

THE EAST AFRICAN SUSWATCH E-BULLETIN

A Monthly from the East African Sustainability Watch Network founded by Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development (UCSD), Tanzania Coalition for Sustainable Development (TCSD) and SusWatch Kenya

CSOs Call for Sustainable Local Solutions for Poverty Reduction and Development, 100% Renewable Energy Target in East Africa



Civil Society Organizations under the umbrella of the International Network for Sustainable Energy (INFORSE East Africa) coordinated by SusWatch Kenya, TaTEDO - Centre for Sustainable Energy Services, Tanzania, and Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development shared their joint position ahead of the 26th Conference of Parties (COP26) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), due to take place in November 2021, in Glasgow, UK.

The Civil Society statement flags out priority issues that they think have a direct effect on climate action in East Africa that is under threat from extreme weather stresses including drought, floods, Locusts etc. These include climate finance, adaptation, mitigation, as well as issues failed at the COP25 negotiations in Madrid in 2019 that were pushed to COP26.

The statement urges the UNFCCC Parties to ‘grab the historical opportunity, learning from the mistakes of the past, and lead the way to a safe, sustainable 100% renewables future for the Earth. It is technically possible to shift from the fossil era to renewables while sustaining economic growth. There is a need to implement the already committed pathway’.

On sustainable energy, the CSOs urge for prioritization of local climate and sustainable decentralized solutions rather than centralised ones, which also increase sustainable development. In effect, they call for a departure from the idea of any investment in unsustainable, unsafe solutions for the earth, which they sum up as a gamble on the future of East Africa.

On climate finance, they CSO statement notes that developed countries are yet to meet the above climate finance goal. They therefore call on these countries to come forward with a clear delivery plan for the promised \$500 billion of balanced climate finance for adaptation and mitigation for developing countries for the 5-year period (2020 to 2024) prior to setting the new climate finance goal. The priority of funding for climate adaptation is important to correct the large-scale imbalance and gap of funding for adaptation and resilience, as East African countries suffer on the front-line of climate change.

On Adaptation, the CSOs expressed the urgency to increase adaptive capacities of those at the frontline of climate change, to ensure that poverty reduction efforts continue unencumbered. Adaptation should be community driven and take full use of local solutions, sustainable solutions that contribute to development. Adaptation shall also cover ecosystem protection - protecting forests, wetlands, among others in order to address human and naturally induced extreme weather events like floods and droughts. Kimbowa Richard from UCSD added that, ‘the current drought that has puts 2.1 million Kenyans at risk of starvation, where a national disaster was declared due to crop failure after poor rains and locusts should be a wakeup call for COP26 to take action without delay’.

On the National Climate Plans (Nationally Determined Contributions), the CSOs note that their conditional mitigation parts for East African Countries represent the most ambitious contributions to the Paris Agreement on climate mitigation. The East African countries and funding partners must cooperate to realize the updated NDC targets with priority of sustainable local solutions that also contribute to poverty reduction and development and with a target of 100% renewable energy. **Read the full INFORSE East Africa position to COP26 from: <https://tatedo.or.tz/en/mecs-latest/inforse-east-africa-position-to-the-united-nations-framework-convention-on-climate-change-unfccc-conference-of-the-parties-cop26-in-glasgow-uk-in-november-2021-october-19-2021>**

CSOs Voice out Climate Action Gaps and Options to COP26 and the Uganda Government

Climate Action Network- Uganda (CAN-U) and the Environment and Natural Resources Civil Society Organizations Network in collaboration with CARE Denmark organized consultative engagements in preparation for the COP26. The CSO engagements were held both virtually and physically attracting participation of over 200 participants. Most importantly, calls on the whole world to move away from lamentation and unending negotiations to action, and that action must be at both institutional and individual levels.

The CSOs noted with concern that COVID 19 pandemic has significantly hampered political preparations of COP26 through limited physical interactions. They however raised issues to the attention of COP26 and Government of Uganda.

The statement calls on developed countries to put forward a delivery plan for the USD 100billion which demonstrates that on average at least USD 100 billion will be delivered each year in the period 2020-2025, with 50% going to adaptation so as to promote finance for climate justice

Furthermore, the statement highlights the need to provide an opportunity for young people to engage in negotiations especially in Pre-COP since that's where ideas are generated

CAN-U also calls Parties to accelerate implementation of the Gender Action Plan, including announcing multi-year financial and/or technical contributions and support to women-led and women's rights organizations so as to promote gender justice, support and women's rights organizations so as to promote gender justice.

CSOs also call for increase in ambition in order to reach the 1.5°C pathway by the Global Stock take 2023 at the latest, accelerate ending finance for fossil fuels, and agree on Article 6 rules only if they ensure environmental & social integrity.

The CSOs also express a need for more transparency in the management of carbon projects at both international and national levels; must not just be left to forces of the market so that exploitation of the poor can be avoided. An international mechanism that goes up to national level should be considered to regulate this trade.

In addition, the CSOs also called for operationalization of the Santiago Network on Loss and Damage and establish a COP27

To the Government of Uganda, the CSOs congratulate the recent (interim) submission of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to the UNFCCC secretariat in fulfillment of Article 4 (paragraph 2) of the Paris Agreement. NDCs are at the heart of the Agreement and the achievement of these long-term goals requires each Party to prepare, communicate and maintain successive nationally determined contributions (NDCs) that it intends to achieve.

CSOs also ask Uganda to join the Least Developing Countries (LDC) Group in ensuring that the process of agreeing on the quantified collective finance goal is time bounded, inclusive and transparent, informed by: science and technical evidence, the needs of developing countries and lessons learned from previous processes. In addition, the CSOs call on Government of Uganda to join the LDCs in calling for a report on the delivery of the USD\$100 billion by 2020 and through 2025, including how to monitor progress and ensure that this is linked to the Long Term Financing. 'In this regard Uganda will have to join the LDC Group to get a report on whether the developed countries met the commitment of delivering the USD\$ 100 billion per year goal at COP26 and request more clarity on how the \$100 billion through 2021 - 2025 will be mobilized' reads the statement.

The CSOs also urge Uganda to continue to push for adequate financing of both mitigation and adaptation (50/50). In Uganda, deforestation, wetland degradation, poor waste management, prolonged rains and climate change effects are the major factors that trigger frequent re-occurrences of floods. The resulting vulnerability calls for directed and sufficient attention.

Disturbing Trends in the Updated UNFCCC Synthesis Report Ahead of COP26



In preparation for the Glasgow Climate Change Conference (COP26), the UNFCCC updated its synthesis of countries' Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

The Report analyzed 116 updated NDCs communicated to the UNFCCC. The total GHG emissions of the countries submitting these could be nine per cent lower than 2010 in 2030.

The revised synthesis confirms that while updated or new NDCs can be effective in reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions over time, an increase of about 16% in global GHG emissions in 2030 compared to 2010 is expected for the aggregate NDCs of all 192 Parties. Such an increase in emissions translates to a global average temperature rise of about 2.7°C by the end of the century. A sizeable number of NDCs from developing countries including those from East Africa, contain conditional commitments which can only be implemented with access to enhanced financial resources and other support. The Report suggests that the full implementation of these components could allow for global emissions to peak by 2030. Regarding adaptation actions, which are also covered in many of the available NDCs, support is particularly critical. Local solutions that can be taken up by climate change 'frontline' and vulnerable communities (for example women, youths and other social groups) are a key option for support in this regard, but have to date received little attention.

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The synthesis Report enlisted a range of reactions from different CSOs. Manuel Pulgar-Vidal, WWF Global Lead Climate & Energy said: "While there were 30 additional enhanced NDCs submitted since the last UNFCCC Synthesis report, with very little change to the projected 16% increase in emissions by 2030, I believe we can still start COP26 with a better scenario.

Oxfam France's Advocacy Manager Armelle Le Comte said: "This confirms we are still dangerously off track from limiting global warming to the vital 1.5°C limit. The climate clock is fast running out of time, COP26 now needs to be a planetary crisis meeting. Governments need to agree to revise their climate plans more regularly to get us back on track and remedial action is desperately needed now.

Dr Ruth Valerio, Director of Advocacy and Influencing at Tearfund, said: "Over the past few months Tearfund has seen extreme weather events devastate the world's poorest and most vulnerable communities. From floods leaving children hungry in South Sudan to a hurricane descending on Haitian communities recovering from an earthquake, the climate crisis is already here.'

Tom Evans, E3G Climate Diplomacy Researcher, said: "This is a clear signal to world leaders that they are expected to step up action to close the emissions gap at COP26. The Glasgow summit will need to reach collective agreement on how it can address this dismal state of affairs. A global pact to submit stronger climate targets aligned with 1.5C is key to unlocking the action in the early 2020s needed by the Paris Agreement."

The synthesis Report has been prepared in response to the requests from the COP 21 and CMA 21 in Paris, for the UNFCCC secretariat to prepare a synthesis report on NDCs submitted by Parties. In view of the postponement from 2020 to 2021 of the United Nations Climate Change Conference to be held in Glasgow and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the preparation of NDCs, the secretariat informed Parties that it would publish two editions of the NDC synthesis report: an initial version by 28 February 2021 and the full version in advance of the pre-COP meeting, scheduled for 30 September to 2 October 2021. [Read the full Updated UNFCCC Synthesis Report Ahead of COP26 from here: https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cma2021_08r01_E.pdf](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cma2021_08r01_E.pdf)