



## CLIMATE & ECONOMIC JUSTICE CAMPAIGN

# Launch of **CLIMATE & ECONOMIC JUSTICE CAMPAIGN**



Thursday, April 17, 2025  
2 pm – 5 pm EAT



Swiss Lenana Mount  
Hotel, Nairobi



Virtual



**Global  
Call to Action  
Against Poverty**

People Rising to End Inequalities

## OVERVIEW:

Africa stands at a pivotal moment, endowed with vast natural resources, a growing youthful population, and expanding markets that offer immense potential for sustainable and inclusive development. However, this potential remains largely untapped due to persistent structural injustices in the global financial and economic systems. In response, the Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP), in collaboration with the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) and on behalf of the extensive coalition engaged in economic justice campaign is convening both a physical and virtual launch of the climate and economic justice campaign.

The event will serve as a strategic platform to examine Africa's debt landscape, policies governing global financial architecture, the governance of Africa's natural resources, and the implications of global financial and economic policies on social service delivery, climate action, and economic stability. The platform introspects the implications of the current debt and financial landscape policy in delivery of the multilateral agreements, notably the Paris Agreement, the Sustainable Development Goals and its successor framework – the Pact of the future while interrogating the strategic synergies between the Economic Justice Campaign and the AU theme of the Year on Reparations. The *Economic Justice Campaign* that is being launched advocates for reparations, debt cancellation, and reforms in the global financial and economic architecture to unlock Africa's potential and foster sustainable and inclusive development. This initiative is anchored in the vision of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly focusing on SDGs 1 (No Poverty), 3 (Good Health and Well-being), 5 (Gender Equality), 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), 13, (Climate Action) and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

## RATIONALE

Africa stands at a defining crossroads, endowed with abundant natural and human resources that could position it as a major global economic player. The continent accounts for approximately **65%** of the world's uncultivated arable land<sup>1</sup>, **30%** of global mineral reserves<sup>2</sup> and **8%** of the world's natural gas **and 7%** of its oil reserves.<sup>3</sup> Africa also boasts a demographic advantage, with **over 60%** of its population under the age of **25**<sup>4</sup>, representing a potentially powerful workforce and innovation base for decades to come.

Yet, this potential is systematically undermined by an unjust global economic order and internal

1 African Union (2015). Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want.

2 UNCTAD (2023). Economic Development in Africa Report: The Potential of Africa to Capture Green Investment Flows. Available at: <https://unctad.org/webflyer/economic-development-africa-report-2023>

3 African Development Bank (2023). African Economic Outlook 2023: Mobilizing Private Sector Financing for Climate and Green Growth in Africa. Available at: <https://www.afdb.org/en/documents/african-economic-outlook-2023>

4 OECD (2021). Africa's Development Dynamics 2021: Digital Transformation for Quality Jobs. Available at: <https://www.oecd.org/development/africa-s-development-dynamics-26178515.htm>

governance challenges. As of 2024, 429 million Africans live in extreme poverty.<sup>5</sup> 2023). The situation has been worsened by a deteriorating debt crisis: between 2012 and 2019, government debt in Sub-Saharan Africa rose from **28%** to **50%** of GDP, peaking at **57%** in 2021<sup>6</sup> and is expected to remain above **55%** for most countries in 2025<sup>7</sup>. Debt-servicing costs now consume over **18%** of public revenues (IMF, 2023), exceeding expenditure on health and education combined in most of sub-Saharan countries.

In addition, climate injustice compounds Africa's vulnerabilities. The continent contributes less than **4%** of global greenhouse gas emissions<sup>8</sup> but suffers disproportionately from climate-induced disasters such as droughts, floods and desertification, with **45%** of Africa's land already classified as desert or dryland.<sup>9</sup> In the past decade alone, climate-related losses in Africa have been estimated at over **US\$50 billion**<sup>10</sup>. These crises deepen food insecurity, displace millions, and disproportionately affect children, women, youth, and other marginalized populations.

The persistence of these crises is not accidental but a result of structural injustices in global financial, trade, and economic systems that sustain extractive relationships, force debt dependency, and limit policy space for African governments. Without bold action to secure **debt cancellation, reparations, and reforms to the international financial and economic system**, Africa risks remaining trapped in cycles of poverty, inequality, and ecological destruction.

This side event will therefore serve as a mobilization and strategy space, bringing together movements, civil society, and policymakers to interrogate the debt and economic landscape, expose the impacts of global economic governance on Africa, and officially launch the Economic Justice Campaign. The campaign aims to push for structural reforms necessary for Africa to unlock its full potential and realize the vision of Agenda 2063, **2030 Agenda** and Paris agreement. Achieving economic justice is not just necessary for Africa's development but is central to a fairer, more sustainable global order.

5 World Bank (2023). Poverty and Shared Prosperity Report: Ending Poverty on a Livable Planet. Available at: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/poverty-and-shared-prosperity>

6 International Monetary Fund (2023). Regional Economic Outlook for Sub-Saharan Africa, April 2023. The Big Funding Squeeze. Available at: <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/REO/SSA>

7 ibid

8 UNEP (2022). State of the Climate in Africa 2021. <https://public.wmo.int/en/our-mandate/climate/wmo-statement-state-of-global-climate>

9 African Development Bank (2023). African Economic Outlook 2023: Mobilizing Private Sector Financing for Climate and Green Growth in Africa.

10 African Development Bank (2023). African Economic Outlook 2023: Mobilizing Private Sector Financing for Climate and Green Growth in Africa.












**OBJECTIVES:**

1. Explore the debt landscape in Africa and the driving forces to raise consciousness on the state at play and implications on state delivery of basic services including climate action.
2. To introspect the implication of global financial and economic policies on debt, natural resources governance, climate action, delivery of social services and economic stability in Africa.
3. Launch the Economic Justice Campaign, advocating for reparations, debt cancellation, and the reform of the global financial and economic system contributing to climate and economic injustices.
4. Hold an exploratory session on priority entry points for various constituents in advancing this campaign to shape approaches and strategies to enhance the effectiveness and coordination of the economic justice campaign.
5. Explore the necessary global solidarities in furtherance of the objectives of this campaign



## PROPOSED STRUCTURE AND FORMAT:

SESSION	DETAILED TOPICAL ISSUES AND & SPEAKERS
<p><b>Setting the stage</b></p> <p><i>Time Allocation: 20 minutes</i></p> <p><i>Moderator: Nuru Maro, Africa Regional Coordinator, GCAP</i></p>	<p>Remarks: <b>Augustine Njamnshi</b>, Chair Political &amp; Technical Committee, PACJA Board</p> <p><b>FIFTY YEARS OF FAILURE:</b> The International Monetary Fund, Debt and Austerity in Africa, 2023; ActionAid Study; <b>Sheila Apiny</b>, Regional Climate Justice Advisor, ActionAid International</p>
<p><b>Deep dive session: Escaping the Trap: Unlocking Africa's Potential for social and Economic Development through Economic Justice Campaign"</b></p> <p><i>Time Allocation: 60 minutes, 7 minutes per panellist</i></p> <p><i>Philip Kilonzo, Head of Policy, Advocacy &amp; Communications, PACJA</i></p>	<p>Overarching Question: <i>How can Africa deliver on Agenda 2030, the aspirations of the Paris Agreement and Agenda 2063 in a debt free manner</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <p>◆ <b>Sophie Nampewo Njuba</b>, Development Coordinator, Oxfam Africa (<i>Implications of debts in service delivery and social protection</i>)</p> </li> <li> <p>◆ <b>Jason Braganza</b>, Executive Director, AFRODAD (<i>Implications of debts on service delivery in African countries</i>)</p> </li> <li> <p>◆ <b>Jane Anyango</b>, Coordinator GCAP Kenya: (<i>Implications of Debt on the Rights of Marginalized Groups, Including Women, Children, and Persons with Disabilities.</i>)</p> </li> <li> <p>◆ <b>Martha Bekele</b>, Co-founder, DevTransform (<i>Implication of debts in delivery of climate action in Africa</i>)</p> </li> <li> <p>◆ <b>Julius Mbatia</b>, ACT Alliance (<i>How best can Africa address the injustices in the climate finance landscape?</i>)</p> </li> <li> <p>◆ <b>Florence Kasule</b>, National Coordinator, PACJA Uganda (<i>Debt crisis: -what is the experience of the climate impacted frontline communities</i>)</p> </li> <li> <p>◆ <b>Dr. Olufonso Somorin</b>, Principal Regional Officer, African Development Bank (<i>How can Africa navigate the policy regime that makes it borrow at unfavourable terms?</i>)</p> </li> <li> <p>◆ <b>John Sloan</b>, Economist, UNECA (<i>Overcoming colonial policy and legal legacies to optimize on the potential of Africa's mineral resources</i>)</p> </li> </ul>

SESSION	DETAILED TOPICAL ISSUES AND & SPEAKERS
<b>Unpacking the Economic Justice Campaign</b>  <i>Time Allocation: 20 minutes</i>  <i>Moderator: Nuru Maro, Africa Regional Coordinator, GCAP</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>  <b>Dr. Mithika Mwenda</b>, Executive Director, PACJA         </li> </ul>
<b>Launch of the Economic Justice Campaign</b>  <i>Time Allocation : 20 minutes</i>  <i>Moderator: Nuru Maro, Africa Regional Coordinator, GCAP</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>  <b>Edward Akol</b>, Auditor General, Uganda &amp;         </li> <li>  <b>Justice David Mugo</b>, Judge of the High Court of Kenya         </li> </ul>
<b>Solidarity statements in advancing the aspirations of climate and economic Justice campaign</b>  <i>Time allocated: 45 minutes, 5 minutes per panellist</i>  <i>Moderator: Charles Mwangi, Head of Programs &amp; Research, PACJA</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>  <b>Harsen Nyambe</b>, Director SEBE, AUC         </li> <li>  <b>Themba Kalua</b>, Director of the Pact of the Future Implementation, Executive Office of the UN Secretary General         </li> <li>  <b>Ramil Iskandarli</b>, Azerbaijan National NGO Forum (South-south cooperation)         </li> <li>  <b>Raphael Danglade</b>, Lead Portfolio Manager – Climate and Development, Africa-Europe Foundation         </li> <li>  <b>Dr. Hanne Knaepen</b>, Head of Green Transition and Climate Action, ECDPM         </li> <li>  <b>Dr. Magot Brown</b>, Environmental Defense Fund         </li> <li>  <b>Ingo Ritz, Director</b>, Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP)         </li> <li>  <b>Melvine Wajiri</b>, Chair, NGO–Coalition for Social Development, NGO Representative at the United Nations         </li> </ul>

SESSION	DETAILED TOPICAL ISSUES AND & SPEAKERS
<p><b>Grounding session: Priorities and Initial Ideas for taking this campaign forward</b></p> <p><i>Time Allocation: 1 hour &amp; 20 minutes</i></p> <p><i>Moderator: Philip Kilonzo, Head of Policy &amp; Advocacy &amp; Campaigns, PACJA</i></p>	<p>Biodiversity &amp; Nature Based Solutions: <b>Yemi Keterere</b>, Africa Civil Society Biodiversity Alliance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ <b>Faith Actors:</b> <b>Rev. Dr. Ezekiel</b>, Programmes Director, All Africa Conferences of Churches/ Africa Faith Actors Network on Climate Justice &amp; <b>Byrd Phyllis</b>, Organization of African Instituted Churches</li> <li>◆ <b>Women</b> Constituent: <b>Memory Kachambwa</b>, Executive Director, FEMNET &amp; <b>Mwanahamisi Singano</b>, Programme Manager, WEDO</li> <li>◆ <b>Youth Constituent:</b> <b>Cedric Dzulu</b>, Technical Director, Office of the Minister of State for Climate Change and Sustainability, Ghana &amp; <b>Zandisile Howe</b>, Founder of EcoHarmony &amp; Environmental Information Officer, Eswatini Environmental Authority.</li> <li>◆ <b>Farmers &amp; Food Producers:</b> <b>Stephen Muchiri</b>, Executive Director, East African Farmers Federation/ Pan African Farmers Organization</li> <li>◆ <b>Indigenous people:</b> <b>Anne Samante</b>, Programme Director, MPIDO</li> <li>◆ <b>African Private Sector:</b> <b>Dr. Asmany Asfour</b>, President, Africa Private Sector Alliance</li> <li>◆ <b>Academia and Research:</b> <b>Prof. Satishkumar Belliethathan</b>, Africa Director, NABU</li> <li>◆ <b>Climate disaster impacted communities (L&amp;D):</b> <b>Julius Ngoma</b>, National Coordinator, CISONECC, Malawi)</li> <li>◆ <b>Mining Affected communities:</b> <b>Dr. Kgaugelo Chiloane</b>, Executive Director, KEC Environmental Solutions &amp; <b>Mamoudou Quedraogo</b>, National Coordinator of A-2E, Burkina Faso</li> <li>◆ <b>Health Actors:</b> <b>Prof. Alhaji U’Njai</b>, Siera Leone University</li> <li>◆ <b>African Labour</b> Movement: <b>Rhoda Boateng</b>, Programme Coordinator, ITUC</li> </ul>
<p><b>Closing next steps:</b></p>	



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