

**COMMUNIQUE OF THE AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARY PRE-COP 23  
PREPARATORY WORKSHOP  
Midrand, South Africa**

**21 October 2017**

We, members of the Pan-African Parliament, Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance having met in Midrand, South Africa, for a pre-COP 23 preparatory workshop on 21 October 2017 during the symposium on “*Climate, Energy Transition and Agricultural Adaptation Finance in Africa*”,

**Aware** that climate change represents a real threat to economic development and long-term prosperity, manifesting its adverse and catastrophic impacts on all people but especially the poorest and most vulnerable people on the continent;

**Recognizing** the impacts that climate change has on national poverty eradication and sustainable development strategies in African countries;

**Recalling** the objective of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and in particular Article 2 which provides that “stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system within a time frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not threatened and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner;”

**Further Recalling** the progress made in 2015 with the adoption of the Paris Agreement stipulating the global goals on mitigation, adaptation and finance, and in particular Article 2.1a which provides for Parties to “hold the global temperature well below 2°C above preindustrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C and Article 7.1 on the Global Goal on adaptation, which aims “to enhance adaptive capacity, strengthen resiliency and reduce vulnerability to climate change”

**Recalling** the sustainable development goals adopted in New York on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2015 and particularly goal 13 on combating climate change and its impacts and which affirms the UNFCCC as the primary UN institution to coordinate climate change actions;

**Mindful** of African Union Assembly of Heads of State and government decision 16(xxv) 2017 on Africa’s engagements in the global climate negotiations;

**Acknowledging** the strong leadership provided by *the Committee of African Heads of State and Governments on Climate Change (CAHOSCC), the African Ministerial*

*Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) and the African Group of Negotiators (AGN)* in ensuring the continent continues to speak with one voice in climate change negotiations;

**Further taking note** of the AMCEN 2017 Decision 16/4 on Climate Change in particular “urging Parties to the Paris Agreement to recognise the special circumstances and needs of African countries in line with the relevant COP decisions and call on in the incoming President of the COP to continue consultations with Parties with a view to reaching a decision in that regard at the 24<sup>th</sup> session of the COP”;

**Determined** to protect Africa and her environment against adverse effects resulting from climate change among other environmental challenges;

**Affirming** the paramount importance of Parliament and Members of Parliament not only to take interest in the climate change negotiations, but also to actively contribute to the formulation and enactment of enabling national climate change policies and legislation in a robust governance system and noting the African institutions involved in climate change negotiations and seeking ways of ensuring Parliamentarians inputs are captured and coordinated;

#### **NOW RECOMMEND AS FOLLOWS:**

**On negotiations in general:** Noting the early adoption of the Paris Agreement, calls on Parties to speed up negotiations on the Paris Rule Book to catalyse climate action and clarifying the collective efforts of Parties during the Facilitative dialogue in 2018, commitment to increasing emission reduction targets in 2020, developing methodologies to assess collective efforts in 2023 leading to 2050 net zero emissions and climate resilience.

#### **Further the negotiations should address the following:**

##### **a. MITIGATION**

Calls on the global community to continue highlighting their efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, in particular from developed country Parties, in line with the global temperature goal to limit temperature increase to well below 2°C, with a target towards 1.5 °C.

##### **b. ADAPTATION**

Reflect the global responsibility for adaptation in accordance with the principles and provisions of the Convention, taking into account national

adaptation planning, adaptation needs and associated costs including support for developing countries- particularly Africa as stipulated in the Paris Agreement.

**c. LOSS AND DAMAGE**

Note the proposals for addressing loss and damage through insurance mechanisms and call on the global community to provide resources for loss and damage and any related actions to address such losses.

**d. FINANCE**

Note with concern the slow approval of adaptation projects, and the lack of parity in the provision of finance between adaptation and mitigation, and reaffirm the obligation of developed country Parties to contribute in a transparent, measurable and verifiable manner towards global climate finance.

**e. THE ROLE OF markets**

Recognize the critical role of non-market mechanisms for African countries and call on negotiators to focus on developing frameworks for the recognition of African communities efforts leading to emission reduction

**f. The Threat to pull out of the Paris Agreement**

Note with concern the threat of the Government of the United States of America to withdraw from the Paris Agreement, and in particular the implications for global climate leadership and provisions of finance to developing countries. We are, however, encouraged by the level of commitment of the USA citizens, non-state actors and some states and cities who have remained committed to work with the rest of the global community in addressing climate change.

**Adopted this 21st day of October 2017 in Midrand, South Africa**

**Signed: By Hon. Jacqueline Amongin, Chair, Committee on Rural Economy  
Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources, PAP**

The Chairperson of the 201 African Parliamentarians' Summit held in Midrand, South Africa, 21 October 2017.

## **The African Climate Legislation Initiative (ACLI)**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The African Climate Legislation Initiative (ACLI) is a culmination of years of conversations spearheaded by a group of civil society and parliamentarians concerned about climate change and the effect it exerts on livelihoods efforts by African people.

The Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA), the Pan African Parliamentarians Network on Climate Change (PAPNCC) and Pan African Parliament have since 2009 hosted Summits which have become a routine in according Parliamentarians an opportunity to share perspectives, exchange experiences, ideas and get the latest updates on international climate change dialogue and response processes. The need for an initiative for continuous engagement of parliamentarians as their role become exceedingly important, particularly in the shifting mood in climate negotiations to “implementation”

After years of negotiations, disagreements coupled with widening north-south divide, countries eventually struck a balanced consensus on a global Pact, the Paris Agreement, which has set shifted the focus on climate change to national-based actions, through what is referred to as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). NDCs are voluntary commitments of various countries, from both developed and developing countries, for their contribution on emissions reduction and adaptation to climate change.

ACLI was established by a resolution of the Second African Parliamentarians Summit on Climate Policy, which took place 10 to 13 in November 2015, hosted by the National Assembly of the Republic of Kenya, PACJA and PAP, among other partners. The Summit, whose theme was ***“Towards a common position on climate justice and equity in the New Universal Climate Change Agreement”***, brought together Members of the Parliament of Kenya, the Pan African Parliament, East African Legislative Assembly (EALA), Inter-Parliamentarians Committee of

west African Monetary and Economic Union (IPC-WAMEU) and Pan-African Parliamentarians' Network on Climate Change (PAPNCC).

## **VISION**

Implementation of climate actions which are not beholden by the whims of individuals but sound legal frameworks

## **MISSION**

To provide a platform for engagement of parliamentarians so as to effectively participate in the global climate governance processes

## **OBJECTIVES**

1. To provide capacity building, networking and coordination of parliamentarians in climate change dialogue and response processes, both in Africa and globally.
2. To provide space for continuous interaction and partnership in policy and legislative work between Parliamentarians, civil society and other Non-State Actors in Africa
3. To increase the profile of climate change and to identify, and raise awareness, of interventions on climate change and their impacts to economies in Africa.
4. To provide parliamentary back-up and scrutiny of the climate change actions and policies, innovative response measures.
5. To keep under review policies, Laws, financing and related programmes aimed at contributing to the implementation of provisions of the Paris Agreement.

## **COORDINATION FRAMEWORK**

As a joint initiative, ACLI will be coordinated through a facilitation Group, constituting members drawn from PAP (Committee on Rural economy, Agriculture Environment & Natural Resources), and PACJA, who will co-convene the convergences and actions. The membership will also include a member each from PAPNCC, East African Legislative Assembly (EALA), ECOWAS Parliament, CEMACC Parliament and Inter-Parliamentarians Committee of West African Monetary and Economic Union (IPC-WAMEU).

Initial activities will be capacity building of Parliamentarians, and hosting robust discussions among stakeholders on policy and practice processes in countries and

regional levels. To expand ownership, each Parliament from across Africa will be requested through PAP to propose a focal point to ACLI. This distinguished focal person will provide the link between ACLI and African parliamentary committees related to the area of climate change, energy and others.

The Facilitating Group may invite any organisation, governmental or non-governmental, if in its considered opinion, such an organisation would contribute positively to the objective of ACLI. Depending on the context in various countries, those with devolved legislative units would request ACLI to benefit from its work.

The Facilitating group will come up with a programme of work (on the short and long-term) which will support ACLI to deliver on its mandate.