


# MEMENTO OF THE DAY

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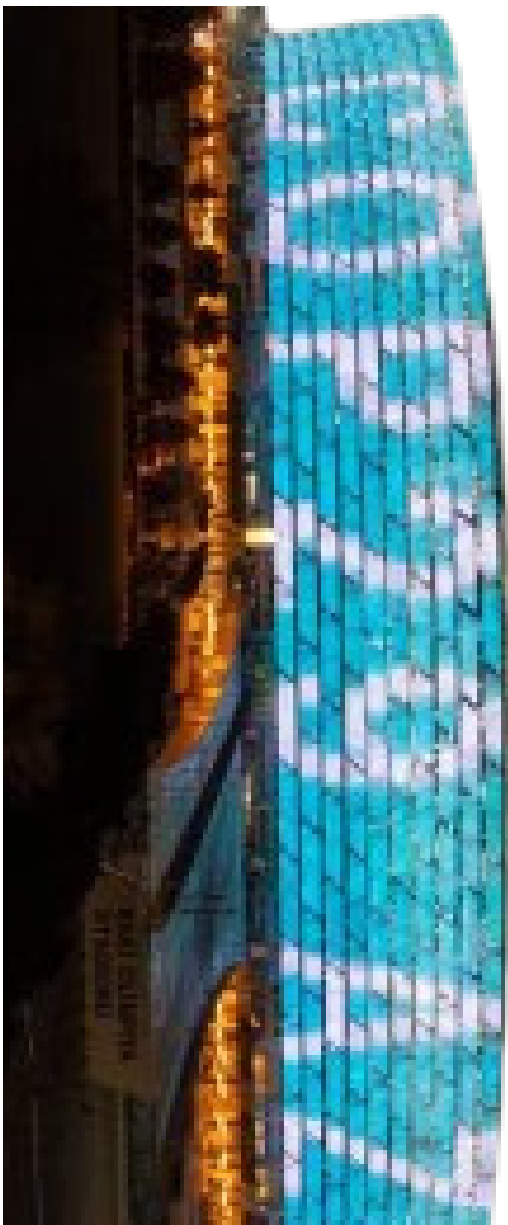


## Our action

 **Overcoming barriers in access to funds at the frontline of the climate crisis to accelerate climate financing for adaptation in Agriculture and Nature in Africa**

This side event featured discussions led by various speakers on key topics including the challenges of accessing debt financing for environmental initiatives, the complexity of financial processes, and the need for innovative solutions like debt-for-nature swaps. The speakers emphasized the importance of levelling the playing field in financial access and highlighted the opaque nature of treasury processes that complicate governmental advice on financing options.

The plenary and participants emphasized the urgent need to integrate agriculture with sustainable natural resource management, especially in Africa. Panelists pointed out that agriculture should not compromise natural resources, citing Ethiopia's significant forest loss caused by unsustainable practices. The government is encouraged to view agriculture and natural resource management as interconnected sectors, promoting sustainability in both areas. Additionally, there was a call for governments to engage more effectively in bilateral and multilateral negotiations to address pollution and its impacts. The discussion also highlighted the importance of streamlining project funding processes to enhance capacity and expedite development efforts.



## Forging Partnership for Closing on Accountability and Transparency Lapses in Climate Finance for Africa



This event aimed to explore drivers for enhancing accountability and transparency in climate financing. Participants discussed existing partnerships in climate action, particularly focusing on accountability, and identified actions to improve the climate finance landscape.

Emphasizing the need for a comprehensive engagement framework, attendees advocated for partnerships involving state entities, African non-state actors, civil society organizations (CSOs), and communities most affected by climate change. Effective stakeholder engagement strategies were deemed essential for improving accountability for climate funds within countries.

Participants agreed on the importance of establishing structured dialogues to clarify funding purposes and institutionalizing communication frameworks among funding mechanisms, grantees, and oversight bodies. Enhancing community and CSO oversight is vital, with recommendations for CSOs to actively participate in project planning and implementation.

Finally, it was noted that funding mechanisms should require grantees to empower local communities by involving them in project design and decision-making.

### **What did the panellists say about the accountability lapses?**

During the discussion on accountability in climate finance, several key points emerged. Peter Odengo highlighted that, at the government level, climate change impacts multiple sectors, which affects efficiency and accountability.

He noted a lack of transparency due to the absence of a shared understanding of climate finance terms and policies, as well as the challenge of defining climate policy itself.

Dr Daisy Mukarakate from UNDP added that too many intermediaries in the climate finance flow reduce the amount reaching communities, with funds sent directly to communities proving more effective. She observed that African communities often struggle with limited access to funds, citing issues with fund absorption capacity. Marlene, representing CARE, pointed out two significant gaps: the disconnect between the Green Climate Fund (GCF) executing organizations and the communities they serve, and a lack of awareness in communities about funding sources and project purposes.

She recommended civic education to bridge this knowledge gap. Additionally, she noted that the unclear definitions of climate finance at the UNFCCC level hinder transparency and accountability.

Charles Mwangi emphasized that only 10% of funds reach communities, advocating for systematic involvement and localization, where communities lead in project formulation and implementation. Participants also noted that international NGOs often lack accountability to the communities they aim to support.

## Towards a Transformative, People-Centered Energy Transition



The event held in the IGAD pavilion focused on the concept of "just transition," particularly in the context of climate change and energy access. Key discussions revolved around the establishment of the Just Transition platform, which aims to foster collaboration and research on Just Transition initiatives post-2015 Paris Climate Agreement.

The knowledgeable panellists emphasized the need for a comprehensive understanding of the socio-economic implications of transitioning from fossil fuels to renewable energy, highlighting that job losses and gains are not straightforward and vary significantly across different regions.

The interaction also addressed the challenges faced by African nations in achieving energy access, with speakers noting that many countries still lack basic electricity infrastructure. There was a consensus on the necessity of clear policies and investment strategies to facilitate this transition.

In this conversation, panelists underscored the importance of political will and regional cooperation as well as the need for innovative financing mechanisms to support energy projects.

## COP LEGACY- CSO Discussion on Climate Finance



The Azerbaijan NGO Pavillion in Baku, today, hosted a high-level engagement on the significant contribution of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in Climate Finance and Sustainability. The event, hosted by the Azerbaijan NGO forum in partnership with PACJA, highlighted the importance of collaboration between the government, private sector, and civil society for holistic and sustainable climate solutions.

The panel session, moderated by Ramil Iskandarii, discussed practical approaches used by NGOs and CSOs in advancing the climate change and sustainability agenda. The UAE climate network supports ambitious climate goals through research, youth empowerment, community organization, and decarbonization of universities. The Azerbaijan National NGO Forum has collaborated on several engagements, including the Pre-COP event, to showcase the role of civil society in climate action, climate finance, and sustainability.

The high-level side event was graced by H.E Ahmed Bin Mohammed Aljarwan- President of the Global Council for Tolerance and Peace. Ms Barbara Blaudt Rangel- Director of Planning Intelligence and Tourism Development - Ministry of Tourism and Ms Aygun Aliyeva- Executive Director of Azerbaijan State NGO Agency and Member of the COP29 Organizational Committee.



👉 **Sharing success and challenges in Climate Justice for Communities.**



In Faith Pavillion, our DNP Coordinators from Malawi and Rwanda shared insights on conversations on Inclusive Climate Justice for All organized by the Scottish Government. This event aimed to highlight the successes and challenges of what achieved so far CJC in their respective countries and shared typical examples tied to approaches and contexts. Under the Climate Justice in Community (CJC) programme implemented in Rwanda by RCCDN and CISSONEC in Malawi, both implementing organizations are empowering local communities to lead in addressing climate change impacts through justice-centred approaches. They drive this change through direct grassroots community engagement to enhance the communities' capacity to participate in climate action decision-making, project planning, and implementation.

👉 **Discussing the child centred Climate vulnerability and Risk assessment**



We engaged in discussions with Organizer UNICEF and the Government of Zimbabwe Mr Philip Kilonzo from PACJA along with other participants. Mr Philip Kilonzo and other Partners explored and discussed child-centred climate vulnerability and risk assessment for Zimbabwe where the shared Insights and lessons learnt.

In this Event the report findings on the **Child-Centered Climate Vulnerability & Risk Assessment** was presented. Participants shared insights on addressing **climate** impacts on **children**



## Climate finance models that promote inclusive and holistic climate action for communities at the front line of the climate crisis



This event which deepened the discussions on challenges surrounding inclusive climate action for Communities was organized by Azerbaijan NGO Forum and PACJA.

Ramil, Chairman of the Board of the Azerbaijan National NGO Forum shared the background of the NGO landscape and the role they are playing in climate action. He emphasized PACJA's climate finance model, which prioritizes frontline communities.

In this session, Dr Mithika Mwenda the Executive director of PACJA shared insights on PACJA's role and objectives at COP29. Mithika reflected on PACJA's historical collaboration with Azerbaijan NGOs, describing this gathering as a stepping stone to COP29 in Dubai and COP30 in Belém, Brazil. He highlighted a tripartite partnership with the UAE, noting PACJA's ongoing discussions with Brazilian counterparts to address interlinked global challenges beyond climate change, such as food security, health pandemics, and systemic transformation. Mithika called for a transition beyond fossil fuels, encompassing resource use, critical minerals, and societal practices, and emphasized approaching future climate actions with transparency and a commitment to green energy.

Charles from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) discussed the importance of incorporating traditional systems into climate adaptation. He acknowledged challenges across Africa in reaching local communities and highlighted GCF's work to improve direct financing models, noting recent initiatives in Senegal to support climate resilience and Mozambique to restore water resources.

Charles also described GCF's partnerships to enhance community governance and decision-making in climate action, mentioning recent funding proposals from Africa and efforts to double funding for adaptation. To improve impact, he proposed restructuring GCF with regional teams closer to communities and emphasized GCF's increased focus on gender and Indigenous issues.

Dr Mithika advocated for financial mechanisms that are responsive to local needs and proposed moving away from reliance on institutions like the World Bank. He urged simplification of climate finance mechanisms, with special initiatives for underserved regions such as Somalia, Sudan, and Angola. Charles Mwangi stressed the importance of prioritizing climate finance under the Nairobi Climate Justice Charter and noted the gap between the climate finance pledged by developed nations and the limited funds received by African countries, of which only 10% reaches local communities. He called for systematic community involvement and localization of climate efforts.

Ruchi Tripathi, Director of Climate and Nature, underscored the need for greater accessibility to climate financing at grassroots levels. She highlighted agroecology and the importance of food systems in addressing biodiversity and climate resilience, advocating for a shift in funding priorities toward sustainable food systems, as only 1.5% of climate finance is allocated to these areas. Responding to an audience question on women's access to funding—currently at only 2%—Tripathi explained that the GCF now requires projects to outline how they will benefit women directly, as part of efforts to ensure inclusive development.