



November 12, 2022

## Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt: The Global March of Civil Society on the sidelines of COP27

### SPEECH DELIVERED BY DR. MITHIKA MWENDA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PACJA

....

We are here outside the halls well ventilated. Our people are used to this sun. Our mothers, our smallholder farmers; our fisherfolks, our young people are suffering the impacts of the Climate change.

We are in Africa. Those who came from South Africa, Nigeria, Senegal, Burkina Faso, Mali, Chad, Gambia and elsewhere in Africa, came here with a lot of expectations but the first week was a week of disappointment.

Even at the agenda state where we decided what to discuss at the negotiations, we lost it at that level.

Our aspirations of the recognition of Africa as the region with special needs and circumstances was dropped again as it happened in Glasgow at agenda state; because Africa has no power to decide what agenda will not be there.

We are just thinking that if they were Europe with that agenda, it would not have been dropped. We believe, it was the United States of America which was pushing that agenda, it wouldn't have been dropped.

We Africans, are helpless because we could not walk out. We just accepted to listen and to follow as followers.

The loss and damage which is also is a manifestation of our oppression. We want reparations and compensation for Africa because of the problems which we did not cause. "We are under intensive care Unit"

Our women and our children, millions of them, 38 million of them in the horn of Africa right now are facing starvation.

We want a decision on Loss and damage so that we can get money for those people to save lives. But as you know, the decision has been postponed until 2024.

When it was accepted here that we are going to have discussions on Loss and Damage, all our negotiators jumped and celebrated. We just warned them that it is too early to celebrate, and it has happened, there will not be a decision (on loss and Damage) here. It's just the shifting of goal posts and the COP becomes endless.

This is the time to tell the world; it is the time to tell Europe; it is the time to tell the United States of America that Climate Change is what you are seeing here today. This drought you are seeing here today is not going before Africa alone. Acting on Climate Change is not a challenge to Africa; it is doing what you are supposed to do particularly those who caused this problem. It is a matter of the time; it will get you where you are.

We call on the people who are here to search their consciousness and think about their mother who cannot get food because of the lack of the rain; the women in the DR Congo forests who have lost livelihoods because of the changing climate; our people here in Egypt and the horn of Africa who are facing the starvation... That is the minimum we want here... but we are not hopeful, it's not going well; we have to put pressure.

We urge our northern partners, CSOs, northern media; let us talk the truth, let us join efforts, let us not have changing tactics and shifting goal posts; let's not divert attention we are here because of Climate Justice.

**End**