



PACJA at the 11th Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ARFSD-11)

Kampala , Uganda - April 6-11 , 2025

From April 6 to 11, 2025, the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) participated alongside other regional stakeholders and partners in the 11th African Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, which was held in Kampala, Uganda. The forum was convened under the theme: “Driving job creation and economic growth through sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions for the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.” It attracted a wide range of participants, including government representatives, diplomats, civil society organizations (CSOs), and others. During this event, PACJA organized several ARFSD -11 Pre-event activities, including a town hall meeting that brought together youth from Makerere University, government officials, academic representatives, and alumni from the Nairobi Summer School on Climate Justice. Additionally, PACJA launched the 5th Cohort of the Nairobi Summer School on Climate Justice.

The second day featured the commencement of the two-day 6th Africa Climate Talks and SDGs Forum. This forum included expert-led sessions that addressed various topics relating to the overarching theme: “Rethinking financing and ambition for climate action, green growth, and development in Africa: a justice issue.”

Notably, the following engagements stand out as key achievements for PACJA, made possible through dynamic collaboration with a range of dedicated stakeholders and partners.

Navigating Complex Geo-Politics: Igniting the Power of African Youth to Push Political Leadership in Africa to the Finishing Line



This event aimed to raise awareness about the implications of geopolitical forces on Africa’s climate diplomacy and its pursuit of sustainable development. It sought to strengthen collaborative approaches to position Africa’s interests in the quest for climate and economic justice in a multipolar world. Additionally, it launched the 5th Cohort of the Nairobi Summer School on Climate Justice, which is designed to enhance the capacity of young people to promote transformative climate action, global solidarity, and effective diplomacy.

Participation and contribution

The event was graced by high-level officials, including representatives of Makerere University’s leadership, the Ministry of Environment, UNECA, AU, a representative of EALA, as well as Youth from Makerere University and NSSCJ Alumni from Uganda and DR Congo.

Key insights were shared by experts and dived deeper into Perspective on the implications of current geopolitical alignment on Africa’s economic outlook in light of climate change, Advancing Economic Justice as strategic pushback in a multi-polar world, and other interesting conversations which attracted students to ask questions and learn more. Particularly, the following messages and insights were shared by experts in Climate Change and Climate Justice:

Addressing participants, Dr. Mithika outlined the significance of the upcoming African Regional Forum for Sustainable Development and related events, emphasizing the importance of inclusive discussions on climate change and sustainable development. He also stated that Africa Climate Talks, which were held before the official opening of the forum, aimed to facilitate meaningful discussions about the climate crisis and Africa's position in the global dialogue.



On the importance of Current climate change and sustainable development Conversations: Dr Mithika emphasized the necessity of having these conversations now, saying that despite that, some living today would not witness 2063, and addressing fundamental issues today is crucial for shaping the future.

Need for Inclusive Discourse: On this point, Dr Mithika pointed out that discussions on climate change often occur at high levels, such as at the UN and African Union meetings. As a matter of changing the approach, he stressed the importance of extending these conversations to frontline communities, including women affected by climate change, small farmers, young people, and individuals with disabilities.

He acknowledged the challenges in communicating climate discourse effectively at the community level, highlighting the need for greater inclusivity and engagement with those most affected by climate issues.

Dr Augustine Njamnshi, Chair, Political and Technical Affairs, PACJA



Dr Augustine Njamnshi emphasized the importance of respect, determination, and personal connection in the fight against climate change, particularly for those directly affected by its impacts. His intervention revolved around: **Respect and Uniqueness:** the highlighted uniqueness of the community lies in mutual respect and determination to address climate issues.

On Empowerment in Climate Advocacy: he encouraged youth and other individuals to stand firm in their beliefs about climate change. He insisted that no one should undermine their voices or experiences.

On **Personal Connection to Climate Change** he said that Climate change impacts are localized and touch individuals. On this point, Dr Njamnshi shared reference to the Karamoja sub-region saying it illustrates the personal nature of climate change for many, particularly those who experience its effects daily, such as drought. He said that the struggles faced by individuals like the old women struggling to live with climate change shocks and described this situation as reminder of the real-life implications of climate issues.

Focus on Climate Justice as a Personalized Issue: Dr. Njamnshi framed climate justice as a deeply personal issue, emphasizing the need to consider the experiences of those who may not have access to broader discussions or resources but are nonetheless impacted by climate change.

Dr Samuel Ogallah, African Union Commission (AUC)

His intervention emphasized the role of youth and how the AU and its partners are collaborating closely to empower them and provide platforms for advocating on behalf of the continent. On this note, He called the youth to action and challenged them to present their ideas and solutions that could contribute to job creation and tackle significant challenges facing the continent.

Dr Samuel informed about the Youth Negotiators Program, where AU trains youth negotiators from across Africa, which provides them with opportunities to connect with experienced negotiators and participate in international negotiations.

On Collaboration and Capacity Building, he said the initiative involves collaboration with various institutions and organizations, including PACJA, to enhance the Nairobi Summer School of Climate Justice, aiming to reach a broader audience of young people.

On Innovative Solutions, Dr Samuel urged participants to take action, amplify their voices, and work together to develop innovative solutions to combat the climate crisis.



Yoseph Amha, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)



In his intervention, Mr. Yosef discussed the implications of climate justice for young Africans, particularly in the context of geopolitics and the exploitation of natural resources. Particularly, he touched on the following key points:

On **geopolitical contexts**: he mentioned that Africa is influenced by geopolitical rivalries, particularly in the context of climate change. From this point, he encouraged Young Africans to consider how these dynamics affect their future.

Resource Exploitation and Injustice where he pointed out: It points out that while Africa is rich in resources such as critical miners like cobalt, which are crucial for clean energy, the extraction processes often lead to environmental degradation and do not benefit local communities. He emphasized that this creates a sense of injustice regarding the distribution of benefits.

On Clean Energy Solutions, he affirmed clean energy as a potential solution. He stressed that it must be implemented in a fair and just manner that considers the needs of local communities.

On Climate Finance Accessibility, he reminded that African countries face challenges in accessing climate finance, especially when it is tied to loans that may exacerbate debt crises. He opined that there is a need for equitable mechanisms that do not impose additional burdens on African nations.

Carbon Footprint Reduction Policies: on this point he critiqued policies like the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) proposed by European countries, which place restrictions on African exports while allowing foreign investments in polluting industries within Africa.

He described this as an unfair disadvantage for African industries.

Lastly, on **Empowerment of Young Africans**, he called young Africans to take an active role in shaping their future by critically evaluating proposed solutions to climate change. It emphasizes the importance of ensuring that these solutions benefit their economies, ecosystems, and societies.

Hon. Balaam Barugahara, Minister of Youth - Uganda



The Hon. Balaam Barugahara, Minister of Youth in Uganda, highlighted the importance of environmental preservation and youth engagement in climate action, particularly in the context of Uganda and the broader African region. He explicitly talked about:

On Youth Networking and Collaboration, he stated that PACJA facilitates networking and collaboration among young people across different countries, fostering a sense of community and shared purpose in addressing climate issues.

On the Nairobi Summer School of Climate Justice initiative, he said that this initiative aims to raise awareness about environmental issues and the importance of climate justice and serves as a platform for educating youth about their role in protecting the planet.

On the Legacy of the Planet, he emphasized that the current generation of youth will inherit the consequences of environmental degradation. He strongly reminded us of our ancestors' historical stewardship of the land, particularly regarding the preservation of forests.

On alarming Consequences of Environmental Harm; he outlined the potential challenges that could arise from continued environmental degradation, including drought, increased temperatures, humidity, dust, and food scarcity. It stresses the interconnectedness of forest cover, rainfall, and water availability.

Impact of Agricultural Practices: On this point Hon. Minister mentioned that current agricultural practices, such as planting sugar cane and rice, suggests that may have negative environmental impacts, further stressing the need for sustainable practices.

A Call for Advocacy for Environmental Preservation. He called for active advocacy to protect the environment and prevent further degradation, where he highlighted the urgency of the situation for the younger generation.

He appreciated on of PACJA as a platform amplifying Youth Voices: He portrayed PACJA as a vital platform for ensuring that youth concerns and ideas are included in climate policy discussions, reinforcing the importance of youth participation in shaping environmental policies.



6TH AFRICA CLIMATE TALKS AND SDGS FORUM

The 6th Africa Climate Talks and SDGs Forum was organized by UNECA, AU AfDB in Collaboration with PACJA and other Partners. It kicked off on April 8-9, 2025, in Kampala as a pre-event to the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, ARFSD11.

On the first day of the event was characterised by remarks made by high level dignitaries. It was opened officially by Rt Ho. Robinah Nabbanja, The Prime Minister of the Republic of Uganda.

The agenda included several engaging sessions, highlighting key upcoming events in 2024, such as CCDA XII and the outcomes of COP29. Notable topics discussed included a keynote address on governance and institutional arrangements for Agenda 2030, a review of the UNFCCC Conference of Parties arrangements, and their implications for equitable climate governance.

Additional discussions focused on "African Solutions to African Challenges," featuring the Africa Adaptation Acceleration Program (AAP) Partnership Forum VI, as well as the importance of accelerating climate-resilient social services like water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), health, education, and nutrition. These topics aimed to enhance Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), and Long-term Low Emission Development Strategies (LT-LEDS). Insights and discussions related to these subjects were integral to the overall theme of the event. Speakers made key highlights as follows:



Alison Parker, UNICEF Eastern and Southern Africa.

She emphasized the critical intersection of climate action, green growth, and development in Africa, particularly highlighting the disproportionate impact of climate change on children and young people. She said that UNICEF's advocacy is framed as pivotal for securing justice for this vulnerable demographic, which is significantly affected by climate-related challenges. She underscored the urgent need for inclusive climate action that prioritizes the voices and contributions of children and young people in Africa, positioning them as essential stakeholders in the fight against climate change.



Honorable Amongin EALA MP and Secretary General of the African Parliament

Honorable Amongin EALA MP and Secretary General of the African Parliament addressed the pressing issue of climate change, emphasizing the disparity between the responsibilities of industrialized nations and the impacts faced by developing countries, particularly in Africa. She hinted at the projected climate impacts as forecasted by IPCC and said that these impacts are already threatening to overwhelm the coping capacities of vulnerable economies and communities.

She advocated for urgent and equitable climate action, highlighting the need for developed nations to fulfill their responsibilities and support Africa in addressing the challenges posed by climate change.



Dr Richard Muyungi, Chair, Africa Group of Negotiators (AGN)

In his remarks, Dr Muyungi addressed the critical issues surrounding climate change and governance in Africa, emphasizing the continent's unique challenges and the need for focused action. He highlighted the continent's failure in governance in addressing climate change while the continent is experiencing significant impacts across various sectors, as well as the rising debt burden due to climate change is a major concern for many African countries. He recommended focusing on African priorities, strengthening accountability, investing in youth and resources, and other areas in the process of addressing the climate change impacts. He called for urgent and coordinated action to address climate change in Africa, emphasizing the need for accountability, investment, and a focus on the continent's specific needs and priorities.



Prof Barnabas Nawangwe, VC, Makerere University

The Vice Chancellor of Makerere University highlighted the Academic institution's commitment to addressing climate change and its implications for Africa's development. He emphasized the importance of co-creating knowledge and innovation tailored to Africa's environmental and social contexts. Investment in science is correlated with national development, and academia has a responsibility to contribute actionable knowledge. He underscored Makerere University's proactive role in addressing climate change through education, research, and collaboration, positioning itself as a leader in fostering sustainable development in Africa. He mentioned that Researchers at the university are developing scalable solutions and tools to measure the economic impacts of climate change and assess green financing instruments.



James Kinyangi, Coordinator of Climate Action Window, Africa Development Bank

James Kinyangi, the Coordinator of Climate Action Window at Africa Development Bank, highlighted the bank's commitment to addressing climate change and supporting sustainable development in Africa. He underscored the AfDB's proactive role in addressing climate change through innovative financing, collaboration, and a commitment to sustainable development in Africa. In his remarks, he emphasized population growth and economic development, highlighting the urgency of integrating climate action into broader development strategies.



George Mba Asseko, Head of Blue Economy, Division AUC

When he delivered his remarks, the representative of the African Union emphasized the urgent need for climate action and equitable financing in Africa. He urged robust climate action guided by the principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities" from the Paris Agreement and addressed the critical issue of inadequate climate finance flows to Africa. He stated that though there is a commitment to transitioning to low-carbon development pathways, this transition requires adequate financing, which is a matter of justice. He said that following COP 29, there are mixed feelings regarding the adequacy and effectiveness of the new collective quantified goal on climate finance. He called for more action to ensure that climate finance supports a just and sustainable future for all. He said that much more needs to be done to ensure that climate finance supports a just and just and sustainable future for all. We need to continue reflecting on the following facts and seek solutions to them.

Prime Minister, Rt Hon Robinah Nabbanja

During her official opening remarks, Rt Hon. Nabbanja Robinah, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Uganda, emphasized the significance of the 11th African Forum and the 6th African Climate Talks and SDGs in addressing climate action, green growth, and sustainable development in Africa. She highlighted Africa's potential with its rapidly growing population and abundant natural resources. She noted that the continent remains highly vulnerable to climate change impacts despite contributing minimally to global emissions, framing climate action as a justice issue.

She stressed the need to redesign financial systems supporting climate initiatives, advocating for accessible, affordable, and adequate financing as a matter of equity. The role of parliaments is underscored, emphasizing their responsibility to ensure ambitious climate initiatives are backed by action and financing. The speaker calls for a focus on green growth and industrial transformation to create millions of decent jobs, particularly for the youth, who represent a significant portion of the population. She underscored the urgent need for collaborative and equitable climate action in Africa, leveraging the continent's potential while addressing its vulnerabilities.



Dr Mithika Mwenda, Executive Director- PACJA

In his address, Dr Mithika called for a rethinking of financing and ambition for climate action in Africa, framing it as a justice issue. It highlights the disparity between Africa's minimal contribution to global greenhouse gas emissions and its severe vulnerability to climate change impacts. The speaker criticizes the inadequate financial commitments made at COP29, where a goal of \$300 billion annually was set, far below the \$1.3 trillion needed by Africa to effectively address the climate crisis.

He emphasized the need for Africa to define its path to justice. He advocated for a shift from extractive to regenerative development models and calls for reparations as a matter of justice. The upcoming discussions will focus on various intersecting issues, including loss and damage, health, gender, and decent work, all viewed through the lens of justice that prioritizes African people. He concluded with a call for solidarity and strategic action to shape a just and African future.

The second day of the forum was characterized by expert-led sessions which attracted experts in different domains and sectors.

Session on Litigation: Implications of the ICJ consultations on the responsibilities of states for climate action



The session began with context-setting remarks by Dr. Augustine Njamnshi, the Chair of Political and Technical Affairs at PACJA. He outlined the topic before inviting the panelists to discuss the implications of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) consultations on state responsibilities regarding climate action.

Dr Njamnshi discussed the ongoing challenges and complexities surrounding climate change and its legal implications, particularly in the context of international law and the responsibilities of states. He said that since 2009, there has been a shift in global climate negotiations, highlighting that while Africa faces severe climate impacts, other regions have also been affected. He stressed the need for communities, especially young people and indigenous groups, to influence climate negotiations.

He noted the disparity in climate-related legal cases, with many cases occurring outside Africa, and urged the continent to take action to protect its people.

The panelists discussions revolved around the historic proceedings at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) regarding the climate change obligations of states, particularly focusing on the implications for small island states and future generations.

It was highlighted that this is significant as it marks the first time the World Court has addressed climate change in this context, emphasizing the need for states to prevent and control climate-related harm.

Session on The New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance (NCQG): What Now for Africa?



This session was initiated by Sarah Ssali from Makerere University, Uganda, who presented "Framing Africa's Just Transition: From Extractive to Regenerative and Reparative Economic and Climate Action Models." Her presentation focused on framing Africa's just transition from extractive to regenerative and reparative economic models in the context of climate action.

She highlighted the interconnectedness of climate justice and economic justice in Africa, advocating for a comprehensive approach that addresses historical injustices while promoting sustainable development.

Panelists explored different areas in the context of Africa, where mainly discussions revolved around the role of women in climate action as they are most affected by its impacts, outcomes of the recent climate negotiations in Baku, and expressed disappointment that the world did not respond adequately to the African group of negotiators' call for \$1.3 trillion per year by 2030 to address climate needs.

Session on the climate, peace, and security nexus: Experiences and lessons across Africa



This session was moderated by Dr Sam Ogallah from the Africa Union Commission. Under this theme, discussants showcased the nexus between climate change, peace, and security across Africa.

Experts and stakeholders shared real-world experiences and lessons learned, highlighting how climate impacts exacerbate conflicts and insecurity while also discussing integrated approaches to build resilience, foster peace, and promote sustainable development.

The importance of a common African position on climate, peace, and security is highlighted, along with existing mechanisms that can be leveraged to address these challenges.

They emphasized the need for integrated solutions that consider the interlinkages between climate change, peace, and security and the importance of local ownership and community engagement in developing effective responses.

Panelists from various organizations shared their insights on the nexus between climate change and security, emphasizing the need for coordinated efforts and innovative approaches to address the pressing climate-related security risks facing the continent.

The session was an opportunity for discussants to call for collaboration among stakeholders to ensure that climate finance and policies effectively address the interconnected challenges of climate change, peace, and security in Africa.

Session on the geopolitics of green transitions: Leveraging Africa's critical energy transition minerals to fulfill the Africa Mining Vision and Agenda 2063



Under this session on "The Geopolitics of Green Transitions: Leveraging Africa's Critical Energy Transition Minerals to Fulfill the Africa Mining Vision and Agenda 2063", panelists explored the strategic role of Africa's abundant mineral resources in the global shift towards renewable energy.

They examined how these critical minerals, essential for technologies like batteries and solar panels, can be harnessed to drive sustainable development and economic growth in line with the Africa Mining Vision and the broader goals of Agenda 2063.

The discussion highlighted the geopolitical dynamics at play, including competition among global powers for access to these resources, and emphasized the need for African nations to assert their sovereignty in negotiations, ensuring that the benefits of mineral extraction contribute to local communities and foster regional collaboration.

Discussants emphasized the importance of skills and technology transfer, regional collaboration, and political will in effectively managing mineral resources. Panelists highlighted the geopolitical dynamics surrounding critical minerals and urged African countries to reclaim their agency in the global mining narrative.

Additionally, there is a call for equitable partnerships with external investors and innovative financing solutions to prioritize African interests. This includes addressing environmental and social considerations to ensure that mining activities positively impact local communities.

In this session, participants exchanged views on the ongoing global decarbonization agenda, which has increased the demand for minerals essential for renewable energy technologies. This trend raises concerns about the environmental impacts of mining and the necessity for sustainable practices.

Discussions also explored the Africa Mining Vision (AMV) and its implications for sustainable development, energy transition, and the mining sector in Africa. It became clear that the increasing demand for minerals driven by the global decarbonization agenda requires significant mining efforts to produce renewable energy technologies, further emphasizing the need for sustainable practices to mitigate environmental impacts.

Session on Market and non-market mechanisms: Opportunities and challenges for climate action in Africa



This topic, **“Market and Non-Market Mechanisms: Opportunities and Challenges for Climate Action in Africa”**, was explored by conversant experts in the area of carbon markets and pricing. It examined the various strategies available for addressing climate change on the continent.

Panelists explored market mechanisms, such as carbon trading and emissions trading systems, which can provide financial incentives for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and promoting sustainable practices. Additionally, the discussion addressed non-market mechanisms, including regulatory frameworks, community-based initiatives, and international cooperation, that can facilitate climate action without relying solely on market forces. The session highlighted the unique opportunities these mechanisms present for African countries to mobilize resources, attract investment, and foster innovation in climate resilience. It also delved into the challenges faced, such as capacity constraints, governance issues, and the need for equitable participation in climate initiatives, ultimately seeking to identify effective pathways for advancing climate action in Africa.

During this session, diverse strategies for combating climate change across the continent were discussed. The focus was put on market mechanisms like carbon trading and emissions trading systems, which offer financial incentives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and encourage sustainable practices. In addition, the discussion brought in non-market mechanisms, such as regulatory frameworks, community-based initiatives, and international collaboration, that can drive climate action without relying solely on market dynamics.

Emphasis was put on the unique opportunities these mechanisms provide for African nations to mobilize resources, attract investments, and enhance innovation in climate resilience. It also addressed significant challenges, including capacity constraints, governance issues, and the necessity for equitable participation in climate initiatives.

Is the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD) fit for Africa?



This session was set in context by Cromwell Lukorito, Chair, IPCC Working Group II. The discussion by panelists revolved around the mobilization of resources to address loss and damage related to climate change, particularly in the context of the UNFCCC and the roles of developed countries and financial institutions like the World Bank. The conversation emphasizes the need for a robust and equitable approach to financing loss and damage, highlighting the importance of accountability and the need for innovative solutions to bridge funding gaps.

Moreover, the conversation touched on the critical role of youth and marginalized communities in shaping policies related to loss and damage funding. Empowering these groups through accessible platforms for voicing their concerns and providing solutions is essential. On this note, capacity building was also marked as crucial in enabling young people to understand climate policies and financing mechanisms.

The importance of integrating youth perspectives into decision-making processes and negotiations was stressed, with calls for a more inclusive approach to climate justice that recognizes the unique challenges faced by young people and marginalized communities in Africa. In this session, Panelists emphasized the necessity for developed countries to establish clear resource mobilization and provision plans, as well as the importance of engaging external supporters and leveraging existing initiatives to address the financial gaps effectively.



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