



## Delivering an African People's COP begins in Bonn

*Statement issued by the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) on behalf of its 1000 members representing 51 African countries*

*Bonn, 10 June 2022*—As the first week of debates and negotiations at 56<sup>th</sup> Bonn Climate Change Conference (SB56) come to a close, the Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance, on behalf of more than 1000 organisations in 51 countries that constitute its membership, reiterates as follows:

The climate crisis is now among the leading drivers of poverty and suffering throughout Africa. Cyclones in southern Africa, droughts in the Horn of Africa, erratic rains throughout the continent, and other extreme weather events have left millions without food, shelter, adequate nutrition, and a reliable source of livelihood. The number of deaths occasioned by climate related disasters is on an upward surge as the frequency of weather events on different parts of Africa increase. Climate change has increased the continent's disease and health sector burden, orchestrated mass displacement and sparked multiple conflicts throughout the region. As we have argued for decades, adaptation and increasingly loss and damage (L&D) are the main climate action priorities for the continent. These are only possible with a climate finance architecture and other means of implementation that respond to Africa's unique needs and circumstances.

Both the most recent science and policy analyses acknowledge Africa's unrivalled vulnerability to climate change. The IPCC estimates that the continent is warming 1.5 times faster than the rest of the world. Even at safe global warming thresholds of 1.5 to 2 degrees Celsius, the continent will still experience unbearable weather extremes and impacts across multiple sectors. With high dependency on climate-sensitive sectors such as agriculture, the continent's rural poor feel the effects of climate change first and the hardest. Sadly, the region is currently home to most of the world's 100 million people in extreme poverty and lacking adequate adaptive capacities. Climate change will likely push tens of millions more Africans into abject poverty in the next decade.

Sadly, global climate change policies have failed to reflect the urgency of ambitious adaptation and L&D action needed to save the lives of millions of Africans currently at the frontlines of the climate crisis. The international community spends only 20% of climate finance on adaptation, very little of which reaches Africa. For instance, the World's

Economic Forum estimates that Africa was receiving barely \$5 per person per year in Adaptation finance by 2018. Other estimates are worse. As many African suffer losses and damage from extreme weather, their financial needs have grown while supply has remained insignificant and inadequate.

COP26 was not the turning point many African advocates had hoped for after decades of dashed hopes. Our assessment of the Glasgow Climate Pact concluded that it was “a failed opportunity to spur ambitious action and secure protection for hundreds of millions of people affected by climate change in Africa and other developing nations. Efforts to secure a healthy planet and resilient communities were derailed by the narrow interests of states, notably those required to do more to address the climate crisis because of their past and current share of greenhouse gas emissions. As in previous engagements, COP26 focused on accommodating and comforting big polluters.”

Therefore, we believe that COP27 billed for the year-end in Sham el Sheik, Egypt, presents a unique opportunity to place Africa at the centre of global climate negotiations. We have dubbed it the “African People’s COP” to reflect our desire that COP27 not stay the course with previous climate change conferences and truly deliver for the African people. Doing so begins here in Bonn. SB 56 is a critical moment for influencing the COP27 outcomes to be genuinely an African People’s COP. As the leading convenor of civil society voices in Africa, the Pan-African Climate Justice therefore table the following demands:

1. *All-Party support for Africa’s needs and special circumstances:* We acknowledge the willingness of the Parties to pay full attention, in the spirit of Leaving No One Behind, to the pressing issues that must be resolved to resolutely respond to the climate crisis. In this regard, we demand all Parties, particularly rich-country Parties, to support the request of the African Group of Negotiators for an integral reflection of Africa’s Special Needs and Circumstances in all debates and decisions at SB56 and beyond. This will provide the badly needed political impetus to raise ambition on climate finance, particularly for adaptation, resilience building and L&D on the continent.
2. *Full unrestricted participation of African frontline communities in climate policy development:* We denounce in very strong terms the denial of travel authorization to hundreds of African stakeholders through unjustified visa restrictions in force at multiple German missions across the continent. The current visa restrictions are in contradiction to the spirit of “working in an open, transparent, inclusive manner.” Consequently, we call on the German authorities to put in place measures to allow fully accredited Africa stakeholders travel to Germany for the remaining days of SB56. And in anticipation, we call on the Egyptian authorities, hosts of COP 27, to live to their promise and set in place travel guarantees for African delegate, particularly frontline community members, who’s stories need to resonate at COP27 and influence decisions. This commitment should be further reinforced by setting apart ample spaces and facilitation support within the official COP27 programme for inclusive dialogues on issues affecting vulnerable populations in Africa.
3. *Ambition on finance for adaptation:* We welcome ongoing conversations on the global goal on adaptation. However, we are concerned that climate finance for

adaptation, even if fully acknowledged, has remained low on the list of priorities. This reflects the current lack of urgency to address the pressing concerns in Africa and other developing nations burdened by unrivaled vulnerabilities to the impact of climate change. We therefore urge rich nations to increase financing to levels commensurate with the needs for adaptation and the losses incurred by African communities suffering unjust climate change impacts.

4. *Demand stronger language on fossil fuel phase-out as opposed to fossil fuel phase down:* African leaders must continue to demand their northern counterparts to undertake deep emission reductions commensurate with the Paris Agreement goal of limiting global warming at 1.5 degrees and in proportion to the historical and current emissions. Further to mitigate against environmental destruction associated with CO2 must not open the door to use of nuclear or fossil-gas in energy generation.

5. Renewable energy access for all must be a key mitigation priority for Africa, accompanied by a just energy transition that is supported with affordable technology and financing. The support from the North for Just transition through technology support should be structured in a manner that allow climate financing flow in real terms to African countries and with a multiplier effect in local economies.

6. *Financing loss and damage:* The loss and damage agenda item is of great significant to the African people. The findings of the IPCC 6<sup>th</sup> Assessment report validates the position held by PACJA for years that the African continent is already incurring massive climate change related loss and damage. Besides the economic losses emanating from climate change, the unquantifiable non-economic losses for Africa are massive, this ranges from destruction fragile ecosystems, loss of cultural heritage among others. PACJA reiterates its call for structured financing arrangement to address loss and damage. We are deeply concerned by the direction parties are taking here in Bonn in approaching the Glasgow dialogue. The dialogue remains an open talk shop with no clear structure or anticipated outcomes. Glasgow dialogue should set in motion measures for a tangible commitment to action on loss and damage in Egypt.