



## **EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY**

**28<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF PARTIES OF THE UN FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE UNFCCC (COP28);  
THE 18<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES SERVING AS THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE KYOTO PROTOCOL (CMP 18); AND  
THE FIFT SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES SERVING AS THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE PARIS AGREEMENT (CMA 5)**

**30<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER -12<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2023  
DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES**

## **KEY MESSAGES**

**EAC SECRETARIAT  
ARUSHA  
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## INTRODUCTION

East African Community (EAC) recognizes climate change as a threat to sustainable development globally and particularly in the region. The impacts are evident across all sectors of the economy including agriculture and food security, water resources, ecosystems, tourism, human health and settlement, industrial development, energy and peace and security. EAC also recognizes the following amongst others:

- (i) Over 70% of natural disasters in the EAC region are climatic related and that the greatest impacts of climate change are evidenced in form of climatic disasters including floods and droughts.
- (ii) There are opportunities for sustainable development accruing from climate change adaptation and mitigation measures, in particular those geared towards green economy and low carbon development.
- (iii) Tackling climate change challenges requires participation, as appropriate, relevant stakeholders, including non-state actors.
- (iv) Solid foundation for the realization of the goals of the Paris Agreement through strengthening the cooperation and implementation of adaptation, transparency, compliance, technology development and transfer, mitigation, capacity building, and loss and damage initiative.
- (v) A balance between adaptation and mitigation with respect to means of implementation.
- (vi) The forthcoming UN Climate Change Conference should be seen as the “Adaptation COP” with a solution to the adaptation aspects – the COP that will deliver agreement on an elaborated outline of elements with respect to the scope, definition, progress review, communication, and reporting on the global goal on adaptation.

East African Community reaffirms the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), its Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement as the fundamental global framework on climate change. EAC further reiterates its call that all actions or measures related to climate change must be in full conformity with the

principles and provisions of these instruments, in particular those of equity, polluter pays and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. EAC also affirms decisions on Climate Change of the Eighteenth Session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN).

East African Community is confident that COP28/CMP18/CMA5 present an opportunity to keep momentum on the implementation of the previous decisions including the Paris Agreement rule book. The conference should allow Parties to harness this collective enthusiasm to strive for ambitious goals. East African Community is looking forward to inclusive and participatory approach to harness a collective drive to achieve ambitious goals in Dubai, especially building resilience and the attainment of below 1.5°C.

## **KEY MESSAGES**

The East African Community position is informed by its climate change priorities and it advocates for global compliance and actions in adaptation, mitigation, finance, development and transfer of technologies and capacity building for effective implementation of global climate change framework. EAC calls for developed country Parties to honor their commitment and increase ambition in the post-2020 period.

### **1. Adaptation**

Adaptation is a global responsibility; therefore, developed countries have an obligation to support adaptation goals and actions in line with the Convention. Adaptation remains a priority at the regional level, especially for our partner states. National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) are the vehicles for prioritizing and communicating immediate, medium, and long-term adaptation needs, and initiating national systems for long-term planning and implementation.

The East African Community acknowledges the importance of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement. These NDCs require Parties to submit and implement priority actions for both reducing greenhouse gas emissions and enhancing adaptation strategies.

We recognize the limitation of available climate vulnerability assessment information

in vulnerable sectors. As such, we advocate for investing in studies that generate evidence-based climate information, which is crucial for effective adaptation planning and resilience in the short and long term.

The East African Community calls for the operationalization and finalization of the Global Goal on Adaptation, echoing the specific priorities of our partner states.

We strongly advocate for doubling the current adaptation finance commitments to meet the growing adaptation needs in the region. We emphasize the need for increased availability, accessibility, and predictability of financial resources for adaptation measures, inclusive of youth involvement.

To ensure effective and actionable outcomes from the Global Stocktake (GST), we seek strong political commitments that bridge existing gaps in adaptation planning and financing.

We call for the strengthening of the Adaptation Committee to enhance its effectiveness. We also emphasize the need to finalize elements for the operationalization of the Global Goal on Adaptation. Additionally, we highlight the importance of facilitating deliberations on the Special Needs and Circumstances of Africa to ensure that regional specificities are adequately addressed.

## **2. Loss and 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. Diversification of the fund's sources through innovative financial mechanisms is vital, and the operationalization of the Loss and Damage Fund at COP 28 should come with tangible financial commitments from Parties.

Concurrently, 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. We propose designating UNDRR-UNOPS as the host for the SNLD, given its fitting criteria. Additionally, an SNLD Board should be established to oversee the network's functions, with accountability to the COP/CMA. Clear and predictable financing for the SNLD is also crucial to its success.

### **3. Finance**

East African Community restates the importance of mobilizing and securing predictable and adequate financial support for implementation of actions for addressing the adverse effects of climate change. It affirms the need for enhanced transparency of reporting, accountability and modality as crucial for assessing climate finance flows and the implementation of the obligations of developed countries under the Paris Agreement.

The East African Community reiterates the necessity of mobilizing and securing predictable and adequate financial support for implementing actions to combat adverse effects of climate change. Transparency in reporting, accountability, and modality are essential for evaluating climate finance flows and the obligations of developed countries under the Paris Agreement.

We emphasize the need for New Collective Quantified Goals (NCQG), which should be based on the needs and priorities of developing countries and be informed by scientific evidence. These goals should have a 5-year time frame to align with existing processes like NDCs and GST. Furthermore, the post-2025 financial goals should be new, additional, predictable, and accessible and should adhere to the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

We call for the removal of barriers hindering developing countries' access to financial resources. Special attention should be paid to ensuring that finance is adequate, new, additional, gender-sensitive, direct, reportable, and predictable to enable medium and long-term adaptation actions. A distinction must be made between Climate Finance and Official Development Assistance (ODA).

Regarding long-term finance, we urge developed countries to meet the ambitious \$100 billion target by 2025 and account for the shortfalls in the past three years. There is a pressing demand for clarification on the mechanisms to double adaptation finance and streamline accreditation processes with entities like the GCF or GEF. Quality and transparency of finance are paramount; hence, a universally accepted definition of what constitutes climate finance is urgently needed. A definitive roadmap for the doubling of adaptation finance is sought from developed countries.

COP28 should result in a clear call to developed countries to scale up annual financing beyond the \$100 billion figure, given that the actual needs for mitigation, adaptation, and loss and damage are far greater. We advocate for an accelerated implementation of the Climate Finance Delivery Plan and place these financial needs at the forefront of the African COP narrative and priorities.

We highlight the need to streamline and enable the accreditation process for national institutions and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to efficiently implement projects funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Green Climate Fund (GCF), and the Adaptation Fund. Simplifying this process will catalyze climate action at regional and national levels, thereby accelerating the attainment of our climate goals.

#### **4. Mitigation**

The East African Community underscores the imperative for developed countries to lead in heightening mitigation ambitions. This is in line with the latest science and agreements, and should not be influenced by factors external to UNFCCC processes.

We call for COP 28 to provide clear guidance on an equitable transition from fossil fuels, with a well-defined timeline. This aligns with our broader objectives of innovative waste-to-energy mechanisms and diversified energy sources to enhance efficiency.

Mitigation actions should be designed to offer co-benefits for adaptation and

sustainable development in sectors like Forestry, Energy, and Transport, without exacerbating the debt burden in developing countries. The Global Stocktake (GST) outcomes should push developed countries to enhance their climate ambition to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

To achieve these ambitions, new plans of reductions with clearly outlined targets for phasing out fossil fuels equitably should be developed. Furthermore, we call for accelerated efforts in establishing rules and guidelines to operationalize carbon markets, and advance both market and non-market approaches.

The Mitigation Work Programme should identify challenges and opportunities, focusing on the mobilization of adequate resources. We also stress the necessity for regional and country-specific capacity building in operationalizing carbon markets. Support for afforestation and ecological restoration is also critical to improve carbon capture and storage capabilities.

## **5. Development and transfer of technologies**

Developed countries should continue to develop and transfer appropriate technologies to ensure accessibility and affordability for the community. and mitigate the overexploitation of natural capital and GHG emissions.

Parties should continue to elaborate on the scope and modalities for the periodic assessment of the effectiveness of the Technology Mechanism and the adequacy of the support provided to the Technology Mechanism in supporting the implementation of the Paris Agreement on matters relating to technology development and transfer.

Establish and strengthen regional and national weather and climate institutions and systems to generate accurate, timely data and information on climate change impacts on human mobility; and increase collaboration between/among the Member States.

Exhaustive elaboration of the technology framework that would provide overarching guidance to the technology mechanism under the agreement is paramount. Parties should consider supporting the National Designated Entities (NDEs) of the Climate

Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) to enable them to operationalize their respective offices and deliver on their roles. Parties are encouraged to ensure the implementation of and increasing funding for Technology Needs Assessment in view of the requirements of NDCs implementation.

Parties should ensure there is a linkage between technology mechanisms and financial mechanisms and inclusion of technology transfer in the transparency framework and global stock-take process. Parties should consider the role of and document best indigenous knowledge practices to increase resilience of local communities within developing countries.

## **6. Capacity building and skills development**

East African Community reiterates the value of the objective and scope of capacity-building in developing countries and note a progress made in the implementation of the framework for capacity-building in developing countries at the institutional, systemic and individual level.

The current and emerging areas in the context of the Convention and the Paris Agreement should be considered in the further implementation of the capacity-building framework in developing countries. The development of mechanisms that will permit for country to enhance its capacity for fulfilling obligations on reporting and for undertaking modalities for transparency and accountability; and participation in climate change processes- policy development and implementation of actions.

East African Community affirms the need for capacity building and skills development to respond to the climate change impacts in terms of technical knowledge, coordination and institutional support across all sectors.

Capacity building should be responsive to regional needs. Sufficient financial resources and technological support need to be mobilized and availed to strengthening capacity taking into account needs of developing countries in accordance with Article 11 of the Paris Agreement. Access to technology is vital towards building of capacity in developing countries. COP 28 should provide special



window for capacity building through existing global climate funds.

## **7. Sustainable agriculture**

The impacts of climate change are highly affecting agriculture practices in East African Community region. COP 28 should enhance support for the implementation of the outcomes of the KJWA and devise measures for the operationalization of the Sharm el Sheikh Joint Work Programme by establishing an expert group to coordinate the work on agriculture and food security with other mechanisms and workstreams within the Convention.

## **8. Carbon markets and non-markets approaches**

Within the virtuous cycle that is the Paris Agreement, Article 6 plays a crucial role in helping Parties to fulfil their NDCs and ratchet up ambition. Parties can undertake cooperative approaches including Internationally Transfer of Mitigation Outcomes (ITMOs) to meet their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). Further, approaches must be allowed to all Parties and other stakeholders and must respect environmental integrity, rigorous accounting, credible governance and effectively contribute to enhancing mitigation and adaptation ambition.

East African Community emphasizes the need for balance in the standards applied to cooperative approaches and to the mechanism to contribute to the mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions. East African Community reiterates to emphasize cooperative approaches should support sustainable development in order to keep a level playing field for all Parties, and not disadvantage those that have to rely on a centrally operated mechanism for lack of capacity to develop their own approach.

Article 6 of the Paris Agreement in the context of the carbon markets, should take into account the transition of the existing Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects to ensure continuity of actions beyond 2020 and in order not to lose the capacities that have been built up in terms of project activities but also institutional capacity.

Article 6.8 should consider adaptation benefits mechanism under the non-market approaches. Approaches to sustainable development shall enhance the linkages and synergies between existing mechanisms without duplication (mitigation, adaptation,

finance, capacity building, technology development and transfer) and provide funding for developing countries' NDCs.

East African Community recognizes the need to avoid double counting and use of market mechanisms shall contribute to the sustainable development of the host country.

## **9. Global Stocktake**

As the existential threat of climate change looms ever larger, the East African Community underscores the crucial importance of the Global Stocktake (GST) as a key instrument for evaluating collective progress. In this light, we present the following priorities.

We acknowledge the urgent need for actionable recommendations aimed at limiting global temperature rise to 1.5°C. Such guidelines are not just important but essential in providing a concrete roadmap that guides national and international climate policies. We strongly advocate for scientifically-backed recommendations to ramp up climate actions to keep global temperatures within a safe range.

Implementation support for Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) stands at the forefront of our concerns. While these documents demonstrate a nation's commitment towards a sustainable future, their success hinges on effective implementation. To this end, we call for robust support mechanisms that offer both technical and financial assistance to facilitate the realization of these commitments.

We urge that financial pledges be consistent with the decisions and objectives of the GST. These commitments should not merely serve as paper promises but should strategically align with the priorities and objectives stipulated by this critical review mechanism. They should resonate deeply with a sense of responsibility and a keen focus on actionable deliverables.

Recognizing the unique challenges faced by the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), we stress the need for tailored guidance on resource mobilization and

access. Such targeted advice would help ensure that no nation is left behind in the global fight against climate change. The guidance should focus on simplifying access to resources and take into consideration the unique circumstances that LDCs face.

We find it imperative to distinguish between Loss and Damage (L&D) and adaptation as two discrete facets in climate action. Such a distinction is essential for the crafting of tailored strategies that are suited to meet the distinct challenges posed by each. Therefore, we call for explicit demarcation between the two in GST deliberations.

Lastly, we advocate for the Global Stocktake to acknowledge and celebrate the Global Goal on Adaptation. Such acknowledgment reinforces the collective aspirations and achievements of the international community. It underscores the world's united stand against the ravages of climate change and emphasizes the shared goal of global adaptation.

## **10. Response measures**

East African Community reaffirms response measures taken to tackle climate change should not adversely affect socio-economic endeavours of developing countries.

East African Community supports measures taken to combat climate change should not constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination or a disguised restriction on international trade, in particular regional exports. EAC calls for avoidance of shifting responsibility to developing country parties through a focus on economic diversification and just transition of jobs, which should include and focus on an understanding of the impacts of the policies of developed country parties in developing country parties.

## **11. Facilitating implementation and compliance**

Parties should continue to engage and work for developing the modalities and procedures of the compliance mechanism of the Paris Agreement.

Compliance mechanism should enable the successful and effective implementation of the Convention and Paris Agreement. Compliance mechanism should promote the implementation of, and enforcing compliance of all provisions of the agreement in order to ensure compliance of developed countries and facilitating implementation for developing countries.

## **12. Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)**

Implementation of Article 4 of the Paris Agreement should consider long term temperature goal set out in Article 2; progression on successive NDCs be informed by the outcomes of the global stock take and transparency of support.

Discussions on the implementation of the NDC should enable developing country parties to employ the latest clean technologies to realize a low carbon and climate-resilient development outcome. International support in form of finance, investment, technology development and transfer, and capacity building will enhance effective implementation of the NDCs.

The Nationally Determined Contributions should be aligned with national and sub-national planning and development strategies; innovatively mobilize domestic resources and strategically tap on international funding; establish robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks to follow-up and assess the implementation progress; and ensure multi-stakeholders' engagement.

The common timeframe for NDCs should be five years to allow for ease of comparability and harmony with the cycle of the "global stocktake". The registries referred to in the Paris Agreement Article 4(12) and Article 7(12) should be simple to enable each party to access information with ease and ensure the comparability of information submitted by parties.

Developing country parties need support (both technical and financial) from the developed country parties in order to implement the already in place NDCs.

## **13. Transparency of Action and Support**

East African Community recognizes a transparency framework of the Paris

Agreement as an architecture for raising ambition over time. There is need for enhanced transparency of information on support provided by developed country parties to developing country parties.

East African Community calls for a framework that must provide an accurate and reliable mechanism to address climate change and its impacts through action and support.

#### **14. Gender, youth, and Climate Change**

East African Community reaffirms gender and youth engagement as crosscutting issues that need to be mainstreamed across all areas of climate change responses and actions. Financing measures should be availed for developing countries to develop, review and implement the Gender Responsive Action Plans.

It is crucial to provide demand-driven technical assistance and capacity building support particularly to developing countries to fast track integrating gender-responsive to the climate policies, plans, strategies and actions. We call upon COP 28 to give support to promote adoption of gender-responsive technological solutions for improving climate resilience.

#### **WAY FORWARD**

These key messages of the East African Community are submitted to the African Group of Negotiations on climate change for consideration towards COP 28/CMP18/CMA5 sessions. EAC Partner States will support Africa for constructive discussions during the forthcoming UN climate change conference in Dubai.