



KEY TAKEAWAY FROM AFRICA NON-STATE ACTORS CONSULTATIVE REVIEW ON THE OUTCOME OF COP29 & THE ROAD TO BELEM

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia - February 12, 2025



On February 12, 2025, PACJA held a one-day Africa Non-State Actors Consultative Review on the Outcome of COP29 & the Road to Belem. The convening theme: “Securing climate justice for Africa in a multipolar world in the Year of Reparations”, attracted representatives of NGOs, Indigenous Groups, Women, Youth, Trade Unions, Farmers Groups, PWDS, Pastoralists, and private sector actors among many others.

The event was graced by high-level dignitaries namely: Dr Mithika Mwenda, Executive Director, Pan African Climate Justice Alliance H.E Adam Drury, UK Ambassador to the African Union, Jihane EL GAOUZI, Head of Sustainable Environment, SEBE, AUC, who represented Harsen Nyambe, Director, SEBE, AUC, Beza Berhanu Programme Officer for Environment and Climate Cluster, Regional Development Cooperation Africa, Representing Joachim Beijmo, Head of Regional Development Cooperation, Embassy of Sweden, Ethiopia and Priego Fernández-Martos, Pedro, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Spain.

High level Keynote Speeches: What came out?

H.E. Adam Drury, UK Ambassador to the African Union, informed participants that his country recognizes that Africa contributes less to global GHG emissions, hence they are partnering with the African Union to address climate change-related challenges, including improving the systems for climate finance flow.

Dr Amany Asfour, President of the Africa Business Council and Chair of FEMNET, emphasized the crucial role of non-state actors in the pursuit of climate justice. She highlighted that Africa has become a significant burden bearer in the face of climate catastrophes. Dr Asfour called for increased investment in green and blue economies, as well as in renewable energy. However, she also noted that the journey toward climate action should not overlook the private sector, which she described as being less empowered.

During the convening, Dr. Mithika Mwenda, Executive Director of the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA), emphasized the importance of countries strengthening their partnerships. He provided examples of current South-South and North-South collaborations, asserting that Africa deserves to advocate for what rightfully.

Ms. Beza Berhanu, Programme Officer for Environment and Climate Cluster at the Regional Development Cooperation Africa, representing Joachim Beijmo, Head of Regional Development Cooperation at the Embassy of Sweden in Ethiopia, emphasized the urgent need for climate finance to enable African countries to address the impacts of climate change. She called for a substantial increase in funding and urged the involvement of the private sector in the process.



➤ Analysis of the evolving context and its implications on Africa's climate diplomacy: Backward and forward-looking



The discussion featured insights from several experts, including Dr. Augustine Njamnshi, Chair of Technical and Political Affairs at the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance. He examined the implications of evolving geopolitics on Africa's climate agenda. Dr Hanne Knaepen, Head of Climate Action and Green Transition at ECDPM, explored the promotion of EU-Africa partnerships focused on adaptation in light of the rise of anti-climate, right-wing governments in the North. Dr. Cromwel Lukorito, Chair of IPCC Working Group 2, shared the IPCC's stance on mitigation and adaptation. Lastly, Dr. Olufunso Somorin, Principal Regional Officer at the African Development Bank, contributed to the discussion.

This session was an excellent opportunity to develop a comprehensive understanding of the outcomes of COP29, their implications for Africa, and ways to advance global climate discourse. The discussants reflected on the geopolitical dynamics among African stakeholders and identified the shifts necessary to effectively position climate action. Finally, participants took the time to outline a pathway for non-state actors to engage effectively in promoting climate and economic justice through 2025.

Dr. Augustine Njamnshi, Chair, Technical and Political Affairs, Pan African Climate Justice Alliance shed light on the implication of the evolving geopolitics to Africa's Climate Agenda. His intervention revolved around a deep concern for the intersection of climate change, social justice and international collaboration especially in the context of Africa's development challenges.



Dr Augustine stressed on the following key points:

Climate Crisis and War

Dr Augustine emphasized the ongoing “climate war” that is causing significant harm to people and suggested that countries often prioritize military funding over climate action which leads to social injustices.

Resource Curse in Africa

He discussed the resource curse where he noted countries rich in resources suffer from poverty, and human rights abuses due to exploitation and conflicts over these resources. He shared examples of DRC and Sudan.

Global Development Commitments

He noted the concern that global commitments to development, such as the Millennium Development Goals and Sustainable Development Goals, are at risk. He questioned the effectiveness of repeated commitments without tangible action.

Climate Finance Issues

Dr Augustine Njamshi highlighted the unfairness in climate finance, where loans are often more prevalent than grants. He explained that this unfairness creates a "reverse flow" of money, where developing countries end up paying more back to developed nations than they receive for climate action.

Rise of Right-Wing Movements

On this point, Dr Augustine noted the rise of the right-wing movements in the global North which threaten multilateral efforts to combat climate change. He described the situation as a call for a critical reflection on the actions of progressive movements. He urged for a review of past commitments made and stressed the need for African nations to take a stand and not miss the current opportunities for climate action and justice.

Promoting the EU-Africa partnership on adaptation, particularly in light of the rise of anti-climate right-wing governments in the North

Addressing adaptation finance for Africa requires multistakeholder partnerships. In this context, the European Union and Africa have made efforts to address climate action across many sectors under their partnership. Currently, there is a rise of anti-climate right-wing movements which may hamper these efforts.

Dr. Hanne Louise Knaepen, Head of Climate Action and Green Transition at ECDPM, shared her insights on promoting the EU-Africa partnership on adaptation, particularly in light of the rise of anti-climate right-wing governments in the North.

In her intervention, Dr Hanne spoke about the complexity of the interplay between political movements in Europe, climate Finance and international cooperation on Adaptation efforts particularly concerning Africa. Her intervention touched on the following key points:

Adaptation Finance Gap

On this point, Hanne mentioned the significant and growing adaptation finance gap in Africa with an estimation of \$46 billion annually by 2030. She explained that the EU and its member states are major contributors to adaptation finance where they provided nearly 30 in 2023. However, she raised the issues of transparency and allocation of these funds.

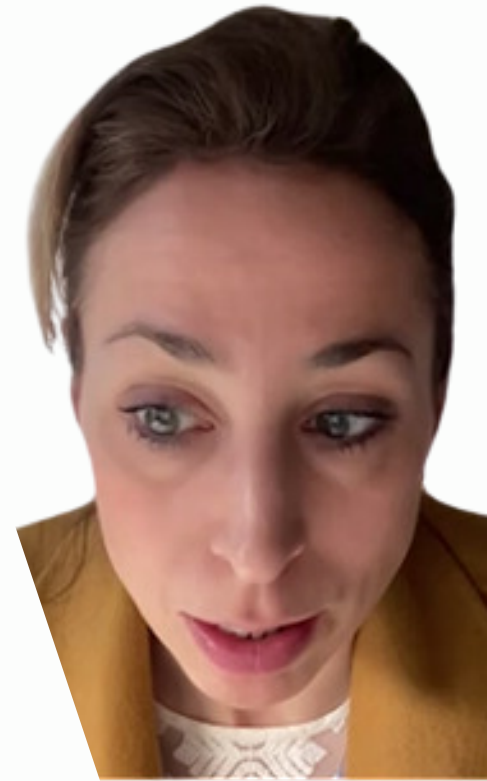
Fragmentation of Climate Agenda

Here she mentioned that the Climate Agenda of the European Union is fragmented which makes it difficult for the EU to present a unified position on Climate adaptation, particularly about Africa. She stressed that this fragmentation is influenced by the rise of right-wing movements across Europe which prioritize security and defense over climate action.

On the Right-wing movements and Climate policy

Hinting on the growing of Right-wing governments in Europe she mentioned that it led to a perception of climate-driven migration as a security threat rather than a development issue. She said that this shift leads to a diversion of resources from Climate adaptation to border control and military agreements.
Impact on International Cooperation.

Dr Hanne noted the increasing influence of fossil fuel interests and the prioritization of National security over climate cooperation. she warned that this may weaken multinational climate diplomacy and the EU's credibility as a Climate partner.



Dr. Hanne Louise Knaepen, Head of Climate Action and Green Transition at ECDPM

The Need for Continued Focus on Adaptation
Despite the challenges, Hanne said that there is a call for Europe to maintain its focus on climate adaptation efforts as this is crucial for sustaining international climate action and maintaining diplomatic relations with African nations.

The geopolitical Shifts
She noted the ongoing war in Ukraine and other geopolitical factors are leading to budget reallocations within Europe which complicates further the landscape for climate finance and adaptation efforts.

IPCC Vs Mitigation and Adaptation: Perspectives of Dr Cromwel Lukorito- Chair IPCC-WG2

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in its 6th Assessment report particularly from Working Group II on impacts, adaptation and Vulnerability and Working Group III on Mitigation of climate change provided key insights on Mitigation and adaptation for Africa.

Dr. Cromwell Lukorito, the Chair of the IPCC Working Group II, shared his insights on a comprehensive view of the challenges and strategies related to climate adaptation and mitigation, particularly in the context of Africa's needs and aspirations.

Growing vulnerability

He reflected on the recently published IPCC R6 report which emphasizes that Vulnerable regions particularly the African continent, are facing increasing threats from Climate change, necessitating a stronger focus on adaptation strategies.

Adaptation versus Mitigation

Dr Lukorito mentioned that the IPCC reports prioritize the Adaptation but also stress the need to address mitigation. He advocated for a balanced allocation of resources between adaptation and mitigation efforts.

Need for Evidence-Based Action

He urged that adaptation financing be informed by solid shreds of evidence and facts. He highlighted the need of scientific thinktank in Africa to guide Climate action.

Partnership Dynamics

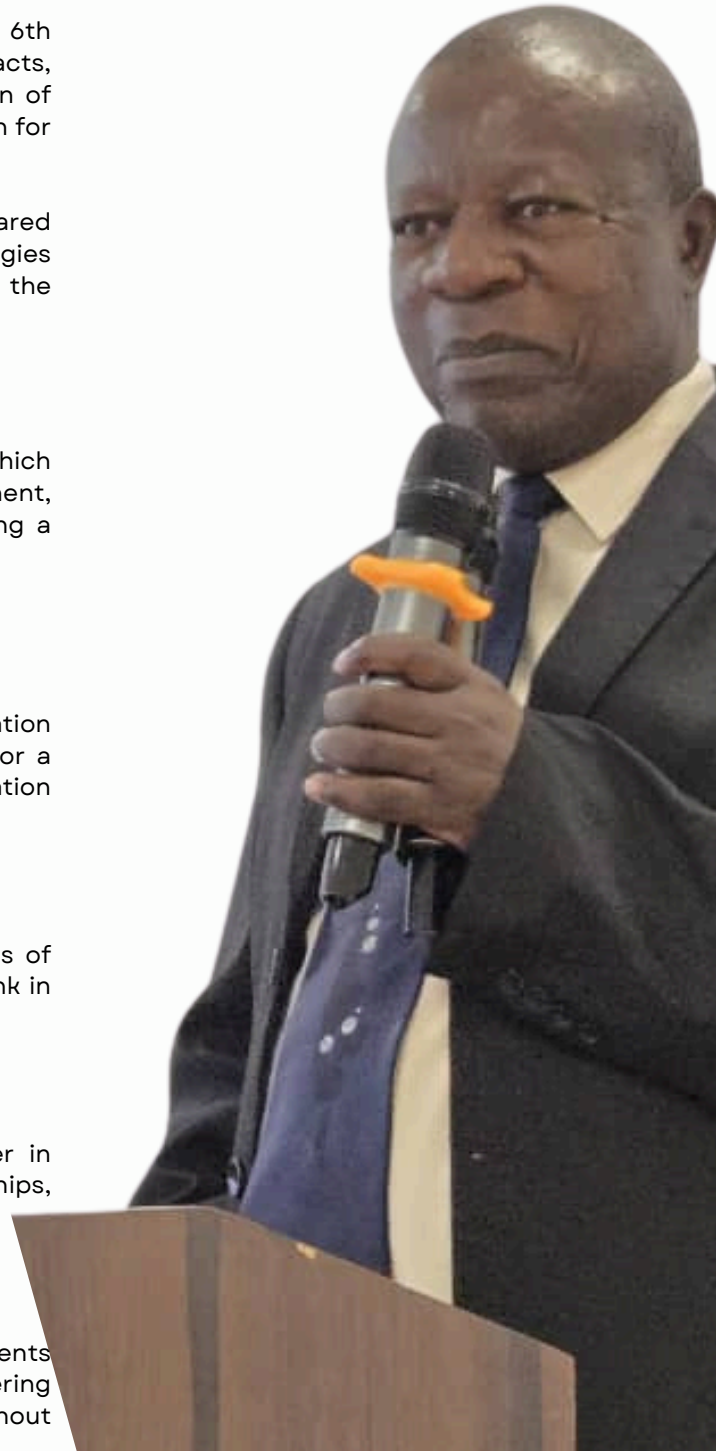
He discussed the importance of positioning Africa as a leader in managing its adaptation needs within international partnerships, emphasising that the support should align with Africa's priorities.

The gap between agreements and action

Dr Cromwell pointed out a growing gap between climate agreements and actual implementation and warned that without reengineering climate diplomacy, efforts may devolve into mere formalities without concrete outcomes.

Collective Action

Dr Cromwell advocated for collective action based on shared responsibilities stressing that adaptation should not be treated merely as a local issue but as a global concern that requires collaboration between all actors and stakeholders.



Dr Cromwell Lukorito
Chair, Intergovernmental Panel on
Climate Change (IPCC), WG 2

The stance of the African Development Bank: Insights from Dr Olufunso Somurin

In accordance with the session topic, Dr. Olufunso Somurin, Principal Regional Officer at the African Development Bank, emphasized the importance of strategic planning, innovative financing, and redefining partnerships to effectively address climate change-related challenges in Africa. He shared his insights on the following key points:

Comprehensive Climate Action

Dr Olufunso Somurin said that there is a need for a strategic and comprehensive approach to climate action, emphasizing that while immediate responses are crucial, long-term planning is very essential.

Innovative Financing

He highlighted that there is a disconnect between climate action initiatives and financial resources. He added that it's important to explore innovative financing methods to support climate-resilient and low-carbon development projects.

Resource Mobilization

He urged that countries should allocate a significant portion of their annual budgets (10-15%) to development projects that are climate-resilient and low carbon. He emphasized that this is a missed opportunity if not pursued.

Partnership redefinition

He called for the redefinition of partnerships in climate action, ensuring that African nations are proactive in designing their partnerships rather than waiting for external invitations. He explained that this includes collaboration across different levels of Government and society.

Local Engagement

He emphasized the importance of local engagement and contributions. He stressed the need for a system that allows for meaningful participation from various societal levels.
On Climate Finance Goals

Dr Olufunso said that AfDB intends to increase its climate finance to over 50% of its total development finance with significant investments planned for Climate action.

Leadership Crisis

He highlighted the issue of leadership where the climate crisis is framed not just as an environmental or financial issue but as a leadership crisis. He suggested that this necessitates a reevaluation of leadership and decision-making processes.



Dr Olufunso Somurin
Principal Regional Officer, AfDB

Introspecting the outcomes of UNFCCC COP29:

Africa Gains and Misses and Broad Implications of decisions to the future of Climate Diplomacy



Pannelists namely Julius N’goma, Julius Mbatia, Martha Bekele and Obed Koringo (online) shared their Insights on the outcome of COP29

Introspected by experts in the areas of Adaptation, Climate Finance and Loss and Damage, this session gained expert-led insights from Obed Koringo, Senior Policy Advisor, Care International who explored COP29 outcomes on adaptation and Road Map to securing the Global Goal on Adaptation and its means of Implementation in Belem; Julius Ngoma, Coordinator, Civil Society Network on Climate Change, Malawi who spoke on Making Reparations for climate change-related losses a reality – Progress on Loss and Damage agenda; Julius Mbatia, Negotiator, Climate Finance who commented in key Outcomes on Climate Finance an NCQG and Martha Bekele, Co-founder, DevTransform who shared her insights on Priority action to secure the USD.1.3 trillion and finance-related reparations. This expert-led session and plenary active participation touched on the following key insights:

Adaptation Finance

The participants in the plenary expressed a strong concern regarding climate finance for Africa. They emphasized the need to increase adaptation funding, advocating for discussions to focus on "more than doubling" the current funding levels instead of just doubling them. This sentiment reflects a belief that the existing financial commitments are inadequate.



Youth Involvement

The importance of youth participation in climate discussions is emphasized. The sentiment expressed was that if African youth are not included in decision-making processes, they risk being marginalized.

Complexity of Climate Finance

There are criticisms regarding the complexity of accessing climate finance, particularly for smallholder farmers who often operate in informal settings. This complexity hinders the effective distribution of funds to those who need it most.

Donor-Recipient Relationships

Panelists discussed the existing relationships between donors and grant recipients. The discussions insisted that there is a need for reform in donor-recipient relationships, highlighting that they are often not inclusive or democratic. They called for a more equitable approach to climate finance.

New Business Models

There is a suggestion to explore new forms of business relationships and financial mechanisms beyond traditional grants and loans, such as equities and guarantees, to unlock capital for adaptation projects.

Civil Society Engagement

The need for civil society to be actively involved in climate policy dialogues is stressed, as their voices are crucial for ensuring accountability and transparency in climate finance.

Multilateral Engagement

The importance of Africa's engagement in multilateral discussions, particularly in light of the evolving dynamics within groups like G20 and BRICS was highlighted. Furthermore, the emphasis was put on the role, consideration and involvement of Africa to assert its position in these forums.



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