, loss of cultural heritage, among others.

PACJA held a unique conference in Malawi in April this year that provided a platform for communities at the front line of the climate crisis, including women from rural Mozambique, South Africa, Malawi among other countries, to narrate their real life experiences of the losses and damage and how their lives are affected. The 4-day's workshop was saturated by emotional episodes as the women in Malawi and Mozambique broke down in tears as they narrated their sad stories of loss of relatives, property and livelihoods. It is the story of **Eluby Nota of Malawi** that



silenced the room for minutes as participants were unable to hold back their tears watching and listening to a story of despair, hopelessness and fatigue. Her emotional pain was obvious and too much to bear.

Loss and Damage is an immutable reality. It has human faces and all must see it that way, because that is what it is. This is why we, we, the members of PACJA fraternity, are deeply concerned by the turn of events here in Bonn where this agenda, just like the global goal on adaptation, has been reduced into EMPTY RHETORIC with the lack of progress and consensus on financial arrangements for loss and damage. The Glasgow Dialogue turned out to be a “therapy session” where parties, who are from the elite class, casually shared experiences of loss and damage, which are in disconnect with painful real life experiences of women and communities at the frontline of the climate crisis like Eluby Nota.

We are alarmed by the attempt by developed countries Parties to block any kind of negotiations on financing loss and damage in COP 27 agenda. As of yesterday, the SBI chair was left with no choice but to announce that he will put in his report the reality that parties did not reach a consensus on this matter.

We are further concerned by the attempt to derail action on loss and damage by the continued discussions on institutional arrangements for the Santiago Network on Loss and Damage without predictable timelines and urgency for decisions on addressing loss and damage.

We, therefore: -

- Demand that as a basic minimum, Loss and Damage financing MUST be the priority agenda in COP 27 with clear timelines on addressing the issue, which is already ravaging African livelihoods. We therefore demand for the establishment of a clear financing mechanism for loss and damage in line with article 8 of the Paris Agreement. These finances for loss and damage should be predictable in quality and quantity and should be separate from Official development assistance (ODA), Adaptation Fund and the Green Climate Fund (GCF).
- Demand that the negotiations on Loss and Damage MUST be action-oriented with predictable support to avert the economic and non-economic losses as a result of loss and damage
- We demand urgent intervention and frank negotiations on loss and damage, given the evidence already provided by the AR6 report of the IPCC, majorly on the African Continent.
- We demand urgent operationalization of the Santiago Network on Loss and Damage (SNLD), considering the magnitude of loss and damage in Africa no later than COP27.
- Demand that parties put a clear distinction between loss, damage, and disaster risk reduction as provided in the evidence of AR6.
- Call for a great commitment from parties in following the direction already set by the Scottish government at COP27 in financing loss and damage.
- Call on parties to be alive to the differentiated impacts of losses and damages to men, women, youth and the disabled and act following the established evidence.
- Call upon parties to consider the role and capacity of the Civil Society Organizations in loss and damage response and fast track mechanisms for easing access to climate finance to CSOs.



ENDS

Note to the Editor:

Pan African Climate Justice Alliance is a consortium of more than 1000 organisations from 48 African countries that brings together a diverse membership drawn from Grassroots, Community-based organizations, Faith-based Organizations, Non-Governmental organizations, Trusts, Foundations, Indigenous Communities, Farmers and Pastoralist Groups with a shared vision to advance a people-centered, right-based, just and inclusive approach to address climate and environmental challenges facing humanity and the planet.

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