

MEMENTO OF THE DAY

7



Our action

 ***We met the Chair of Africa Group of Negotiators***



At the sidelines of COP29 ongoing in Baku, Azerbaijan, the African civil society organizations coalesced under the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) and met with the Africa Group of Negotiators under the leadership of AGN chair Amb. Ali. It has been a tradition that every year at COPs, CSOs under PACJA meet AGN to be brief on the progress negotiations in the rooms especially on the agendas adopted by Africa as a continent. [Read more here](#)



The imperatives of a just NCQG: Lessons from Morocco and other African nations on Why the NCQG must centre a Needs Based Adaptation in its subgoals



This side event focused on the urgent need for effective climate adaptation strategies that are inclusive, community-driven, and responsive to the realities faced by those most affected by climate change. It aimed at facilitating the evidence-based comprehensive dialogue to deepen our approaches for pursuing needs-based adaptation finance.

This event aimed to draw lessons from Morocco and other African countries regarding the implementation of needs-based approaches in their respective contexts. It focused on the potential implications of these lessons for global negotiations, emphasizing the principles and strategies that should be adopted to ensure quality financing for Africa. The event also explored how to effectively capture needs-based adaptation within the National Climate Goals and Qualifications (NCQG) related to climate finance. Key lessons raised by discussants enlightened the reason why the NCQG must centre a Needs Based Adaptation in its subgoals. They also underscored the necessity of integrating local knowledge and needs into climate adaptation strategies, supported by appropriate legislative and financial frameworks.

The following are key points and insights shared by participants as follow:

Decentralization and Community Involvement:

The discussion emphasized the importance of decentralizing climate governance to involve local communities in identifying their adaptation needs. This is facilitated through participatory risk assessments and the creation of county Climate Change Action Plans that reflect community priorities.

- **Legislative Framework:** it was explained that Kenya, for instance, has established a comprehensive legislative framework, including the National Adaptation Plan and the Climate Change Act, which guide local adaptation efforts. Each county has its own Climate Change committee responsible for aligning local plans with national legislation.
- **Financial Support:** A special financing package is mentioned, which allocates funds to counties to support local climate initiatives. This financial support is crucial for empowering communities and enhancing their capacity to adapt to climate change.
- **Role of Farmers:** The conversation highlights the significant role of farmers, particularly small-scale and subsistence farmers, in climate adaptation. It stresses the need for adaptation finance to be responsive to the actual needs of farmers, who are on the front lines of climate impacts.
- **Innovative Approaches:** There was a call for innovative adaptation strategies that are developed with input from farmers, ensuring that local contexts are considered in the design and implementation of climate technologies.

Radical Approaches for Accelerating Debt-Free Climate Finance Flows to Underserved African Countries

This event hosted in Senegal Pavillion focused on underserved nations and explored innovative financial solutions that ensure Africa is not left behind in the global climate action agenda. This side event underscored the urgent need for a more equitable and effective climate finance system that addresses the unique challenges faced by African nations in the context of climate change. With a focus on the challenges and dynamics of climate finance in Africa, particularly about adaptation and the inequities in financial flows, key thoughtful insights were noted as follows:

- **Climate Finance Landscape:** The speakers highlighted that Africa, despite contributing less than 4% of global greenhouse gas emissions, suffers disproportionately from climate-related damages, accounting for 80% of the losses. The principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities" was emphasized, stressing that those who contribute to climate change should bear the financial burden of its impacts.
- **Inequities in Financial Flows:** There is a significant injustice in the distribution of climate finance. A large portion of the funding is concentrated in a few countries, with 65% going to just ten nations, while the most vulnerable regions receive inadequate support. During discussions, speakers pointed out that even within countries like Kenya, the regions that need resources the most are often overlooked.
- **Need for Reform:** The event called for a reform of the climate finance architecture to ensure that it does not exacerbate existing inequalities. The speakers argued for a shift towards grants and concessional finance that would not impose debt burdens on vulnerable countries.
- **Role of the African Development Bank (AfDB):** The representative of AfDB said that the bank is working to increase its grant resources and prioritize adaptation projects, aiming to allocate a significant portion of its funding to the poorest regions. He said that the bank is also exploring innovative financing mechanisms to better support countries burdened by debt.
- **Challenges in Negotiations:** Coming to negotiations surrounding climate finance, they were described as complex and often frustrating, with many countries struggling to navigate the existing frameworks and secure the necessary funding for adaptation projects. Antoine Fay discusses the current landscape of climate finance negotiations, highlighting the challenges faced by developing countries, particularly in Africa. He emphasized that the climate finance framework is often manipulated, leading to confusion about what constitutes climate finance.
- **On Historical Context,** Fay referenced the evolution of climate negotiations, noting that decisions made in past conferences have shaped the current situation. He criticizes the tendency to prioritize certain articles of the Paris Agreement over the foundational principles of climate finance established in earlier conventions.
- **On Challenges for Africa,** Fay pointed out that Africa, despite being one of the most vulnerable regions to climate change, is often sidelined in negotiations. He stresses that the climate crisis is largely caused by developed nations, yet developing countries are expected to adapt without adequate support.
- **Adaptation vs. Mitigation:** The discussants highlighted the distinction between mitigation (which can yield financial returns) and adaptation (which is crucial for survival but lacks immediate financial incentives). Fay argued that adaptation is essential for countries already suffering from climate impacts

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Digital Natives Re-Imagining an Inclusive and Climate-Just World



This event sought to highlight the potential of digital natives in championing an inclusive and equitable climate society, especially as the civic space continues to shrink. It also explored digital opportunities that promote inclusion and enhance the capacity of civil society organizations and frontline communities to utilize emerging technologies to accelerate SDG 13 on Climate Action, guided by the SDG Digital Acceleration Agenda.

Lucky Abeng, a youth activist from Nigeria emphasized the role of digital platforms and technologies in advancing climate justice, noting that youth engagement on platforms like TikTok and Twitter remains limited. While young people are increasingly making efforts to discuss climate change issues and align themselves with climate activities, there is a need to encourage and amplify these conversations. However, he recommended that youth can use TikTok and drive the conversation on Climate Change and Climate Justice.

Aileen Ajiwa from FEMNET highlighted that women and youth face both opportunities and challenges in accessing digital platforms. Opportunities include increased visibility, while challenges involve cyber safety, bullying, lack of knowledge, and restricted access, with some governments censoring content.

Sokhna Die Ka Dia, Natural Justice Dakar Hub Director, from Natural Justice stressed the importance of policies to safeguard digital technologies. She advocated for collaboration between policymakers, negotiators, and civil society organizations to align positions before negotiations while addressing policy gaps related to digital technologies.

This event was the opportunity to explore the policy and advocacy position on digital technologies and climate action in Africa and deepen understanding of how digital tools can promote climate justice and inclusion, particularly in AACJ countries. It was the opportunity to emphasise on sharing innovative digital solutions to support climate justice initiatives and enhance civic engagement.