YOUR EXCELLENCIES,

LADYS AND GENTLEMEN,

It with immense pleasure that I stand here today to speak on behalf of the African Civil Society fraternity under the umbrella of the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance, which is a Pan African network of more than 1500 African organizations (from diverse sectors) operating in 45 countries of the Continent.

We thank the organizers of the dialogue for inviting us to this very important Dialogue, which (as we were told yesterday) encourages frank and constructive discussions.

This Dialogue is coming at a very critical and unique moment. Critical in the sense that the latest IPCC report calls for urgent action if we still want to achieve our 1.5 goal especially as the window of opportunity is closing to secure a livable, stable and sustainable future everywhere on this planet.

It is unique in the sense that it comes in a year we are marking the 30th Anniversary of the UNFCCC and COP 27 is taking place in a continent with special needs and circumstances as recognized under Article 4(1)(e) of the Convention¹.

YOUR EXCELLENCIES,

LADYS AND GENTLEMEN,

For the last three decades we have been negotiating (talking) while the Continent has been burning and flooding at the same time. I have in mind the picture my old mother in Cameroon who can no more master the planting seasons because

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¹UNFCCC Art. 4(1)(e) Cooperate in preparing for adaptation to the impacts of climate change; develop and elaborate appropriate and integrated plans for coastal zone management, water resources and agriculture, and for the protection and rehabilitation of areas, particularly in Africa, affected by drought and desertification, as well as floods;
the rains are unpredictable and hence, she cannot even be sure of feeding her grandchildren.

I also have in mind this lady from Malawi who has not only lost her house and farmland but also her children to floods; I also have in mind this pastoralist in eastern Kenya who wakes up every morning to count his animals that have died because of drought;

I have in mind these school children from DRC, that come to school after a day’s heavy rain just to see that their school has been swept aware by floods water.

I also have these African countries who have been struggling to adapt to climate change at the expense health care of their people. In fact according to a new report by Tearfund titled: Dying to Adapt: A comparison of African healthcare spending and climate adaptation costs:--

sub-Saharan African countries are likely to face climate adaptation costs that are up to five times higher than their national spend on healthcare.

Tearfund analysis shows that sub-Saharan African countries could face climate adaptation costs that are up to five times higher than their national spend on healthcare.

It is not fair that African countries need to spend money they don’t have to adapt to a crisis they did not create. Without more support, this is likely to come at the cost of crucial public services such as healthcare.

Tearfund analysis from National Climate Plans and national adaptation plans shows that 11 countries in sub-Saharan Africa, with a total population of more than 350 million people, face climate adaptation costs that are larger than their national spend on healthcare. Together, they make up more than a third of sub-Saharan Africa’s population.

**Why is COP 27 (the African People’s COP) important and Unique for Africa**

The conference of the parties has held 26 sessions (since 1995) of which 4 have taken place in Africa\(^2\). Although some of them, especially the last two have always been called African, the outcomes have never been commensurate with name

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allocated to them (i.e. African COP). While negotiations have rather been long and protracted, the continent and its people have continued to suffer negative impacts on climate change that are ever increasing.

We have therefore Baptised the upcoming COP27 that will take place in Egypt this year as The **African People’s COP**. This name has been carefully chosen to take into account the aspirations and concerns of the African People, with the hope that, in the spirit of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration, they will have a seat at the table and present to the international community, not only the impacts of climate change and energy poverty that have been facing, but also how they have been fighting and contributing to the solution for climate change.

PACJA’s vision for COP 27 and beyond is to make sure that COP27 is truly an African People’s COP that takes their priorities forward. In the context of African Special needs and circumstances, these priorities include 1. Adaptation (especially in Agriculture) and resilience building 2. Loss and Damage 3. Energy Access for resilience and productive uses 4. Finance (for adaptation, agriculture (especially small holders and other vulnerable groups) and energy access).

**Some questions have been asking and we have to ask again here in Berlin:**

- **Doubling climate adaptation finance from what?** According to CPI analysis, climate finance in 2019-2020 was $632 Bn and only $46 Bn for adaptation while 15Bn was meant for dual use. Small scale farmers who represent 95% of the world’s farms and 20% of the world’s farmlands only had 10Bn representing only 1.7% of climate finance. From the above, if we only have to double adaptation finance, it will still be very little. We have to more than double!!!
- **Is going to be done in the spirit of Equity and Justice?**
- **If you set fire to a man’s house, will you sell them the fire extinguisher or do you give them a loan to rebuild it**

  **Remember, in the words of Martin Luther king Jr, injustice anywhere, is a threat to justice everywhere.**

**Thank you for your kind attention.**