

# **PAN-AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARIANS' SUMMIT ON CLIMATE POLICY AND EQUITY**

**Remarks by Senator Didier Molisho Sadi, Chair, Committee on Agriculture,  
Natural Resources and Environment, Pan-African Parliament**

---

**Your Excellency the president of the Republic of Kenya, Hon. Dr. William Ruto;**

**Your Excellency Moussa Josefa Sacko, African Union Commissioner for  
Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue economy and Sustainable development;**

**Honorable Speakers from National and Regional Parliaments present here today;**

**Dr. Mithika Mwenda, Executive Director, Pan Africa Climate Justice Alliance and  
the Co-host of this Summit;**

**The Bureau of the Pan African Parliament;**

**Honorable members representing National Assemblies, Regional Parliaments and  
individual parliamentary Networks both in Africa and beyond;**

**Representatives from Governments, Intergovernmental Institutions, civil society  
and other Groups;**

**Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen;**

It is my great pleasure and honour, both on my behalf and on behalf of the Standing Committee for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Economy of the Pan African Parliament, to welcome you all to this historic Summit on climate policy and equity. I would also wish to extend my heartfelt appreciation to the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA), first for its continued collaboration with my Committee and PAP in General, and for supporting this Summit, technically and financially.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, as the Chair of the Committee of the Sector whose importance in Africa's economic transformation cannot be gainsaid, I am acutely aware of the challenges and opportunities that climate change poses for our continent and its people. Food security, migration, conflict and poverty are all interlinked issues that are worsened by climate change. Climate change impacts the availability, access, utilisation and stability of food systems, leading to hunger and malnutrition. It also displaces millions of people who face increased risks of exploitation, discrimination and

violence. Furthermore, it exacerbates existing inequalities and conflicts by creating or aggravating resource scarcities, grievances and instability.

At the same time, Honourable members, climate change also presents an opportunity to rethink and redesign our agricultural systems, health and economic and practices. By adopting more sustainable and resilient methods, we can reduce greenhouse gas emissions, enhance soil health, and improve water management. Moreover, by harnessing the potential of innovation and cooperation, we can develop and share solutions that benefit farmers, consumers, and the environment.

This Summit presents us with a lifetime opportunity to explore the best ways of dealing with these challenges, but also taking advantage of the opportunities they present.

Honourable members, Ladies and gentlemen,

As representatives of the people, parliamentarians have a crucial role to play in advancing climate action and ensuring that it is fair, equitable, just for and inclusive, without leaving anyone behind. This is particularly made urgent with the increasing demand for locally-led adaptation actions, which are paramount in the implementation of the Paris Agreement and its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). The severity of the crisis on our continent, which have been put into the cross-roads owing to multiple challenges highlights:

- The need to uphold the primacy of adaptation as utmost priority for the African continent and its people, both as science demands, and as an imperative of climate justice.
- The need to strengthen the legislative framework for climate action in Africa, drawing on the specifics of our context and the best practices and experiences of other regions and countries.
- The need to enhance the oversight and accountability functions of parliamentarians in monitoring and evaluating the implementation of policy frameworks and commitments, both at the national and continental levels, as well as ensuring that they are aligned with the respective Countries national

sustainable development blueprints, the Paris Agreement, African Union's Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

- The need to unify our efforts and avoid duplication of efforts by fostering dialogue and cooperation among parliamentarians across Africa and beyond, encouraging synergy among platforms such as the Pan-African Parliament (PAP), the Pan-African Parliamentarians Network on Climate Change (PAPNCC), the African Climate Legislation Initiative (ACLI) and the African Parliamentarians Network on Climate Action (APCA), which aim to build capacity, share knowledge, and influence policy on climate change and food security issues.
- The need to engage with, and empower local communities, especially women, youth, farmers, and other vulnerable groups, who are most affected by climate change impacts and have valuable knowledge and solutions to offer.
- The need to seize the opportunity that climate change offers to transform our agricultural systems and practices towards more sustainable and resilient models that can reduce emissions, enhance adaptation, and improve livelihoods. Parliamentarians should support, and be part of, innovation and investment in low-carbon technologies, renewable energy sources, agroecology, and circular economy approaches.
- The need to amplify the voice and participation of African parliamentarians in global climate negotiations and forums to advocate for the interests and rights of our continent.
- The need to strengthen strong collaboration with other non-state Actors such as civil society, private sector, academia and media to raise awareness and mobilize support for climate action, illustrated by this Summit which is hosted jointly between PACJA and PAP.

These are some of the key objectives that I hope this Summit will achieve.

### **Distinguished members, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The Pan African Parliament has not been indifferent to the climate crisis affecting our continent and the rest of the world. Last year during the UN Climate Change Conference in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, we convened a High-Level Panel Discussion on

“Building Just and Fair Climate Resilience in Africa through Parliamentary Action”, in collaboration with partners. The aim of the event was to highlight the role of parliamentarians in advancing climate action and ensuring that it is inclusive, equitable and responsive to the needs and aspirations of the African people. The event concluded with a set of recommendations for parliamentarians to take forward in their legislative and oversight functions, as well as a call for increased support from the international community to enable Africa to achieve its climate goals and aspirations. This Summit forms part of these recommendations, as we resolved to robustly extend the engagement of parliamentarians at all levels.

Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen, we seek to promote dialogue, cooperation and action among parliamentarians, governments, civil society and other stakeholders on climate change adaptation, resilience-building first and foremost, as that is the sticking point in African economic orientation. Where sustainable agricultural development and food security is critical to reduce chronic anger fuelled by drought. Enhanced capacity of parliaments will enable exercise their mandates in overseeing and implementing the commitments made by both continents under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement.

In promoting the EU-Africa partnership, we will build on the African-European Parliamentary Action Plan on Climate Change and Food Security formulated in 2008. Am glad that in this Summit we are joined by our EU Parliament allies, and hope that part of the way forward will be to revisit this partnership and explore how to use it as our joint instrument for Climate Action collaboration.

In conclusion, may I reiterate our willingness to work together with all, both State and Non-State Actors to defeat the crisis which need to be attacked from all sides. My sincere hope is that this Summit will not be any other meeting, but will result in concrete recommendations and actions that will guide our future work as legislators on climate policy and equity.

I thank you for your attention and wish you a successful summit.