



**OPENING REMARKS BY DR MITHIKA MWENDA, EXECUTIVE
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**Harnessing the power of TROIKA to deliver for Africa: Pragmatic Actions in
Influencing Adaptation Finance Flows to Frontline Communities.**

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; April 17 &18 2024

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is my honour to welcome you to this wonderful occasion that has been organized by the Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) on the sidelines of the Tenth Session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development Goals (ARFSD) taking place on 23–25 April 2024, here in Addis Ababa under the theme ***“Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063 and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions”***.

Distinguished Guests, Honorable Ministers, Esteemed Delegates,

It is with great urgency and steadfast commitment that we convene today, amidst the backdrop of escalating climate crises, to address one of the most pressing challenges of our time – the imperative need for robust and equitable climate finance in Africa.

As we gather here in Addis Ababa in our side events, we are confronted with a stark reality: the impacts of climate change continue to intensify, exacerbating vulnerabilities and threatening the hard-won development gains of our continent. From prolonged



droughts scorching our lands to ferocious cyclones wreaking havoc on coastal communities, the signs of a climate in turmoil are all too evident.

Against this background, we must confront the elephant in the room: the chronic underfunding of adaptation and mitigation efforts across Africa. Despite the continent bearing the effect of climate injustices, climate finance remains inadequate, inaccessible, and disproportionately allocated.

The recent findings underscore the gravity of the situation: the Adaptation Gap Report 2023 highlighted the stunning disparity between adaptation finance needs and available resources, with developing countries facing an annual finance gap ranging from US\$194 to US \$366 billion. Alarmingly, Africa's adaptation finance needs are projected to increase to US\$50 billion annually by 2050, underscoring the urgent need for transformative action.

Ladies and gentlemen, the time for gratification is over. We stand at a critical juncture in history, where the decisions we make today will resonate for generations to come. As custodians of our planet, we owe it to future generations to intensify our efforts and mobilize the necessary resources to safeguard our shared future.

In this regard, allow me to commend the bold initiatives undertaken by the Troika – the visionary alliance between the United Arab Emirates, Azerbaijan, and Brazil – in prioritizing climate finance as a cornerstone of global climate diplomacy. Their unwavering commitment to advancing the 1.5°C agenda and ensuring the alignment of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) is a testament to their leadership and foresight.

However, while global commitments are a step in the right direction, they must be matched with concrete actions on the ground. We cannot afford to perpetuate the status quo, where adaptation efforts languish due to a lack of resources and political will. It is



now upon us to harness the power of solidarity and collective action to bridge the adaptation finance gap and build climate-resilient communities across Africa.

Allow me to draw attention to the exemplary efforts underway in Kenya, where locally-led climate actions are being financed and implemented at the county level by FLLoCA. Through innovative financing mechanisms and strategic partnerships, Kenya has demonstrated a commitment to empowering local communities and fostering resilience in the face of climate change. The disbursements to various counties for climate adaptation projects stand as a testament to Kenya's proactive stance in addressing the climate crisis at the grassroots level.

Furthermore, Africa has been steadfast in advocating for the establishment of dedicated climate finance mechanisms, including the Africa Climate Finance Position, the Adaptation and Mitigation Fund, and the Loss and Damage Fund, in successive COPs. These funds are essential for supporting the continent's adaptation and mitigation efforts, as well as addressing the unavoidable impacts of climate change. Africa has been leveraging its collective voice to push for the establishment of these funds and ensure they adequately address the needs of the continent's most vulnerable populations.

In addition to these advocacy efforts, organizations such as the Pan Africa Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) have been at the forefront of campaigns such as "Keep Your Promise," aimed at holding governments and international institutions accountable for their climate finance commitments. Through grassroots mobilization and targeted advocacy, PACJA has been instrumental in raising awareness about the importance of climate finance and ensuring that funds are channeled toward the communities that need them most.

As we embark on this collective journey, let us remember that the true measure of our success lies not in ambitious pledges or lofty declarations but in tangible outcomes that improve the lives of the most vulnerable among us. It is imperative that we prioritize



the needs of frontline communities, empower local actors, and ensure that climate finance reaches those who need it most.

In conclusion, let us make this historic moment an opportunity to catalyze a paradigm shift in climate finance, one that is equitable, inclusive, and responsive to the needs of the most vulnerable. Together, we can forge a path towards a more sustainable, resilient, and just future for all.

Thank you.

Dr. Mithika Mwenda,

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