

PACJA at the Sidelines of the 2019 African Union Summit in Addis Ababa

Pan African Climate justice Alliance, ACP and UNECA are gearing up for a high-level side event on the sidelines of the upcoming 2019 African Union Summit in Addis Ababa running from 7-8th February. PACJA and partners will interrogate the nexus between climate change and migration in the continent. This is in line with the declared theme of AU as the year of Refugees Returnees and Internally Displaced persons. It also in line with the PACJA deliberate objective on policy influencing and public engagement and mobilization in lieu of creating strategic partnerships.

Evidence shows that large numbers of people are already being displaced and will continue to be displaced from their homes and land through the frequency and intensity of natural disasters, sea level rise and depletion of drinking waters and other vital resources. Furthermore, the unplanned and planned displacements of people as a result of climate change triggers multiplies stress factors, including conflict.

What is the world doing on people's displacement as a result of climate change? Governments are beginning to act: COP24 adopted a landmark set of recommendations to respond to the growing risk of displacement linked to climate change. Yet, without far stronger efforts to reduce emissions, tens or hundreds of millions in the world will face displacement. Africa is no exception.

Sadly, developed countries remain evasive on their responsibility to support African countries to adapt and mitigate the effects of the climate change crisis and to provide assistance to vulnerable communities in the continent. For example, public climate finance for Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and adaptation is being neglected, and grants are being increasingly replaced by loans. This should ring bells of concern in the context of warnings about the rising burden of debt that is already causing several challenges.

African Countries and the future African debt crisis in general. COP24 agreed on the fact that long promised support will be delivered, but loopholes remain, and follow-up work is needed to ensure additional and adequate support reaches those who need it the most.

The high level event hosted by PACJA and partners will deeply reflect on the trends and conversations on the nexus between climate change, displacement, migration and conflict, and come up with recommendations for the Heads of State Summit and will agree on a plan of action for subsequent conversations and outreach.

Meeting the PACJA team that will be blogging from Addis Ababa on Africa Union (AU) Summit



Mithika Mwenda: The Passionate Climate Justice Crusader will lead the team from Addis.



Augustine Njammish: The Fiery Pan-Africanist will support the discussions



Tracy Sony: The energetic representative from Botswana will support the deliberations



Selina Senou: PACJA SDG Crusader supporting the discussions