

MEMENTO OF THE DAY

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Our action



We held a massive action inside the Blue Zone, in Baku



The first PACJA action has just taken place in Baku. It was an opportunity to send out our messages and demands revolving around climate finance, Energy access and transition, and accountability, adaptation Finance more than double among others. On the need for concrete action on the climate crises affecting several African countries, such as Chad, Benin, Nigeria and Kenya.

We expressed impatience with the unfulfilled promises made at previous conferences and called for COP of action, not of promises.

This impromptu action inside the blue zone emphasized the critical need for substantial and accessible climate finance to support adaptation and mitigation efforts in Africa. PACJA activists called for the urgent need for climate finance, particularly emphasizing the situation in Africa.

Key points include raised include:

1. **Financial Demands:** PACJA activists said that African negotiators are calling for a new collective quantified goal (NCQG) of \$1.3 trillion per year until 2030 for climate finance, which PACJA argue is insufficient compared to the estimated \$3 trillion needed to implement their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).
2. **Source of Funds:** Activists stressed that this funding must come from public sources and high-emission countries, noting that just 20 countries are responsible for 80% of greenhouse gas emissions and control a significant portion of global GDP.
3. **Debt Crisis:** it was noted that many African nations are heavily indebted, with around 65% of their income going towards debt servicing, which limits their capacity to respond to climate crises.

They argue that climate finance should not be in the form of loans but rather grants, given their financial constraints.

4. Urgency of Action: The PACJA activists highlighted the immediate dangers posed by climate change, referencing recent flooding in Nigeria and Benin, and the need for global recognition of the climate crisis's urgency.

One of the activists, Salem Ayenan from Benin said "We are fed up because every day, whether in Chad, Benin, Nigeria or Kenya, there is a drought that kills our populations. Some floods invade our populations. People who die every day, people who suffer, fields that are destroyed. And we do not want this COP29 to be another COP of promises. We want all the actors to work so that we have the funding, double the funding for climate adaptation." Salem Ayenan, Benin.





Advancing Climate Action through South-South Cooperation: The Role of NGOs



We joined other Global South CSOs in side event titled "Advancing Climate Action through South-South Cooperation: The Role of NGOs," organized in the framework of COP 29 by the Azerbaijan National NGO Forum and the Priority Center for Socio-Economic Research. It aimed to strengthen commitments to climate resilience and sustainable development.

The event focused on several humanitarian issues, including decolonization, intercultural dialogue, and the challenges of financing within the climate economy. It emphasizes the importance of diplomacy, negotiation, and constructive dialogue during the Conference of the Parties (COP). The speakers expressed a commitment to collaboration and finding cooperative solutions to the urgent climate crisis, inspired by the principles of the Non-Aligned Movement. In this event, Dr Mithika raised key perspectives on Baku to Belem framework.

1. On Acknowledgment of Challenges, Dr. Mitika emphasized the interconnectedness of global crises, including climate change, wars, pandemics, food insecurity, and economic challenges. He highlighted that these issues cannot be addressed in isolation.

2. On Importance of Collaboration, He stressed the need for global cooperation, particularly between the Global South and the North, to tackle these crises effectively. He noted that waiting for external solutions is not viable; and said that communities must take initiative.

3. On Historical Context, Dr. Mithika referenced the Titanic as a metaphor for the current global situation, suggesting that overconfidence in technology and systems can lead to disaster if not approached with caution and awareness of vulnerabilities.

Harnessing Sustainable Power in the Fragile States



This event focused on the IGAD Region and discussed the critical need for sustainable energy solutions in the IGAD region, focusing on renewable energy, community empowerment, and the importance of tailored policies and investments to address the unique challenges faced by each country.

Speakers tackled the challenges and opportunities related to harnessing sustainable energy in the IGAD (Intergovernmental Authority on Development) region, which includes countries in the Horn of Africa and Eastern Africa such as Djibouti, Somalia, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Uganda, Kenya, and South Sudan. During this event discussion, important inspiring points were raised including:

1.Context of Energy Access where the IGAD region faces significant challenges due to high levels of conflict, climate change, and human insecurity. It was noted that many areas lack the necessary resources to invest in and maintain energy infrastructure, leading to a reliance on traditional biomass fuels, which contributes to environmental degradation and health risks.

2.On the Impact of Climate Change, it was shared that the region has experienced a notable increase in temperature (1.3 degrees Celsius from 2020 to 2023) and severe droughts, which exacerbate existing conflicts and vulnerabilities. It was explored, for instance, that countries like South Sudan and Somalia have very low electricity access rates (6% and 60%, respectively).

3.On Sustainable Energy Solutions: Panelists emphasized the importance of renewable energy solutions, such as solar power, to address the intertwined challenges of energy access, climate change, and conflict. They discussed successful examples of solar projects that have improved livelihoods and community resilience.

4.On the position of Youth Engagement and Community Involvement, speakers and plenary highlighted the need for youth involvement in energy conversations and the importance of changing mindsets within communities regarding energy access. Empowering communities to take charge of their energy needs through sustainable practices was seen as crucial.

5.Investment and Policy Gaps were highlighted as critical needs for energy sustainability. Panelists called for increased investment in renewable energy and the development of policies that facilitate regional integration of energy resources. It was highlighted that each country has unique energy potentials (e.g., Ethiopia's hydropower and Kenya's geothermal energy) and that a collaborative approach is necessary to optimize these resources.

6.Speakers also noted **Challenges of Implementation** when it comes to the sustainability of energy projects is often compromised by a lack of government support and the reliance on NGOs. There is a consensus that government intervention is essential for the long-term sustainability of energy solutions.

Leverage on Human Rights Framework to drive inclusive Global Goals on Adaptation and its delivery in Africa



PACJA joined NANHRI and the National Human Rights Commission in a side event that discussed the linkage between GGA and Human rights in Africa to the platform for discussion on how to leverage on Human Rights Framework to drive inclusive Global Goals on Adaptation and its delivery in Africa,.

This event which was organized by NANHRI, PACJA and the National Human Rights Committee sought to discuss ways of enhancing coordination between Human Rights, Climate justice actors and other stakeholders to support climate change adaptation measures in Africa.

In this event, Philip Kilonzo who represented PACJA said *"We cannot talk about human rights in a context where opportunities are constrained. I think that the element of loss and damage, which has had all the nature of conversation in terms of whether it's going to be financed or not, again must be recast back in terms of all losses and damages are impacting the lives of people, how they are impacting the agriculture sector, the water sector, among other sectors. So again, it defines quite a substantive footing within the global war on adaptation, which is extremely critical."*

Key points raised in this event include:

1. **Human Rights and Climate Justice:** The speakers argue that climate justice cannot be separated from human rights. They highlight the importance of recognizing rights related to water, food, and ecosystems as fundamental to human existence.
2. **Impact of Climate Change:** The discussants referenced a UN report indicating that Africa suffers significant economic losses due to climate change, with GDP losses ranging from 2% to 5% and adaptation costs expected to reach 2-3% of GDP over the next decade.
3. **Need for Increased Financing:** There is a call for doubling adaptation financing to at least \$40 billion by 2025 and for a fair compensation framework to address climate injustices.
4. **Collaboration and Participation:** The speakers emphasize the need for collaborative efforts across regions and sectors to address climate challenges effectively. They advocate for a holistic approach that integrates human rights into climate action.
5. **Call to Action:** The dialogue encourages participants to consider how to finance transitions to sustainable practices while ensuring that vulnerable communities are not left behind.

In this discussion, key recommendations were outlined to ensure that human rights drive an inclusive Global Green Agenda (GGA). Recommendations drawn include mobilizing climate finance, fostering international collaboration, and focusing on human rights in the context of climate change, along with NANHRI's role in public policy monitoring. Particularly recommendations are as follows:

1. Climate Finance Mobilization: The discussants emphasized the importance of mobilizing both public and private climate finance to address climate change. Kolani Nakodjoua from the National Human Rights Commission from Togo shared an example of how the National Bank of Togo (NBH) is actively working with the government and civil society organizations to enhance access to climate finance. He said that Togo collaborates with various international and regional organizations, including the United Nations, to raise funds and support for climate adaptation efforts in Africa.

2. On Human Rights and Climate Change

Khalid Ramli from Morocco highlighted that climate change poses a significant threat to human rights. National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) play a crucial role in bridging the gap between states, civil society, and international human rights mechanisms.

3. Roles of NHRIs and policy monitoring: it was indicated that NHRIs can act as implementers of international agreements (like the Paris Agreement) by advocating for climate action, and monitoring state compliance with human rights standards related to climate change and being involved in monitoring public policies and can serve as redress mechanisms for human rights violations related to climate change.



The Citizens at the Centre of Energy



This event was organised by the Elcano Institute and joined by PACJA among other partners. It highlighted the collaborative efforts required among consumers, businesses, and communities to effectively navigate the energy transition while ensuring equitable access to the benefits of renewable energy.

PACJA was represented by Eugene Nforngwa who is the Energy Access and Just Transition thematic Lead. In his intervention, Eugene emphasised the importance of consumer involvement in the energy system.

- **Energy Sharing Initiatives:** he highlighted that there are successful business models that promote energy sharing, particularly benefiting vulnerable communities. An example highlighted is a kindergarten that shares solar energy with its neighborhood, resulting in lower electricity bills for local residents.
- **Agricultural Benefits:** he said that the integration of photovoltaic (PV) production with agriculture has been shown to enhance crop yields by up to 60%, providing additional income for farmers and supporting rural communities.
- **On Creation** he affirmed that the renewable energy sector is a significant source of employment, with projections indicating that jobs in this sector could reach 1 million in Europe by 2025.

Here are the key points he made during the expert panel discussion:

- **Consumer Role:** He mentioned that the transition is moving towards a model in which consumers play a central role in the energy system, benefiting from renewable energy sources such as solar and wind. This shift has provided financial relief during energy crises, with some consumers saving up to €3,800 annually thanks to direct access to renewable energy sources
- **Challenges and Next Steps:** The document emphasizes the need for effective communication and community engagement to ensure that the benefits of renewable energy are widely understood and accessible. It also stresses the importance of addressing misinformation and fostering local involvement in energy projects.
- **Infrastructure and Flexibility:** The need for robust infrastructure that can accommodate the growing demand for renewable energy and provide flexibility in energy supply is highlighted as crucial for the ongoing energy transition.