

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

Tanzania Civil Society Table Issues for the November 2021 Global Climate Talks in UK



Participants of the Civil Society Pre-COP26 meeting held on 15 and 16th September 2021. Photo: TaTEDO

In Tanzania, preparations for the 2021 Global Climate Talks (COP26), have already taken place through a series of meetings organized by different stakeholders including civil society and Government. [TaTEDO](#) had an opportunity to participate in most of those meetings. For example, on 13 and 14th September 2021, [CAN Tanzania](#) organized a Pre-COP26 session for CSOs which aimed to build capacity of CSO on UNFCCC process as well as gathering CSOs views to come up with a joint Tanzania civil society position paper. As a follow up, in another meeting [Tanzania Natural Resources Forum](#), [FORUM CC](#) and [PINGOs Forum](#) considered the above inputs on 15th and 16th September 2021 that came up with a final Tanzania CSOs position paper towards COP26.

This meeting was attended by the District Commissioner of Morogoro, Tanzania, Mr. Albert Msondo who highlighted the need for effective communication and grassroots' interventions to address addressing climate change effects. A representative of Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, Mr. Fazal Issa said, 'Climate change is neither a story of rich or poor, everyone is affected in their own way'. He called upon CSOs to take joint efforts to tackle the effects of climate change on the ground.

A position paper that has since been finalized, flags out issues that civil society feel must be the thrust of the global talks, if Tanzania and other parts of the Global South will meaningfully take up climate action and strengthen resilience of the communities at the frontline of climate change.

One of these is the unfulfilled commitment of US\$100 billion made by the developed countries on the climate finance and the need to set new climate finance goal starting 2025. CSOs urge the developed countries to fulfill their commitment and obligation initiate the process of setting a new quantified climate finance goal. They stress that adaptation financing remains a priority for Tanzania and African countries to strengthen resilience capacity to adverse impacts of climate change.

Tanzania CSOs also call upon the developed countries to accelerate the transition to decarbonized power and transport systems and provide significant support to developing economies on decarbonizing energy and transport systems.

The CSOs further urge Parties to conclude transparency negotiations and put up a mechanism of period reporting and reviewing on the inventory and progress of implementation.

'Parties should finalize the outstanding elements of the Paris Rulebook and accelerate delivery of the Paris Goals through collaboration between Governments, Businesses and Civil Society', the CSO Position urges. In addition, the CSOs point out a need for deliberate efforts to enhance African countries' negotiation capacities with priority given to women, people with disabilities, and youth negotiators.

The United Nations Climate Change Conference, also known as COP26, is the 26th United Nations Climate Change conference. It is scheduled to be held in Glasgow, Scotland between 31 October and 12 November 2021, under the presidency of the United Kingdom. On July 30 2021, Tanzania submitted its revised National Climate action plan (the Nationally Determined Contributions) as required by the Paris Agreement with a commitment to reduce Green House Gas emissions economy-wide between 30-35% relative to the Business and Usual scenario by 2030.

Optimism: Can COP26 Deliver What Africa Needs to Address Climate Change?



Source: dreamstime.com

Africa is particularly vulnerable climate change and hence will experience challenges in meeting the Global Goals. The United Nations Environment Programme estimates that costs associated with climate-change adaptation across Africa could hit \$50 billion annually by 2050, even if the global temperature does not rise more than 2°C above pre-industrial levels.

In November, 2021, countries will convene for the annual climate talks (COP26) in Glasgow, Scotland. For Africa, it is a decisive moment in implementation of the globally acclaimed Paris Agreement whose progress has been harshly smashed by effects of the COVID19 pandemic.

Also, the recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Report has warned that the world still has a narrow path to limit average global warming to 1.5 degrees C necessary for avoiding the worst effects of climate change. But this will require a rapid, transformational change in the shortest time possible. Given that extreme weather events continue to be inescapable across Africa, COP26 is a one ray of hope that many vulnerable populations have in the International community to act.

The bottom-line for this optimism is delivery of a lasting action towards a more resilient future. But what is needed to ensure such a future happens, given the expected point of departure (the last such global talks at COP25 in Madrid) ‘offloaded’ many crucial issues to COP26?

It is our sincere view that Africa areas on earth, needs to send a global community’s (positive) of fronts. African countries have climate-resilient and low-carbon Determined Contributions

‘It is our sincere view that Africa being one of the most vulnerable areas on earth, needs to send a strong signal at COP26’.

being one of the most vulnerable strong signal at COP26. In turn, the response is anticipated on a number outlined bold aspirations to build economies in their Nationally (NDCs) to the Paris Agreement.

Having signed and ratified the Paris Agreement, nearly all African countries have committed to enhance climate action by reducing their greenhouse gas emissions and building climate resilience.

In fact, African countries have outlined bold aspirations to build climate-resilient and low-carbon economies in their NDCs to the Paris Agreement with needed investment of more than \$3 trillion in mitigation and adaptation by 2030 in order to implement these NDCs. However, many of these commitments are conditional upon access to adequate financial, technical and capacity-building support (ADB, 2021).

Closely related to availability of climate finance, is a need for increased support to Africa's most vulnerable communities through up scaling their resilience to sudden-onset disasters and slow-onset events due to climate change. Such efforts should include promotion of local solutions that can enable communities at the front line of climate change to adjust as much as possible, so as to reduce loss of assets and livelihoods.

In order to restore the fading trust in the annual global climate talks, developed countries ought to show how they will meet and build upon their over-due commitment to jointly mobilize \$100 billion a year in climate finance for developing nations. Addressing the climate finance gap is vital to COP26's success and to restoring confidence with Africa and other developing nations.

Otherwise, major emitters are indebted to present ambitious 2030 climate action plans by COP26, given the stark IPCC finding: only rapid and drastic reductions in greenhouse gases in this decade can prevent such climate breakdown, with every fraction of a degree of further heating likely to compound the accelerating effects

Major Groups and Stakeholders Urge for Inclusiveness and Commitment to Support African Countries' Climate Action Plans at COP26



The 18th session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) was held virtually held from September 13 to 16, 2021 due to the current health situation caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Under the theme: “Securing people’s well-being and ensuring environmental sustainability in Africa”, governments are called to align recovery measures with long-term objectives of strengthening resilience to the impacts of climate change and integrating more ambitious policies to halt and reverse biodiversity loss and restore ecosystem services. The theme also encourages countries to prioritize green and sustainable recovery plans that deliver mutual benefits for social, economic, and environmental resilience.

The United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) always invites Major Groups and other Stakeholders (MGS) to provide their input into the preparatory process, including agenda setting of its sessions as well as commenting and providing expertise during the preparatory process.

Hence, prior to the 18th session of AMCEN, African MGS virtually deliberated and agreed on their input to inform the UNEA session and they were provided with a slot to present it. In this Statement, African MGS are deeply alarmed by the recent IPCC Sixth Assessment Report that raises further concerns to the African continent as the most adversely impacted by climate change with, among other, having the highest increased surface temperature, sea level rise, and frequency and intensity of the climate extreme events.

Among others, they urge AMCEN to prioritize the sustainable management of ecosystem services, biodiversity and climate during the recovery phase in Africa and make deliberate moves to impactful engage with the informal sector, as a backbone of Africa’s economy, and where women and youth are disproportionately affected by the pandemic.

‘We express strong concern with the lack of participation and involvement of African Major Groups and Stakeholders in the expert meetings that ended earlier this week and request that the African Major Groups and Stakeholders be provided with timely documentation as well as timely and predictable opportunities to input in key outputs and outcomes of these meetings’, read the statement in part.

On Africa’s preparations for COP26, African MGS invited AMCEN to echo the voices of the African leaders who participated in the Leaders’ Summit of April 2021 and to position Africa at the heart of the global climate agenda. ‘We urge AMCEN to continue ensuring that the African countries remain committed to updating their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and to highlight the need for the global community, and in particular developed countries, to fully support the NDCs of African Parties to the Paris Agreement, as full implementation hinges on provision of adequate means of implementation’, the Statement stressed.

AMCEN was established in 1985, following a conference of African Ministers of Environment held in Cairo, Egypt. Its mandate is to advocate for environmental protection in Africa; to ensure that basic human needs are met adequately and in a sustainable manner; to ensure that social and economic development is realized at all levels; and to ensure that agricultural activities and practices meet the food security needs of the region. Due to COVID19, the AMCEN bureau agreed that the Conference will take a two-step approach. The first part will take place in a virtual setting with a streamlined agenda to address urgent and procedural matters. Substantive matters that require in-depth negotiations will be deferred to a resumed in-person meeting to be held in 2022.

Read the Statement by African Major Groups and Stakeholders to the first part of the 18th Ordinary Session of AMCEN: https://docs.google.com/document/d/17-NqV51P4uKV3nzzDHYbmclq_oRgcSg9N4_1K9_wNOU/edit