



Submission by Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA)

|Continental Secretariat: House No. J13, Kabarnet Road, Off Ngong Road, Nairobi, Kenya | P.O. Box 1005-00200 | Tel: +254-20-8075808 |

website: www.pacja.org

Email: info@pacja.org

Talanoa Dialogue 2018: Submission by PACJA

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1.0 WHERE ARE WE?

Climate Action in Africa

Although the African continent contributes negligibly to the problem of climate change, its people face the worst consequences of climate impacts manifested by shifting seasons, persistent droughts, erratic rainfall, all which have exacerbated the prevailing poverty levels in the region which relies on climate-sensitive sectors for economic development.

With high levels of vulnerability occasioned by inadequate finance, technological and adaptive capacities, the continent suffers the brunt of climate change with impacts having negative implication on the African countries' ambitious sustainable development blueprints, notably the Agenda 2063 of the African Union, Agenda 2030 of the United Nations and National development plans of individual countries.

In reality we live in a world that is heating up and the commitments made within NDCs are not ambitious enough to assure 1.5 degrees pathway; a world where the most vulnerable communities continue to be exposed to climate change threats; one where the climate change discourse has not included discussions on equity noting that it is an essential element of the *Common but differentiated Responsibilities and Respective capabilities* Principle within the UNFCCC and we find ourselves in a

paradoxical situation as the ambition to safeguard the world from warming and implications thereof is compromised.

Development is at the core of African countries as the need to protect citizens from harm and provide services is in line with citizens' rights. Cognizant of this, African countries, while acknowledging that per capita income is not the only measure of development but environmental and social development are imperative, have embraced the Green Growth path in their 2063 development blue print (Agenda 2063) and further committed to a low carbon development pathway by signing up to the Paris Agreement and developing Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

In view of this, the continent is re-examining its development options to ascertain the protection, conservation, right-use of environmental assets for future generations and sustainable development at national level. Countries are putting in place green economy strategies and national climate change frameworks to support low-carbon climate resilient development as part of their efforts to combat climate change and its impacts.

Significant milestones have been achieved in crafting national policies and strategies to address climate change, but this has been hampered by inadequate research and political will to implement the policies. Transformation of the African economy into Low Carbon Development and sustainable economy demands that efforts be made to mainstream climate change into planning and development strategies. And beyond national level planning, sectoral mainstream and facilitation of green growth is crucial in supporting mitigation and adaptation actions. A number of African countries and institutions are making critical steps in integrating climate change into the entire development cycle with budgetary allocations to support mainstreaming of climate change into development. The process involved therein is intensive requiring technical capacity and financing, which pose key challenges to African countries.

Inclusive and equitable low-carbon climate resilient growth should be responsive to the realities and aspirations of African people, such as democratic governance and participation of all actors in decision-making processes. Though non-state actors

remain central stakeholders in climate change discourses in the African, shrinking civil society space coupled with lack of institutionalized framework for engagement has hampered their optimal contribution in the conversations. Consequently, approaches to support effective engagement acknowledging contexts are required.

2.0 WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO?

African Civil Society organizations envisions a world where implementation of climate actions is fair, equitable and ecologically just. Response measures should enhance resilience of the most vulnerable with each country contributing a fair share of actions within the principle of common but differentiated Responsibilities and respective capabilities in transition towards a low carbon climate resilient development.

3.0 HOW DO WE GET THERE?

Effective implementation of climate commitments and actions requires international and national cooperation. There's need for a rapid increase in mitigation efforts to contain global warming to 1.5°C coupled with increasing ambition in adaptation and building climate resilience while promoting sustainable development. Africa civil society recommend the following strategies that are critical to facilitate achievement of low carbon climate resilient development pathways;

1. Just and equity-based transition to low carbon climate resilient pathway

Addressing the climate challenge creates an opportunity to explore new sources of growth by placing the climate imperative at the core of national growth and development strategies. We however cannot achieve the transition to low carbon climate development pathway and meet the Paris Agreement goals without acknowledging the disparities existing among nations and the people which calls for fairness in climate action. Without the rich in the world, who greatly contribute to climate change while acknowledging that such nations have greater capacities to act compared to other countries, addressing the climate crisis is jeopardized. We have

to acknowledge that equity discussions within the UNFCCC can facilitate ambitious commitments that are in line with the ambition of the Paris Agreement. Further, support for all vulnerable is critical to facilitate a just transition. Protecting and strengthening vulnerable communities' resilience to climate change is critical noting that the least contributors to climate change are the most affected. The call for enhanced action still remains critical.

2. Implementation of climate commitments at country level within supportive policy environment

Implementation of commitments within the Paris Agreement requires strengthening of regional and national climate institutions, building capacity to advance mitigation and adaptation actions across all sectors, technological development that enhances resilience building and green growth, mechanisms that promote bottom-up climate solutions as within the ambition of Paris Agreement, adherence to rights-based approaches in implementation of actions, development of responsive mechanisms at regional and national levels for gender integration in implementation, sustained financing mix availed from both public and private sources that is employed within innovative and responsive finance instruments and approaches. Developed country parties have a responsibility within the UNFCCC to support international action to climate change as they enhance their own domestic commitments and action. The global community has a key role in facilitating this and the mandate on the Talanoa Dialogue to facilitate honest sharing on approaches that enhance implementation is one that cannot be downplayed.

3. Assessment of progress in implementation vis-à-vis climate commitments at global and national level

While noting the critical role that action at national level plays in addressing climate change, call to action needs to be supported by mechanisms that assess progress. To achieve the global climate goal in the Paris Agreement while underlining the urgent call to action as within the recent Special IPCC report on 1.5 degrees, it is of critical importance that effective mechanisms to facilitate assessment of progress in implementation as well as in the facilitative means of implementation against global and national commitments are developed and supported to ensure that everyone undertakes their fair share of actions. The non-confrontational spirit of the Talanoa

dialogue provides an opportunity for parties to focus on this important element of implementation with the aim of progressively raising ambition.

4. Development and institutionalization of non-state actor engagement strategies to unleash potential for climate actions through effective and efficient coordination and partnerships at country level.

The Paris Agreement underscores the important role of NSAs, and particularly the private sector. Climate challenge demands all-level that is local, national and international cooperation at unprecedented scale.

Objective and informed engagement of NSAs should be pinned on enabling, policies, structures and mechanisms to promote partnerships. NSAs spur innovation and investment in green technologies. They have potential to advance NDCs and promote transition to low-emission, climate resilient green growth. The Talanoa Dialogue has the potential to build and provide key entry points for collaboration including desired policies that will unlock partnership for climate action.

5. Support to countries on Integrating climate change into development for low carbon development

The Talanoa dialogue is a space for new conversations that advance the climate agenda for sustainable development. Within a highly dynamic climate change sector, the climate conversation at country level is evolving. Countries require space to exchange lessons and further technical capacity in the realms of mainstreaming climate into sectors and development processes.

6. Bottom-up, inclusive low carbon development

Solutions, approaches and mechanisms for effective implementation of actions cannot be prescriptive. All countries of the world are dynamic and therefore it is imperative that frameworks that support implementation retaliante the role of bottom-up and inclusive processes to build ownership, a key driver in implementing climate solutions and facilitate sustainability.

A bottom-up, inclusive approach secures local and national level solutions, raises ambition at these levels to tackle climate change and supports equity and rights-based solutions.

3.0 Conclusion

The climate crisis at hand requires coordinated global action. Inaction will make it extremely difficult to achieve the Paris Climate goals. Implementation of commitments at global and national levels pursuant to *common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities* is essentially important as it provides for all countries to act and contribute their fair share to mitigate and adapt to climate change. Of greater importance is the need to ensure all actions are informed by climate needs identified within an ambitious, well-coordinated, and transformative. It is imperative that climate change is viewed as a broader development challenge, rather than viewing it as a limited environmental-meteorological-scientific concern. In their efforts to mainstream climate change in development planning, developing countries should to ensure that relevant actions take into consideration inclusive and transformative development paradigms that address poverty and inequalities.