

AFRICA NON-STATE ACTORS

Consultative Review on the Outcome
of COP29 & the Road to Belem

*Theme: "Securing climate justice for Africa in
a multipolar world in the Year of Reparations"*

CONCEPT NOTE



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Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the
Netherlands



1. CONTEXT

Dubbed the climate finance COP by the African Group of Negotiators, UNFCCC COP29 in Baku was a transformative space for securing the New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate finance (NCQG) in line with the Paris Agreement to lock developed countries in a financial deal provide developing countries with funding to implement climate action. Africa was pursuing the adoption of an ambitious and need-based NCQG to the tune of USD.1.3 trillion annually, providing information on public grants to support developing countries' transitions to low carbon and climate resilient development through the implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs). COP29 coincided with the release of the Adaptation Gap Report 2024, which amplified Africa's aspirations and faults progress in adaptation financing as not fast enough to close the enormous gap between needs and flows. Unfortunately, even when the urgent need was well supported by empirical studies, COP29 yielded a sub-optimal outcome with an amorphous commitment of USD.300 million to be mobilized from all sources, including carbon markets, providing no basis for holding any state entity to account. The divergence and convergence of interests, self-preservation among state parties and power play characterized the negotiations resulting in sub-optimal outcomes. Given the complexity of decisions made and the cross-reference to other processes, it is necessary to distil and unpack the outcome decisions for better understanding by all stakeholders, including the delineated roadmap. The non-state actors convening to review the outcome of COP29 and develop a road map for Belem provide this space.

2024 was a year of convergence of convening of all major global convenings – the climate COP (UNFCCC), the biodiversity COP (CBD) and the desertification COP (UNCCD) with all these convenings emphasizing the need for urgent action to address the triple planetary crisis but all falling short in securing financial commitments at the scale required to respond to the crisis. There is a growing recognition that while each Rio Convention does stand on its own, with its own defined objectives and commitments, there are also mutual dependencies and inherent relationships among them. Probably in Belem, Brazil, closer to Rio, the spirit of these conventions needs to be rekindled to shape 'our Common Future' in a collaborative and co-ordinated manner, synergies may result that will lead to greater progress on all fronts.

2025 is the Jubilee year, which is historically associated with debt cancellation. Analysis from across divide point to economic injustice as the main factor behind multiple crises facing the world and humanity currently – from climate, biodiversity, health and pandemics, to austerity, food and cost-of-living, and the debt crisis. Inequality, both within countries and between the Global North and the Global South, is extremely high. Progress in ending poverty has slowed to a crawl and may take more than a century. At the same time, private wealth has exploded in the last decade, as trillions of dollars poured into economies to fight the Global Financial Crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic. This has, in turn, massively inflated the wealth of the richest people and corporations, whilst leaving governments in huge debt. Debts, many of which are illegitimate, severely impact the ability of countries to provide public services and respond to the climate crisis. The debt crisis actively accelerates the climate crisis. Nations must generate foreign currency to repay their

international debts, leaving many governments little choice but to forge ahead with fossil fuel extraction and investments in industrial agriculture for export, which are two major causes of the climate crisis. More so, countries in debt distress are forced to accept the conditionalities and austerity policies imposed by the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, routinely leading to cuts in public spending, violations of rights and increased poverty and inequality. Women are the first to suffer from austerity cuts in public spending, as they lose access to public services and frontline public sector jobs, and unfairly carry most of the burden of unpaid care and domestic work, which rises when public services fail.

The thirty-eighth (38th) Ordinary Session of the African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government will be held in an atmosphere where climate commitments largely on the part of the developed governance are at stake. Taking place under the theme “Building a united front to advance the cause of justice and payment of reparations to Africans” it is an opportune time to introspect the spirit of a number of multilateral agreements on climate change and sustainable development while advancing for debt cancellation and reforming the global financial and governance architecture that perpetuate these injustices. The nature of reparations Africa is seeking must resonate their context as a region reeling under the impacts of climate change and to be impacted by climate change under all mitigation scenarios.

Reparations in the climate justice movement is broader than the ecological and financial debts and include the pervasive losses and damages occurring as a result of maladaptation to climate impacts, trade injustices linked to carbon border adjustment mechanisms, race to bottom in extraction of critical minerals and the implementation of mitigation centric NDCs whose outcome has been unable to lower the power. At the centre of it is lopsided policies that govern climate finance leading to the most inequitable access to these funds socially unjust, the growing number of countries borrowing to finance climate action and increasingly growing reverse flow of climate funds through interest rates and intermediaries who are based in developed countries. Two-thirds of all climate financing is also structured as loans — that further indebt countries already mired in debt — rather than grants. Some studies place the debt the Global North owes to the Global South approximately above US\$100 trillion encompassing unpaid climate debts to compensate for harm caused and help communities adapt to the impacts of climate change, such as rising sea levels and catastrophic events. Much of the debt owed by the Global South to the Global North is unjust, illegitimate and unsustainable. Debts impact the ability of countries to provide public services and respond to the climate crisis. Austerity policies and other conditions imposed by the IMF and World Bank exacerbate the problem. The recent COP29 decision that center carbon generated credits and private sector financing at the heart of climate finance is a bold move to weaken the spirit of the Paris Agreement notably, the Principle of Common But Differentiated Responsibility and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC). It is therefore important to reposition our influence in this evolving context

Fortunately, 2025 presents clear opportunities with many governments and intergovernmental organizations, civil society organizations, trade unions, social movements being involved in crucial international mobilization towards economic justice.

2. OBJECTIVES

- i. Critically examine the outcomes of UNFCCC COP29 in Baku to appreciate Africa's gains and misses and the broad implications of the decisions to future climate diplomacy
- ii. Re-examine the evolving geo-political context and how to position Africa's interests in diplomatic processes on climate change and related matters
- iii. Chart a pathway for effective influence by Non-state Actors in build-up towards Belem in advancing climate and economic justice for the continent

3. EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- i. Delegates develop an in-depth and common understanding of COP29 outcomes, their implications for Africa and opportunities for advancing global climate discourse processes
- ii. A deeper understanding of the geopolitical dynamics at play among African stakeholders and shifts that are necessary to strongly position climate action
- iii. A pathway for effective non-state actors for effective engagement in advancing climate and economic justice over 2025

4. TARGET PARTICIPANTS

- a. Non-State Actors (NGOs, Indigenous Groups, Women, Youth, Trade Unions, Farmers Groups, PWDS, Pastoralists, private sector actors, etc.)
- b. Technical Experts

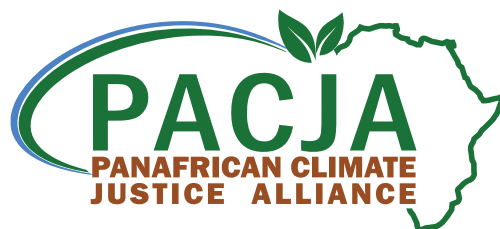
5. AGENDA

TIME	SESSION	SESSION CHAIR
Day One (12:02:2025)		
08:00–09:00	Registration	
SESSION 1: OPENING SEGMENT		
09:00–10:00	<p>OPENING STATEMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Dr. Mithika Mwenda, Executive Director, Pan African Climate Justice Alliance ◆ Dr. Ezekiel Lesmore, Director of Programs, All Africa Conference of Churches ◆ Amb. Ali Mohamed, Chair, African Group of Negotiators (AGN) ◆ Harsen Nyambe, Director, SEBE, AUC ◆ Joachim Beijmo, Head of Regional Development Cooperation, Embassy of Sweden, Ethiopia ◆ Paula Schindeler, Deputy Ambassador, Embassy of the Netherlands ◆ H.E. Ruslan Nasibov, Ambassador of Azerbaijan to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia ◆ H.E. Jandyr Ferreira Dos Santos, Ambassador of Brazil to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia <p>OPENING SPEECH: H.E. Dr. Fitsum Assefa, Minister of Planning and Development, FDRE & Chair of AMCEN Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia</p>	<p>SESSION CHAIR:</p> <p>Memory Kachambwa, Executive Director, FEMNET</p>
10:00–10:20	PHOTO SESSION, HEALTH BREAK AND PRESS INTERVIEWS	

TIME	SESSION	SESSION CHAIR
SESSION 2: An introspection of the evolving context and its implications on Africa's climate diplomacy (Looking forward and backward)		
10:20–11:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Mr. Augustine Njamnshi, Chair, Technical and Political Affairs, Pan African Climate Justice Alliance ◆ Dr. James Murombedzi, Officer-in-Chief, Climate Change & Coordinator, Africa Climate Policy Centre, UN Economic Commission for Africa ◆ Mwanahamisi Singano, Advisor, Women Environmental Development Organisation ◆ Dr. Cromwel Lukorito (Chair IPCC WG2) ◆ Dr. Olufunso Somorin, Principal Regional Officer, AfDB <p>PLENARY SESSION I</p>	<p>SESSION CHAIR:</p> <p>Eugene Nforngwa, Thematic Lead, Just Transition and Energy, PACJA</p>
SESSION 3: Introspecting the outcomes of UNFCCC COP29 in Baku under priority thematic tracks (Africa's gains and misses, broad implications of decisions to the future of climate diplomacy)		
11:30–13:00	<p>PANELISTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Obed Koringo, Senior Policy Advisor, Care International (Outcomes on adaptation and Road Map to securing the Global Goal on Adaptation and its means of Implementation in Belem) ◆ Julius Ngoma, Coordinator, Civil Society Network on Climate Change, Malawi (Making Reparations for climate change-related losses a reality – Progress on Loss and Damage agenda) 	<p>SESSION CHAIR:</p> <p>Faith Ngige, Coordinator, Kenya Platform for Climate Governance</p>

TIME	SESSION	SESSION CHAIR
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Julius Mbatia, Negotiator, Climate Finance (Key Outcomes on Climate Finance an NCQG) ♦ Martha Bekele, Co-founder, Devtransform (Priority action to secure the USD.1.3 trillion and finance-related reparations) ♦ Eugene Nforngwa, Thematic Lead, Just Transition and Energy Access, PACJA (Mitigation and just transition) ♦ Dr. Githinji Gitahi, CEO-AMREF Health Africa (Progress made in COP29 in securing the health agenda and next steps) ♦ Anne Samante, Programme Manager, MPIDO ((Indigenous peoples perspectives on the implications of COP29 decisions on Article 6 on Africa's climate action) <p>PLENARY SESSION II</p>	
13:00-14:00	LUNCH BREAK	
SESSION 4: Consultative session on effective pathways on the Road to Belem		
14:00 – 16:00	<p>Overview Presentation of PACJA Strategy for COP30 including flagship actions –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Philip Kilonzo, Head of Policy & Advocacy, PACJA <p>What would ideal the ideal outcome for Africa for Belem and strategies and approaches do you propose for effective influence?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Dr. Augustine Njamnshi, Chair, Political & Technical Committee, PACJA Board ♦ Peter Odhengo, Coordinator, AFDAN, Kenya 	<p>CHAIR: Elizabeth Wangechi, Energy Efficiency & Cooling Specialist, SforALL & Board Member WorldGBC</p>

TIME	SESSION	SESSION CHAIR
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Susan Otieno, Country Director, ActionAid Kenya ◆ Elizabeth Wathuti, Founder, Green Generation Initiative ◆ Memory Kachambwa, Executive Director, FEMNET ◆ Mwangi Waituru, Policy and Advocacy Advisor & VSO Rep to the African Union ◆ Mwanahamisi Singano, Programme Manager, WEDO ◆ Dr. Yemi Katerere, Independent Environmental and Policy Expert, African Civil Society Biodiversity Alliance <p>Perspectives on global mobilization under the Economic Justice Campaign:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Ingo Ritz, Director, Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP) & on behalf of the Economic Justice Movement <p>Plenary session III</p>	
16:00 – 16:20	HEALTH BREAK	
16:20 – 16:45	<p>Next Steps & Closure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Dr. Augustine Njamnshi, Chair, Political & Technical Committee, PACJA Board 	



CONTACT US

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