

**SPEECH FOR DR. MITHIKA MWENDA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PAN  
AFRICAN CLIMATE JUSTICE ALLIANCE (PACJA)**

*As delivered during the African Day of UNFCCC COP28 convening in Dubai, December 02, 2023*

Excellencies, fellow Africans, Ladies and gentlemen; allow me to stand on the existing Protocols,

This is an important day when we meet as people from Africa to reflect on and interrogate the COP process, to determine whether our collective demands are being met in the halls of negotiations or not.

As the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance and civil society under the Non-State Actors Committee for the Africa Climate Summit, which, for the first time, gathered us in the unprecedented mobilization that can only be rivaled by the COP! We will keep commending the African Union and HE President William Ruto, the Coordinator of CAHOSCC, for this effort. But it's not enough, nor was the Africa Climate Summit an end in itself.

When I got the invitation to speak at this all-important forum, I reflected on the spirit of the Africa Climate Summit, and the conversation we have had ever since. I reflected on critical issues which then divided us, and which eventually unified us, both as civil society and the governments across Africa.

Key among them was climate finance, and the loud calls for the reform of global financial architecture, including climate finance, which have failed to work in the current geopolitical context. It is this finance that will make or break these negotiations, as they will determine how we adapt and build resilience, how we will mitigate and transition to a low-carbon-climate resilient future, and how we will address the growing losses and damages resulting from climate change impacts.

In a nutshell, the outcomes of COP28 should be reflective of our aspirations, realities, demands and imperatives of climate justice, and anchored in African common position.

This led us to ask ourselves to look further afield and assess what our counterparts, notably rich countries responsible for climate crisis, are doing to keep their promise as per the Convention and the Paris Agreement.

Excellencies, we bumped into the latest report of OECD, bringing together the richest and most powerful countries on earth, which just recently indicated that they have delivered on their USD100B per year as committed in 2009.

One of our partners, the ONE Campaign, carried deep analysis, and had very stark findings: *nearly two-thirds of climate finance commitments counted by the OECD between 2013 and 2021 - a staggering \$343billion - are never reported as disbursed or had little connection to climate.* **In addition:**

- Over \$1 in every \$5 of climate finance commitments in the OECD's open dataset between 2013 and 2021 – worth \$115 billion — is spent on things that have little to do with climate.
- Bilateral providers consistently report far less in disbursements than they have committed.
- Less than half of the climate finance they committed between 2013 and 2021 was reported as disbursed or was meaningfully related to climate. A difference of \$135

billion.

- In 2021, the world's 20 most climate-vulnerable countries received just 6.5% of the climate finance they need each year to address climate change.

So, when we ask ourselves where the big money committed and reported in COPs, and which is never seen by smallholder women farmers and pastoralists and indigenous people in our countries and communities

– this is the answer: that the money remains in Paper, and there is no indication that we will ever see it unless we rethink this multilateral process, and when those who have caused the problem will stop playing Russian roulette with this crisis engulfing all of us.

We welcome the operationalization of the Loss and Damage Fund, which is long overdue, anyway, but refuse to celebrate the reported US\$460 Billion promised by various Parties. We wish to caution Parties not to fall into a celebratory mood yet. Look at the complicated manner in which the delivery framework has been designed. Is it schemed to fail? Only time will tell. In addition, let's ask ourselves what the money pledged can achieve.

Let me give you an illustration. Cristiano Ronaldo, the famed footballer of all time, is playing in Saudi Arabia's Al-Nassr Club, for US\$213 million per year. By the time the first beneficiary will get a Dollar from this Fund in 2028, Ronaldo will have earned US\$800m. I don't want to elaborate more, but let's end the celebrations and put more pressure to industrialized countries to honour their climate debts!

I do not doubt that our leaders will pitch for the best outcomes beneficial to the African people, and I do not doubt that Adaptation, the global goal for adaptation, as well as Adaptation finance, key issues for Africa, and which rich countries and fossil-addicted transnational Corporations want to be swept under the carpet, will take center-stage during Conference.

I thank you all.