AFRICAN CSOs STATEMENT ON CLIMATE RESILIENCE AT MAJOR AND INTERMEDIARY CITIES

ISSUED DURING THE AFRICITIES SUMMIT IN KISUMU, KENYA

20TH MAY 2022

Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA),) and its partners comprising civil society actors, academia, representatives of women and youth movements met in Kisumu on the 17th to the 21st of May 2022 for the “The 9th Edition of the Africities Summit”.

The summit aimed at consolidating the African voices on “The role of intermediary cities in Africa in the implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda and of the African Union’s Agenda 2063.”

Specifically, the consultative convening focused on:


2. Detailing the role of cities, local governments and urban areas in the design of urban climate action plans and strategies aligned with the Glasgow Climate Pact on Climate Finance, Mitigation, Adaptation and Loss and Damage.

3. Delivering a common understanding, voice and roadmap for the African cities’ governance aligned with the Paris Agreement and the UNFCCC processes involving national governments, non-state actors and CSOs as defined by the Marrakech Partnership Global Climate Action, in preparation for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change COP27 in Africa.

During the five days, participants recalled the worsening impacts of climate change in African cities and intermediary urban areas, the regrettable lack of commitment in enhancing adaptation and mitigation financing by the high emitter countries and the slow progress of climate negotiations related to cities, especially on city level adaptation and loss and damage agenda items.
After considering the views of all the stakeholders, we issue the statement as follows:

- **Acknowledging** the critical role of cities, intermediary urban centres and local governments across Africa play in implementing the United Nations 2030 Agenda and the African Union’s Agenda 2063; Nationally Determined Contribution and the New Urban Agenda;

- **Recognising** the rapid urbanisation of the continent, the challenges and the opportunities this urbanisation creates and the role and position that cities, intermediary urban areas and local governments can play in climate change adaptation, resilience building and mitigation;

- **Embracing** the Climate Action Pathway for Human Settlements of the Marrakech Partnership Global Climate Action (MPGCA) and the low-carbon, climate-resilient development pathway of the Paris Agreement;

- **Concerned** by the continued pursuit of city-level climate resilience and infrastructure development in Africa through loans in disregard of Article 9 of the Paris Agreement;

- **Uncertain** of the effect of the Glasgow Climate Pact, which does not detail the mechanisms for deploying climate finance and the time needed to translate the Pact into action, on the state climate finance, adaptation, loss and damage and mitigation as extreme events devastate livelihoods and economies across cities, intermediary urban areas and local governments across Africa.

- **Laying** our hope on the upcoming UNFCCC Subsidiary Bodies Intercessions in Bonn, Germany, the Africa Ministerial Conference on Environment, and the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27), which are avenues for critical decisions on city-level climate finance and addressing mitigation, adaptation, resilience building and loss and damage;

We therefore call on:

- **A. All parties to work towards implementing the New Urban Agenda and the Nationally Determined Contributions at the levels of the local communities, intermediary urban centres, cities, local governments and their territories.**

In this light, we call on all countries to integrate and prioritise strengthening adaptation and resilience to climate change and decarbonization targets in the built environment policies measures and related mechanisms to contribute to implementation of their NDCs.
B. National and decentralised governments should develop climate-responsive, and people-centred climate resilient infrastructure in cities. This will enhance the adaptive capacity of cities, protect vulnerable communities and restore new and existing infrastructure.

To this end, all new and existing infrastructure financed by the African Union through AU-PIDA, African Development Bank, other DFIs and the private sector must align with climate-resilient design and maintenance frameworks through an Urban Climate Action Plan and Built Environment Resilience Plan.

C. Call on cities and Local Governments and decentralized authorities to initiate a candid conversation on loss and damage

We call on UCLG Africa to urgently convene an African multi-stakeholder dialogue on loss and damage in the perspective of cities and their territories.

Cities and Local Governments in Africa focus in COP27 must emphasise on pressurising countries to compensate for loss and damage through transparent and accountable financial mechanisms that cities and local governments can access.

D. Local Governments in Africa must call on Northern Parties of the UNFCCC to deliver needs-based and Paris Agreement-aligned climate finance for resilience building and transition to low carbon development pathway in African cities.

Local Governments in Africa must press for a resolutions at the COP27 to address issues on scaling up the predictable accessible climate finance, actualization on capacity building and skills transfer for city-level resilience and low emissions in line with Article 9 of the Paris Agreement

E. Legislative bodies in African countries must establish urban laws and policies that are pro-poor, people centred, ecologically just and climate responsive with a view to domesticate the new urban agenda.

Local governments enact laws that are cognizant of the unique burdens of the urban poor in the context of their vulnerability and exposure to current and emerging climate risks. The Laws and policies will support local governments to institutionalize climate finance mechanisms in
intermediary cities to effectively implement urban climate change laws policies, plans and programmes as appropriate.

F. **City authorities must aim to build just, liveable, sustainable and smart cities for everyone, everywhere in Africa**

Call upon Local Governments in Africa to join CSOs efforts in pushing developed countries partner to support accelerated implementation of NDCs in African countries as they support actions that have direct implications to resilience in the cities.

We call for just, liveable, sustainable and smart cities created through global, regional, national, and local partnerships and collaboration between cities, public and non-state actors; as espoused in the Marrakech Partnership Global Climate Action (MPGCA), sustainable and smart cities for all in Africa. This would involve incorporating equity and fairness, climate justice, health and wellbeing, inclusivity and sector resilience in the sectoral priorities of buildings, energy, water, waste and transport.

- **Buildings:** Acceleration in the reduction of energy and water consumption in new and existing homes, businesses and public buildings; incentives for green buildings, including the development of city-level green building policies and by-laws and the development of Urban Climate Action Plans in consultation with local green building councils; city-level building resilience to adverse weather such as heat and flooding.

- **Energy:** City authorities should provide leadership in driving decentralized renewable energy uptake and just transition in Africa because cities account for more than 60% emissions from energy sources and hold majority of jobs to be affected in transitions to low carbon. In light of this cities and urban area must develop their sustainable energy and transition plan.

- **Water:** Accelerate demand management through water efficiency, water reuse and recycling; energy-efficient water treatment; infrastructure resilience and emergency plans for supply disruption.

- **Waste:** Promote circular economy in managing wastes in cities through circularity and through reducing, reusing and recycling waste; development of city-scale waste to energy and increased resilience of landfills to natural disasters.
- **Transport**: Acceleration in options for mass transit and non-motorised transportation; cleaner fuels and electric vehicle transport infrastructure; climate-proofing transit infrastructure; congestion pricing and other forms of demand management for private vehicles that lead to transport emissions and air pollution.

- **Climate data**: Cities and urban areas must strengthen capacity and invest in systems of information management, including digitalization to guide in climate change adaptation, resilience and mitigation planning and programming.

**Signed Organisations**

*Kenya Platform for Climate Governance*

*Christian Aid, Kenya*

*ACSEA, Cameroon*

*PACJA Uganda*

*World Green Building Council*

*Pan African Climate Justice Alliance*