THE EAC KEY MESSAGES AHEAD OF THE UNFCCC COP 28, DUBAI

BURUNDI | DRC | KENYA | RWANDA | S.SUDAN | UGANDA | TANZANIA

30TH NOVEMBER – 12TH DECEMBER 2023

COP28 UAE

UNITE. ACT. DELIVER.

BACKGROUND

In the lead-up to COP28, the East African Community (EAC) has outlined its key priorities, developed through rigorous national consultations with its seven member states. Recognizing COP28 as a pivotal moment to sustain and build upon previous commitments—including those made in the Paris Agreement rulebook—the EAC is focused on several critical goals.

The conference represents an opportunity to catalyse collective ambition, and the EAC anticipates a highly inclusive approach in Dubai. Our primary objective is to join forces in driving efforts for enhanced resilience and limiting global warming to below 1.5oC. These priorities encapsulate our collective vision for a sustainable and equitable future, as we work to address the existential threats posed by climate change.

1. ADAPTATION

- Acknowledgment of the importance of Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement for reducing emissions and enhancing adaptation strategies.
- Advocacy for investment in studies to generate evidence- based climate information, vital for effective short and long- term adaptation planning.
- Calling for the completion of the Global Goal on Adaptation, aligning with partner states' priorities.
- Emphasis on increasing adaptation finance commitments to address growing regional needs, advocating for greater financial resources accessibility and youth inclusion.
- Seeking strong political commitments to address gaps in adaptation planning and financing.
- Highlighting the need to enhance the committee's effectiveness, finalize operational elements for the Global Goal on Adaptation, and address Africa's special needs and circumstances.

2. LOSS & DAMAGE

- The international community must act swiftly to **operationalize the Loss and Damage Fund** as a standalone entity with new, additional, accessible, predictable, and grant-based finance. All developing countries impacted by climate change should be eligible for these resources.
- Specific **funding windows within the Loss and Damage Fund should be established** for various types of climate impacts. These windows will help in targeted support and effective allocation of resources.
- Operationalization of the Loss and Damage Fund at COP 28 should come with **tangible financial commitments** from Parties.
- Scientific or empirical evidence on Loss and Damage must be generated, and a secretariat for the Santiago Network on Loss and Damage (SNLD) should be created.
- An SNLD Board should be established to oversee the network's functions, with accountability to the COP/CMA.

3. FINANCE PRIORITIES

- Emphasize the **importance of transparency, accountability**, and clear reporting modalities to assess climate finance flows and developed countries' obligations under the Paris Agreement.
- Stress the **necessity of mobilizing predictable and adequate financial support** to combat the adverse effects of climate change.
- **Advocate for New Collective Quantified Goals (NCQG)** based on the needs and priorities of developing countries, aligned with scientific evidence, and linked to a 5-year timeframe to synchronize with NDCs and GST.
- **Call for the elimination of barriers to financial resources for developing countries,** ensuring finance is adequate, new, additional, gender-sensitive, direct, reportable, and predictable for medium and long-term adaptation actions.
- **Urge developed countries to meet the $100 billion target by 2025** and address past shortfalls, demanding clarity on mechanisms to double adaptation finance and improve accreditation processes with entities like the GCF and GEF.
- **Push for accelerated implementation of the Climate Finance Delivery Plan,** prioritizing these financial needs in the African COP narrative.

4. MITIGATION PRIORITIES

- **Developed countries must lead in increasing mitigation ambitions,** adhering to the latest science and UNFCCC agreements, without external influence.
- **COP 28 should offer clear direction on an equitable transition from fossil fuels,** including a defined timeline, complementing our goals for waste-to-energy mechanisms and diversified energy sources.

- **The Global Stocktake outcomes should encourage developed countries to increase their climate ambition to maintain global warming** within 1.5 degrees Celsius.
- **Develop new reduction strategies with clear targets for phasing out fossil fuels** equitably and advancing both market and non-market approaches in carbon markets.
- **Accelerate the establishment of rules and guidelines for carbon markets, focusing on the Mitigation Work Programme to identify challenges and opportunities.**
- **Advocate for increased support in afforestation and ecological restoration** to enhance carbon capture and storage.

5. DEVELOPMENT & TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGIES

- Emphasize the need for developed countries **to develop and transfer affordable, accessible technologies** to mitigate overexploitation of natural resources and GHG emissions.
- Urge continuous **evaluation of the Technology Mechanism's effectiveness in supporting the Paris Agreement,** particularly in technology development and transfer.
- Advocate for the **establishment and enhancement of regional and national climate institutions** for accurate climate data and enhanced Member States collaboration.
- Stress the **importance of a detailed technology framework to guide the technology mechanism**, including support for the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN).
- Highlight the **necessity of integrating technology with financial mechanisms, transparency frameworks, and global stock-take processes**, and recognizing indigenous knowledge for local resilience.

6. CAPACITY BUILDING & SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

- **Recognize progress** in implementing capacity-building frameworks at institutional, systemic, and individual levels in developing countries.
- **Consider current and emerging areas** under the Convention and Paris Agreement for further capacity-building implementation.
- Develop mechanisms to **enhance countries' capacities in fulfilling reporting obligations, transparency, accountability, and participation in climate change policy development** and action implementation.
- **Affirm the need for capacity building and skills development across all sectors to respond to climate change impacts,** requiring technical knowledge, coordination, and institutional support.
- **Ensure capacity building is responsive to regional needs, with sufficient financial and technological support** in line with the Paris Agreement.
- **Stress the importance of access to technology** in developing countries' capacity building.
- Advocate for a special capacity-building window at COP 28 through existing global climate funds.

7. SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

- **Acknowledge the significant impact of climate change on agricultural practices** in the East African Community region.
- **Urge COP 28 to bolster support for implementing the outcomes of the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture** (KJWA).
- **Propose the creation of an expert group to facilitate the operationalization of the Sharm el Sheikh Joint Work Programme.**
- Suggest coordinating efforts on agriculture and food security with other mechanisms and workstreams within the Convention.

8. CARBON MARKETS & NON- MARKET APPROACHES

- **Recognize Article 6 of the Paris Agreement as key in fulfilling NDCs** and enhancing ambition through cooperative approaches like Internationally Transfer of Mitigation Outcomes (ITMOs).

- **Emphasize the importance of transitioning existing Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects** to maintain continuity and institutional capacities beyond 2020.

- Suggest that **Article 6.8 should include an adaptation benefits mechanism under non-market approaches**, enhancing linkages and synergies between existing mechanisms without duplication.

- **Advocate for approaches to sustainable development that bolster mitigation, adaptation, finance, capacity building, and technology development and transfer,** and provide funding for developing countries' NDCs.

- **Acknowledge the importance of avoiding double counting in market mechanisms** and ensuring they contribute to the sustainable development of the host country.

- The need for balanced standards in cooperative approaches and mitigation mechanisms, ensuring they support sustainable development and provide a level playing field for all Parties.

9. GLOBAL STOCKTAKE

- Emphasize the Global Stocktake (GST) as a critical tool for assessing collective progress in addressing climate change.

- **Stress the need for actionable recommendations to limit global temperature rise to 1.5°C**, backed by scientific evidence, to guide national and international climate policies.

- **Call for robust support mechanisms offering technical and financial assistance for effective implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)** and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs).

- Urge **financial pledges to be consistent with GST decisions and objectives**, focusing on actionable deliverables.

- Highlight **the necessity for tailored guidance on resource mobilization and access for Least Developed Countries (LDCs)** to ensure equitable participation in climate action**.**

- Advocate for **a clear distinction between Loss and Damage (L&D) and adaptation in GST deliberations to enable the crafting of tailored strategies for each.**

- Suggest that the GST should acknowledge and highlight the Global Goal on Adaptation, emphasizing the shared international commitment to adaptation efforts.

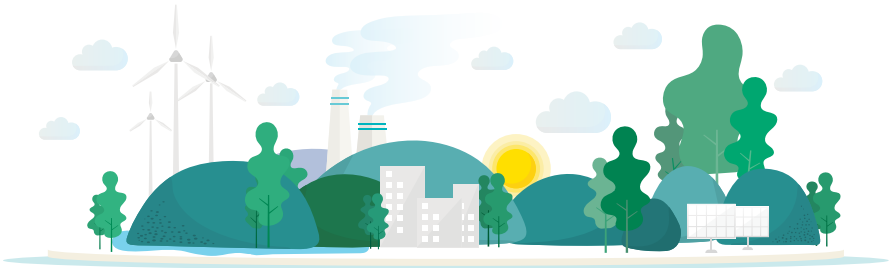
10. RESPONSE MEASURES

- **Reaffirm that response measures to climate change should not negatively impact the socio-economic activities of developing countries.**

- **Assert that measures to combat climate change should not lead to arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination, nor become disguised restrictions on international trade, especially regional exports.**

- **Call for the avoidance of shifting responsibility to developing countries, emphasizing the need for economic diversification and just transition of jobs.**

- **Stress the importance of understanding the impacts of developed countries' policies on developing countries in the context of climate response measures.**



11. FACILITATING IMPLEMENTATION & COMPLIANCE

- **Encourage parties to continue developing the modalities and procedures of the Paris Agreement's compliance mechanism.**
- **Emphasize that the compliance mechanism should facilitate the effective implementation of both the Convention and the Paris Agreement.**
- **Advocate for the compliance mechanism to promote and enforce all provisions of the agreement, ensuring compliance from developed countries and facilitating implementation for developing countries.**

12. NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTIONS (NDCs)

- The need for the **implementation of Article 4 of the Paris Agreement to consider the long-term temperature goal of Article 2.**
- Stress that discussions on **NDC implementation should enable developing countries to use the latest clean technologies** for low carbon and climate-resilient outcomes.
- **Align NDCs with national and sub-national planning and development strategies**, innovatively mobilize domestic resources, strategically use international funding, establish robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks, and ensure multi-stakeholder engagement.
- **Advocate for a common NDC timeframe of five years** to facilitate comparability and alignment with the global stocktake cycle.
- **Simplify registries as referred to in Paris Agreement Articles 4(12) and 7(12) for easy access and comparability of information by parties.**
- Emphasize the need for developing countries to receive both technical and financial support from developed countries to implement existing NDCs.

13. TRANPARENCY OF ACTION AND SUPPORT

- **Acknowledge the transparency framework of the Paris Agreement as crucial for increasing ambition over time.**
- **Emphasize the need for enhanced transparency regarding support provided by developed countries to developing countries.**
- **Call for a framework that ensures accurate and reliable mechanisms to address climate change and its impacts through action and support.**

14. GENDER AND YOUTH

- **Reaffirm the importance of mainstreaming gender and youth engagement across all climate change responses and actions.**
- **Advocate for financing measures to help developing countries develop, review, and implement Gender Responsive Action Plans.**
- **Highlight the need for demand-driven technical assistance and capacity building, especially for developing countries, to integrate gender responsiveness into climate policies, plans, strategies, and actions.**
- **Urge COP 28 to support the adoption of gender-responsive technological solutions to improve climate resilience.**

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THANK YOU

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