



**EIGHTH AFRICA REGIONAL FORUM ON  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (ARFSD 8)  
REPORT FOR THE AFRICAN AFRICA REGIONAL  
DIALOGUE ON CLIMATE SECURITY**

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## INTRODUCTION

Climate crisis is changing the security landscape in Africa. The risks that ensue include increased migration and displacement, heightened political tensions within and between countries of the region, as well as the risk of violent conflict, which is an additional push factor for migration and displacement. Consequently, climate-related security risks increase the challenges for conflict prevention and resolution in the Africa region. As such, it is no surprise that climate-related security risks are now prominently discussed at different multilateral organizations.

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU) dedicated its 828th meeting on 19th February 2019, to an open session on Climate Change, Peace and Security. And the AU PSD Commissioner stated in December 2020, "Silencing the Guns is a goal that we must remain devoted to in 2020 and beyond. Within this framework, I call on all Member States to promote socio-economic development, especially employment for youth; mitigate effects of climate change and root causes of intercommunal violence". The topic has also garnered the attention of the UN Security Council where climate change was recognized as a risk to peace. References to climate security have been included in several UN resolutions and the topic was discussed prominently at the UN High- Level Political Forum.

But with increased recognition, comes increased demand to find adequate responses to climate-related security risks. It is therefore important to interrogate how conflicts and conflict-related migration in Africa are affected by climate change and to identify and develop adequate measures for conflict prevention and conflict resolution that are regionally owned and supported.

PACJA, FES and SIPRI established the Horn of Africa Climate Security Working Group which has been focusing on the complexity of violent conflict and its relationship with climate change – how conflicts transcend borders and more broadly how the two issues relate to each other. The working group focused on various issues including; how climate change can be incorporated into ongoing peace agreements and processes; and how to improve regional mechanisms and global processes on climate security; identifying necessary, comprehensive and potentially supportive or complementary regional mechanisms on different levels to be able to better address climate-related security risks in the Horn of Africa as well as international efforts to regulate and end violent conflict in the region by addressing climate security risks. This work garnered a lot of interest across the African region, and it was important to have introspect of the climate security discourse in Africa.

It is with the above rationale that PACJA is organizing an Africa regional Climate Security workshop, bringing together regional stakeholders from across Africa drawn from civil society and experts to discuss to what extent climate-related security risks can be integrated in ongoing and future regional, continental and international efforts to regulate and end violent conflict in Africa region by addressing climate security risks

## Opening Session - Expert Presentations

*Session Moderator, Catherine Wangechi, PACJA Secretariate*

***Perspectives around climate induced migrations, the impacts of climate change on human security & Climate Change in Africa as a driver of Conflicts and Migration***

### **Expert Presentation 1**

Professor Bond - has done a lot of work around climate justice, he has been involved in the World Summit on Sustainable Development. He is an author of about 4 books on climate justice.

***Speaker: Professor Patrick Bond,***

Starting with a quick introduction to the common South African welcome statement, **‘Amandala – aweetu... power to the people’**, Prof Bond noted that the discussion will highlight climate security issues around two regions.

The south African region was the focus of the discussion and compared to the second region the Horn & East Africa, which are two spaces that have had a major learning in 2019 touching on climate, conflict and migration and the tragedy of war including the recently started war in Ukraine. Importance of some countries with regards to fossil fuel needs. The continued interest in oil and gas that is likely a huge factor in the war between Russian and Ukraine and largely how it impacts on the whole of Europe. The reliance we have on centralized sources of volatile unreliable fossil fuels from big Western companies, from state companies and the world has to a large extent increased climate related conflict. UNFCCC has co-opted many countries in the whole fossil debate however interests by some of the world biggest polluters including the USA and the BRICs (including Russia – the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest GHG emitter globally) quietly entered into a deal to destroy the possibility of binding emissions cuts, that has had a huge impact on how the war against fossil fuels and thus largely contributed to the little or almost no progress on fossil fuel war in addition to not supporting decentralised renewable energy sources such as hydro, solar and wind.

Classic example is the case of central Africa and off shore gas fields in Mozambique which through the global oil giants Total, Exxon Mobil, China national petroleum and other western corporate interests lead to a meeting between the presidents of South Africa, France and Rwanda who all pulled their weight to get military backing to help fight Islamic insurgents who were standing in the way of gas extraction. The global interests in oil and gas have continued to increase climate related security concerns.

Climate conflict is noted to highly profit oil and gas corporations and linked to climate change is the continued occurrence of cyclones as was witnessed recently which has also led to rain bombs as per recorded 168mm of rain in less than 24 hours and this had a huge impact on the local community which suffered massive losses including collapse of houses, loss of at least 71 lives (mostly African women and children) in Durban alone and an estimated loss of approximately USD 17 million. In addition, this has also led to increase the number of climate related refugees specifically xenophobia among the working class in South Africa. No sufficient compensation to rebuild was provided, and thus this climate insecurity could not allow for the affected persons to build back.

In ability of the climate movements to stop the key to this is for actors in the climate space to seek for climate justice. Other countries hardest hit include Malawi and Zimbabwe due to cyclone Idai for which there are more than 400 documented deaths and way over 600 persons still missing. What is noted is that the most vulnerable persons are paying the climate debt for concerns that they have contributed the least as witnessed by the massive loss of lives and property due to cyclones Idai and Kenneth. Since the occurrence of the cyclones, Mozambique, is so far classified as the 4<sup>th</sup> hardest hit climate insecure country from the climate risk analysis of 2000 - 2019.

Climate justice movements have started taking initiative to the political class and are demanding that climate relief funds should be directly channelled to CSO as opposed to being channel to government as cited by the Centre for Natural Resource and Governance. All factors considered; climate justice is largely to be considered as transferring funds from destructive pro fossil fuel initiatives to address climate justice for those most affected by climate change. Climate justice is summarised as living the gas unexploited and paying the climate debt - the Loss and damage should largely look at providing reparations to be paid for climate insecurity. Stop the war, stop the extraction and pay the climate debt. Movement within the civil society, people to people solidarity.

### **Expert Presentation 2:**

**Speaker: Dr. Nicholas Orago, *University of Nairobi School of Law, E,D Haki Jamii***

The African countries are noted to be heavily reliant on natural resources and thus gets to suffer intricate and multi-layered stress that led to increased vulnerability to the adverse effects of climate change.

Demographic pressure – shrinking livelihood opportunities, high unemployment rates within the African countries, over dependence on rain fed agriculture and rain fed pastoralism, which in kind has also led to conflict between human, wildlife and bio diversity in addition to Africa having a high number of the extremely poor. Entrenched inequality - manifested in the form of very few people with so much, while the vast majority have almost nothing. Weak governance systems, contested governance and gender inequality which has largely painted women as the face of poverty in addition to weak/poor infrastructure which has made it hard for us to adapt or mitigate some of the pressures of climate change.

African has almost a 41% extreme poverty with approximately 65% considered to be poor. Couple with slow economic grow which even was the case before covid, however the pandemic has increased our vulnerabilities to the adverse effects of climate change. Slow and unequal human development characterised by a low HDI and the in equality that relates with our capacities, knowledge and skills to be able to put in place locally led adaptation initiatives to effectively address the effect of climate change.

There are 33 extremely vulnerable countries to climate change out of 27 (80%) are found in Africa, while on the other side of the 39 least vulnerable countries, none is from Africa. Almost all African countries have some form of vulnerability to climate change in Africa and this has to be addressed especially if we need to sustainably develop in the context of the SDG. Climate change is quite connected to disaster, and data shows that there has been an increase in disasters in Africa connected to climate change that has led to extreme weather events, cyclone Idai and Kenneth being recent notable disaster as well as droughts, floods, hurricanes. In 1970's – 86 recorded

disasters, but further in the recent years, 2000's - 2010 this has more than tripled to over 627 recorded disasters. these disasters have come with heavy losses which unfortunately are under reported. These losses in terms of human fatalities, economic losses, social dislocation have a huge impact on the African economies especially so when it is documented that disaster losses are under reported by almost 50%.

We need to use local accountability mechanisms and frameworks to hold countries accountable for GHG emissions. Extreme temperatures have largely affected productivity – including human productivity and livelihood leading to food insecurity, dislocated communities leading to migrations to areas that are already experiencing some pressure and this has in turn lead to human conflict.

With climate change triggered scarcity and our reliance on natural resources, there is possibility of competition for the scarce resources which could lead to tensions amongst human populations which could easily result into conflict and even war. Tensions between pastoralist and conservationists, as well as pastoralists environmentalists.

Conflict is also brought about by many factors – political, socio economic among many others, however, climate change is key in exacerbating conflict even more for there are causal links between climate change and conflict. IPCC 2014 report for instance stated that climate change can indirectly increase risks of violent conflict by amplifying well documented drivers of this conflict such as poverty and economic shocks. Climate change should be understood as conflict stressor.

In the plenary discussions, it was also noted while the academic experts indicate that there is no direct linkage – causal linkage between climate change and conflict, while the situation on the ground is different where there is practical evidence to the effect that climate change is having real time effect on the communities and this has been a cause of conflict. Academic experts were encouraged to be more practical in establishing the cause and effect of climate change and conflict.

### ***Interrogating the link between climate change, migrations and conflicts in the Africa***

*Panel discussion moderated by - Dr. Elvin Nyukuri, University of Nairobi - (co moderator Obed)*

#### ***Panelist:***

- *Eskedar Angichew Ergete, Environment and Natural Resources Law Centre*
- *Cecil Ndibet, REFACOF*
- *Mamoudou Oudraogo, PACJA Platform, Burkina Faso*
- *Veru Shaba – Green Building Council*

**Context:** Over time, climate change stresses on natural resources combined with demographic, economic and political pressures on those resources can degrade governments' ability to provide security and public welfare services including its ability to meet its citizens' demands for basic resources like food, water, energy and education. While noting the issue of climate-induced migration as a complex and multi-faceted topic, the push and pull factors of climate-induced migration are closely interconnected with other factors, such as, social and economic drivers for migration. Nevertheless, climate change will influence human mobility both within and across borders.

## Opening Remarks

Dr Elvin, a member of the Horn of Africa Climate Security Working Group in her remarks indicated that they have so far had a look at the peace agreements within the horn of Africa and what that means for climate security, they have also looked and the global and regional process around the AU and the UN security council, and how best to fit them in the SDGs 13 and 16, in addition to reviewing legislation within the countries to better understand the nuances between climate security and climate change even as we ride on the sustainable peace agenda of the UN with the UN Secretary general indicating that it is indeed important for us to bring in climate security in our understanding.

With a set of guiding questions, the panel discussions started with looking at *how does climate change contribute to conflicts and Will climate change be a major contributor of conflicts in the future?*

There was general consensus that climate change is both a stressor and a threat multiplier of conflict with a rather mixed feeling that it is hard to say that is direct causal relationship between the two however climate change was said to be an exacerbator of conflict. It was further agreed that power play that blamed for conflict – case of Ethiopia in the Tigray region and ethnic conflict of contestations of agricultural land by different groups/regions for economic reasons is a major contributor to conflict. Largely the scramble for limited resources i.e., in the case of dry lands that are continually expanding into what originally productive agricultural land and thus it is more to blame for conflict as opposed to a direct case where climate change can be attributed or said to have caused the conflict.

Unsustainable resource use as well as population explosion have also contributed to conflict. The management of the micro environment as well as the biodiversity and ecosystem are also a key contributor to climate security concerns. Major attributes to climate change are largely to be blamed to the global north, however African cannot simply say they have not contributed to climate change, only difference is that African has lacked the capacity to Climate change by Africa. None the less, we still have to demand climate justice

Key takeaway being, *how sustainably is the way of life of the indigenous communities supposed to be in a finite space, considering the population growth that has been witnessed due to improvements in other factors like better health, longer life span.* How sustainably are we managing our eco system as well as leveraging the knowledge that is held by the indigenous people in the context of continued resource limitation, climate change and conflict.

On the questions of *How does climate change contribute to migration? As well as the link between violent conflicts and climate migration in Africa?* It was highlighted – as per the world bank report realised in September 2021 it is projected that more than 200 million are likely to migrate due to adverse effects of climate change.

## A perspective from the Southern Africa region

Climate change is broadly a risk/threat multiplier, and as per the IPCC report released end of February 2022, in one of the excerpts, it says that regions and people with considerable development constraints such as poverty, governance challenges, limited access to basics services and resources, violent conflict have high vulnerability to climate hazards, and have more than 15 times more chances of mortality due to climate change.

If there is scarcity of food/water especially if you are a small holder farmer, fisher folk, pastoralist, if you start to have risks to your household Choose to stay and deal with what is happening or choose to stay and choose to mitigate, or maybe stay and fight or choose to leave, which then leads to migrations which will start leading to internal displacements or economic migrants who have and this are the reasons for migration access to

Climate change to possibly conflict and then to Migration is largely the link between climate change, conflict and migration. There is a correlation between the SPI index and ethnic polarisations and the possibility of having ethnic conflict when all these migrations start to happen. Practically, it can be noted that when people start to move from an affected area to the receiving area, then – competition start to exist – interpersonal conflict starts to exist, intergroup conflicts start to exist and this only exacerbates the already fragile situation brought about by ethnic polarisations. This is then summarised that due to the ethnic polarisations, lack of resources, lack of capacity to deal with some of the effects of climate change, will therefore lead some of these countries into conflict.

### **A perspective from the SAHEL region**

The Sahel region was also presented, largely painting a similar position specifically saying that populations are victims of climate change, highlighting the fact that there are conflicts that are directly related to climate change especially while highlighting the dependence on agriculture which supports over 80% of the population. While resource limitation and scarcity have correlations to conflict, it was indicated that conflict has also been contributed to by radicalisations which can be attributed to imported populations(migration). It was noted that key to understanding conflict, it is important to identify the sources of conflict and the triggers of conflict. Displacement is also a course of conflict especially so if the people are not provided with support, in addition to the recognition that climate change broadly affects peace and tranquillity of the people

On the subject matter, *Which actors will be crucial and what will be their role in addressing climate induced migration, nexus between climate and conflicts?* Celil started by affirming that climate change is not the sole driver of conflict and migrations, but it is a rather an exacerbator of the effects on conflict on men and women, who are largely are affected differently. Within the community we have men, women, boys and girls who are all differently affected by conflict. A situation in Cameroon where pastoralists were killing each other due to drought, pastoralist took their animals to agricultural lands which in turn lead to conflict. A gender dimension came strong since most of the agriculturalists were women, and considering that women are largely in charge of food production, however they don't have say on land use since they don't own the land and thus have to be pushed out of the land to look for alternative land. This conflict led to the death of many considering that they already were suffering serious vulnerabilities and now being pushed from the agricultural lands only meant that their vulnerabilities were even greater than before. Gender consideration should thus be prioritised in climate security discussions especially with the knowledge that women, girls and children are disproportionately affected by conflict. Climate change has the ability to worsen the situation on migration and conflict and interventions need to be targeted and intentional to address climate change root causes. Overall, the push for a common understanding and an agreement that climate change is responsible conflict and migration and policies need to be in place to address the disproportionate gender considerations supported by gender disaggregated data. Additionally, country competing needs especially based on fossil fuel should not override considerations that impact negatively on climate change.

## Key take aways

- There is a nexus between climate change and conflict and migration and we need the human rights defenders to explicitly bring to the attention of duty bearers the impact that climate change has on conflict and the nexus with gender-based violence especially in situations of migration. Climate change is also an economic issue that both internal and externally affect countries.
- Climate change can directly be linked to gender-based violence especially considering that this leads to temperatures rising, leading to drought, and forcing women deeper into forests and thus more exposure to GBV.
- Cohesion of indigenous people and integration of populations has a correlation to conflict and thus strategies need to be put in place to properly integrate incoming populations to mitigate conflict
- There is an assessment that climate change and conflict are linked and this linkage needs to be given prominence within the UN security council.
- Identification of root cause of conflict needs to be clear even as discussions continue on the causal linkage between climate change and conflict.
- The understanding that climate change part of the causes of migration, and conflict, thus policy frameworks are needed to delineate climate change and other causes of conflict.
- Climate adaptation should be encouraged as an approach that will help address conflict. Adaptation projects within conflict prone areas should be encouraged and should serve as evidence that locally led solutions to climate change can work
- We need to continue advocacy against the big polluters and this needs to be backed by evidence, policy, strategy and action and should be an all-inclusive process that includes the voices of all.
- Climate proof our intervention with conflict prevention, peace building and stabilization especially considering that climate change is an aggressor to any inequality be it gender or any other.
- We need to have more climate change experts to document the impact of climate change on what is really happening on the ground and how it affects the different demographics
- To support the discourse on climate security, we need to demand for transparency on climate spending and all demographics should be involved (youth, women, indigenous groups as well as the marginalised).
- Climate action to be looked at as an opportunity for peace building in communities
- Climate security competencies to be looked at since this is an emerging area of concern and we need to be clear on how to address climate change with a climate security lens.

## **2nd Panel discussion:**

***Theme:*** *Collective/ regional cooperation in addressing climate conflicts in the Africa*

***Session Chair,*** *Augustine Njamnsbi, ACSEA Coordinator and Head of Political Committee at PACJA*

### ***Panelists:***

- *Tracy Sonny, Botswana Climate Change Network*
- *Yonas Gebru, Consortium for Climate Change – Ethiopia*
- *Barista Uz̄i,*
- *Dr. Godwin Ojo,*



## **Context:**

The UN climate change summit in the Mexican city of Cancun in 2010 recognized the relationship between climate change and different forms of forced human mobility. Indeed, the global community is now beginning to fathom the challenges of people displaced by events such as floods, storms and sea level rise as well as climate change-induced conflict. These issues are not unique to the African region, and as a result the Inter-governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) has raised the topic of climate mobility in its latest two regional consultative processes. Decisions at the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) summits advanced the agenda on an international level in subsequent years. The ninth edition of Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa (CCDA-IX) dedicated a session to discuss the nexus between mobility, displacements, conflict and climate change, clearly bringing the subject as central theme in African discourses on climate change.

## **Guiding questions:**

- *What does climate change mean for conflict regulation and prevention?*
- *How would effective regional mechanisms in addressing climate conflicts and migration look like?*
- *How would this regional cooperation contribute to regulation and prevention of climate conflicts?*
- *How do we ensure effective mechanisms are put in place to prevent further conflict and forced migration as a result of climate change?*
- *What role could the civil society play in regional climate conflicts and migration?*

Shared the experience of the lake Chad water basin and the receding water levels. The lake Chad hosts one of the largest big river basin authorities in Nigeria as a hub for cultivation of rice and wheat. The zone happens to be one of the fastest and of biggest commercial Centre in terms of production of agricultural products. However, things have not been good within the lake basin especially due to depletion of the lake resources and receding water levels and poor governance. Security concerns have arisen where fishermen have to go further into the lake crossing country borders leading to arrests. The receding lake has led to depletion of resources along the lake Chad river basin, and this is evidenced in a 9 minutes documentary done in 2009 detailing the losses incurred in the lake Chad river basin value chain.

Build the capacity of people and domestic institutions to be able to respond to issues as may be affected by climate change in addition to addressing governance issues. Governance should be more responsive to the issues that are being raised, the regulatory agencies do not do their work, and thus have failed to even justify access to the multilateral system to be held responsible for what happens within our territories. Issues that are affecting the regulatory systems that have ended up in a situation where powers that be are in regulatory capture – ‘The person that is supposed to regulate unfortunately now has been captured by the person, that is, to be regulated’

Development of a clear advocacy and communication strategy, we really need to get to those who take decisions, targeted advocacy to decision makers and not just influencer and implementors that doesn't take decisions, and in most cases the decision maker don't get to know the facts and the risks that is being faced

Key issues to note are; there is a lot of interdependencies on a particular resource that serves the interests the same people of but in many countries, however the single resource is slowly fading

away largely due to climate change. Noted concerns are that the governments have failed to act appropriately in the interests of their people and to mitigate climate change related concerns.

It is noted that climate change has a lot to do with governance, lobbying for climate justice reparations. Management of conflict is also due to more and more resource extraction. As well as addressing the needs of those most affected by climate change which also leads to conflict

It is noted that there has been consistent conflict in the horn of Africa, drought is within the regions, recent we had the desert locust outbreak that originated from the middle east affecting the east African countries if Kenya, Ethiopia Uganda and South Sudan. Transnational conflict calls for a regional approach to address the highlighted issues. Governance is also trans boundary, and starts at the local, national, regional and calls for collaboration to effectively address the conflict and should have all the stakeholders – CSO, FBO, NGO, and Government involved.

Broadly speaking climate change is rooted in conflict, migration and the fight/struggle for limited resources. CSOs should address the related issues and have them on the table for discussion. Whereas conflict has largely been linked to armed conflict, it is clear that there is also conflict that is linked to resource limitation. While it is evident that conflict on resources will take time to be addressed, it is imperative upon the CSOs to realise that they cannot lose focus and should drive through engagements that will see them realise the change they want to see.

CSOs should focus on understanding the context and building on the human rights approaches that will build the capacity of the different actors to push the change. Additionally, they can leverage on traditional approaches or social approach to resolution of conflict that arise within the region. The communities' capacities can be built through training and creating linkages with government and the communities, the local authorities, who understand the context and have the indigenous knowledge and can guide on the approach to be taken.

Of course we can bring in new approaches or modernize our approaches, but let's use the traditional approaches, particularly when you're dealing with indigenous communities, for example in Botswana, we already looking into having a lot of conflicts within the Delta, where you find the same communities, and this is where you have to understand the context of how that indigenous/traditional way of putting the different/divergent ideas or ideologies together so as civil society, we have the power to do that, and we should look forward to when the CSO will take on that mandate again, coupled with research that will guide the change process.

The CSOs should be reaching out to the regional blocks, we need more political scope and particularly at even starting from the national level, build into the sub regional and then taken to the regional level, we should have that broader political scope and at the same time, have these issues addressed/reviewed/refocused or reprioritised. Solid program designs that interlink all key stakeholders to build synergy amongst them for better outcomes and there should be platforms that create space for the community to contribute to influencing change. It is important to note that we have the power to influence (Target decision makers to take actions)

And with what we've just had, and I have concluded that the issue in resolving conflict and climate change is about financing that is climate finance. And because we realize that even if you want to address the issue of pastoralist and their families, if you put in any program to support them, it comes at a cost. So, it means the issue of supporting and financing climate is critical and there

matters loss and damage to be addressed. This would call on the duty bearers, policymakers and society at the same time, then that is where we need to have a very strong voice to demand climate justice. If we are saying that the polluter must pay then who leads that, and such as CSO we need to come together and front the noted concerns of the people and to demand accountability from our leaders, and we believe even if, at the global level, it doesn't come in, in as small way something can still come in tomorrow, but overall climate finance is critical for climate justice

Key challenges continue to be regulatory capture which has the effect that decision makers and enforcers are 'pocketed' and thus not implementing some of the mechanisms and regulations that can help address climate change and climate security concerns. While we agree that the adverse effects of climate change are real, we need to come up with solutions to address these effects of climate changes for it has big bearing on matters that concern climate security. It is noted that we have conflict that is also existing between flora and Fauna as noted by the case of Gabon – elephants in Gabon.

From studies it is noted that climate change has exacerbated conflict although some of which is historical and so climate change is making this historical conflict worse. With this noted, we then need to and in the context of climate change, as actors within the space be keen to have data that informs and supports our push for climate justice, climate finance for loss and damage. And while it has always been assumed that population is an issue on matters climate change, it is now clear that this is not the case and therefore to help address climate change concerns, propositions for just climate financing should be given due consideration. This is linked with an increased demography tied to depletion of resources.

It is also important to note that key to making positive steps forward, good governance is critical and accountability of the leadership too, CSOs need to organise themselves and engage in democratic processes that have all key stakeholders involved in dialogues and this calls for collaboration with like-minded actors, and this will even call for regional level collaboration, and the need to have resources to support local actions for climate change. On the other side, while there is an attempt to increase carbon sinks, it is important to note that this has had the effect of increasing conflict between man and animals.

It is important for civil society participation to be of an informed manner, we have to understand what we're going in for in order to participate effectively, Climate change issues need to be raised as they are, and stated in very clear terms for all to know the issues are and how to mitigate them, and have the basis of calling out things by their name. It is also important that we separate issues that have always existed since time immemorial to those that have since emerged due to climate change.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Panel: Priority actions for taking the dialogue forward**

**Moderator:** Robert Muthami, **Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES)**

#### **Panellists:**

- *Dr. Augustine Njamnsbi Chair, Political and Technical Affairs Committee of the Board, PACJA*
- *Dr. Nicholas Orago, University of Nairobi School of Law*
- *Fransisca, Executive director - South African Faith Communities Environment Institute*
- *Dr. Elvin Nyukuri, University of Nairobi*

## **Background;**

After the day conversations, participants drawn from various countries, thematic areas and stakeholder groups discussed on **how** to sustain the dialogue beyond the workshop.

### **Setting the tone** - *Robert Muthami,*

The consensus that is emerging is indicative that the human security risk of today will be the Security risks of tomorrow and that puts climate change into the context and with the interest that we are getting in this conversation, it is critical to define how we are moving forward. Based on the conversations held in the morning, especially on the link between climate change and conflicts and also the collective approaches or the cooperation that we need to have when addressing the climate related risks, there are emerging dynamics, especially based on the work that we're doing on climate change within the Paris Agreement and also within the Security dynamics and also who is not in the room, we finding out that there are other actors that maybe we are not engaging, the Ministry of Defence, people in the security sectors, we seem not to be involving them in the climate change conversations. So, how do we take this conversation forward, we have the Horn of Africa climate security working group, but we need to have a broad approach of even engaging with the Sahel and the other Africa regions.

*How do we take forward the suggestions from the workshop?* It emerged, strongly that no one institution, region, sub region, grouping or individual can do it alone and thus the need to collaborate. Having a Pan African approach is the way to go and building on the Horn of Africa climate security working group, there is need to initiate a Pan African Climate security working group, that will endeavour to explain the realities that can only explained by those on the ground.

The Pan African security working group – made up of sub regional working groups and will need lots on consultations to put together to be able to deal with whatever form of ramifications – political, religious and even intertribal that may arise. The working group would have to be structured in such a way that it plays both a governance role as well as advisory to the sub regional groups and to the AU as well. The pan African working group will not be a populist formation and at all times will endeavour to be neutral and impartial in management of conflict, and with it will come a set of structures that will guide its engagement. It will need to have representation from political, religious, as well the community fraternity. The pan African working group will engage to provide a wholistic, systemic and integrated approach to management of climate security concerns.

*Do we need further evidence to understand this nexus?* In the discussions, it was proposed that as a start we need to engage each other as climate justice actors, but of even more importance is to have a conversation with other sectors in the room, sectors such as the disaster risk management Community, the Sustainable Development Community, the human rights community and the human security community. So that we're able to understand all the issues, so that when we have a strategy of implementation, it is a strategy of implementation that meets all the requirements of an effective substantive programs that cause no harm to other sectors of society.

It was proposed that there needs to be a focus on research as a way of creating a necessary evidence base for policy advocacy. If you're going to have to convince the decision makers, you have to be able to provide the data that they need in order for them to make informed decisions, and this

means that we have to document and substantively document on those conflicts that we see and that we can link to climate change. This research should also support provision of disaggregated (gender, ethnicity, location, age..) data for decision making and appropriate/targeted intervention. Document current adaptation practices that are being used by the local communities to try to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change, so that we can develop best practices from these actual practices that have proven to be effective on the ground, so that we can use those as best practices, as we advocate for the implementation in other areas with similar challenges.

*What kind of platform do we need to share information and emerging issues?* To better define platform engagement, we need to define our roles, if we're talking about climate justice, is it about witnessing what's going on or for monitoring what's going on and, most importantly, coming from an agreed position that we all know what we're speaking about otherwise it does become quite difficult to really address the issues of justice, except, of course, when new information comes to light. And if we want to really see the kind of social movement change that we want to see, then we must take a broad approach so that means, we need everybody on board. We also need to define how we want to influence/engage especially those actors that have so much more power vested interests or don't really necessarily want to engage with us. This may be through creating peace building platforms, working with faith-based actors, women and youth who have been impacted by climate change, persons that have genuine lived experiences, these are people who are who are literally dying, whether by their own hand or through starvation or through conflict.

On the other hand, if we don't start listening to these actors what we're going to find is that we aren't actually addressing the root issue the root cause of the actual lived experience. Other actors/platforms to work with could include social justice organizations, environmental justice organizations, human rights organisations all of whom look at things from a different lens, and all present an opportunity to learn something new. It is important to figure out what are the legal frameworks to support issues of climate change and security, put mechanisms in place to ensure we are able to track the money – literally follow the money – for accountability and governance in addition to avoiding a top-down approaches.

Conduct a climate security risk scan to better understand what everyone is doing/contributing to climate change and climate security developments, ensure that deliberations on climate security are all anchored on legal frameworks to support enforcement actions. Have every climate change actor on board and design approaches that will keep the team focused on the goal as well as effectively counteracting detractors and those with negative narratives.

*What should be the role of each participant to create awareness and promote this emerging area of climate conflicts and migration?*

How can the local mechanism and also a national mechanism and also looking at the regional level, how can that mechanism to address climate security look like both at the local level, national, regional and also at the international level. Use some of the platforms we have in place – for instance can PACJA take lead in moving forward the conversations, and define at what levels do we need to engage and with what platforms.

Can we work with legal and court and justice systems in terms of address climate justice issues, the role of the judiciary, legislative power that our courts have in terms of addressing climate security, for instance at the East African court of justice, the African court on people's and human rights, we have cases where our indigenous communities have actually taken most of the cases. It's

another way to show that conflict related Issues can also be addressed at that point, but also at the national level, which probably individual countries can also start looking option.

In consideration that human security realms are guaranteed, can we move the debate to also include climate security as a human survival and critical to humanity in total. Prioritising climate security equate to human security. This particular profile needs to be raised for everyone to see the impact of climate change and climate security. This engagement needs to go to the regional /AU levels show casing the criticality of climate security.

Bottom line, we need to work with all stakeholders – the private sector, church, government (we need to map out all whom we need to work with) and leverage on the power of numbers. Ensure that we anchor our actions based on research backed propositions using data and evidence to support decision making, and as PACJA, leave no one behind, have all capacity building, have advocacy on the issues and lets all move together.

### **Key takeaways**

- our lived experiences in the practice that has been shared from across all the regions of Africa shows that there is indeed a nexus between climate change and conflict and that, in one way or another climate change has either triggered conflict or it has exacerbated it.
- Scientific evidence indicates that in most of the African countries there is high vulnerability to climate change,
- Because of our reliance on natural resources, it means that scarcity will continue to increase and which, in essence, also means that competition for resources will as well, increase and likelihood of conflict
- We have to operate as a regional body, we need to cooperate and come together, and so we have identified the need for decision makers to be in touch with the realities on the ground
- We have identified the disproportionate burden borne by women and the youth
- We have also identified the need to strengthen governance internal and external at the national level and at the regional level
- As CSOs we need to communicate the urgency to address the climate in security crisis, we can no longer accept the laxity.
- We need to build an evidence base; we need to build our capacity to hold decision makers accountable.
- we need to work together platforms, of whatever nature, ranging from peace building to youth women, the church, government - we need to collaborate and unite in a common voice
- we need to be able to anchor everything on legal platform or legal instruments, legal framework
- We need to follow the money but besides following the money, we need to ensure we have solid governance structures
- We need to anchor all the propositions we make based on research and evidence and technology

## CLOSING SESSION:

*By Dr Mithika Mwenda, Executive Director, PACJA*

Dr. Mithika Mwenda in his closing remarks noted that this was a very important meeting, and is glad to see the progress of the work which we have been doing over the years since 2018 in advancing climate security in the context of climate crisis. We have been several meetings like this but were limited to the Horn over Africa region, now we have escalating this to be a Pan African conversation. They climate security, instability, volatility, Migration, resource conflict is not only limited to the Horn of Africa, there are other hot spots. The latest IPCC report mentions by name these regions West Africa, Central, Southern and Eastern Africa as the most volatile because of the conflict and mis-governance. Raising the question, how do we take this to the next level, how do we anchor that in our strategy which is being rolled out, and how does this fit in the loss and damage discourse which we are prioritizing and elevating in the countdown to COP 27 in Sharm el-Sheikh in Egypt.

We are now going now to formalise and the functionalise the working group and hand it over to stakeholders, we are going to constitute a steering committee or a technical team, which is going to outline the activities and the strategies which are going to take this forward as one of the formal initiatives of the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance. Subsequently, in the next month or so we will share with you, either in a physical meeting or even virtually in a webinar but to be firmed up during the upcoming loss and damage the conference to be held in Mozambique.

I can assure you that this is going to be one of the most important initiatives and which is going to speak about our realities, priorities, aspirations and perspectives and the context within which we find ourselves in Africa. The African context is not similar to Europe, America or the Australia, It is important to note that the African context is very unique, look at the Sahel region, the Horn of Africa they fighting is because of resource conflict, diminishing resources as a result of exceedingly growing impacts of climate change, and that's why we have been calling, In the negotiations for Africa's recognition as special needs and circumstances region. We know that agenda item was dropped at the agenda stage in the COP 26, we hope that these compelling stories being told by researchers who have been speaking here will be compelling enough to convince our other partners that you are dealing with a very unique continent, with very special needs continent, very special circumstances so that they can really hear our cry.

Thank you all.

## Annexes

1. [Session Recording](#)
2. Meeting Agenda