

Opening Statement by Joachim Beijmo

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Africa Non-State Actors Convening on ACS-II

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Honourable Ministers, Distinguished Delegates, Civil Society Representatives, and Esteemed Climate Leaders,

- It is with deep appreciation and shared purpose that I join you today on behalf of the Government of Sweden and Sida, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency. We are grateful to the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance, PACJA, and its partners for convening this timely and essential gathering of Africa's non-state actors, and for your unwavering commitment to ensuring that African voices are not only heard but prioritized.
- We gather here in Addis Ababa not simply to prepare for another summit, but to reaffirm our shared values justice, solidarity, and bold action in the face of an escalating climate emergency.
- Africa faces the brunt of the climate crisis, with increasing risks to its environment, economies, and people. Without swift and comprehensive actions to boost adaptation and resilience such as improved governance, fair access to climate funding, and the active involvement of children, youth, women, and local communities climate impacts will continue to widen inequalities and fuel instability. The continent is already experiencing a rise in both the frequency and intensity of natural disaster. The consequences of these disasters are not abstract. They are lived realities, especially for communities across this continent.
- And yet, in this moment of global uncertainty marked by shifting leadership in major economies and the possible resurgence of policy approaches less supportive of multilateral cooperation the need for Africa and its partners to act with greater self-determination, strategic coherence, and resilience has never been more urgent. This convening underscores a vital truth: that the most effective and just solutions to the climate crisis must be driven by those who live its realities daily and are most committed to lasting, equitable transformation.
- At COP29 in Baku, the global community took a tentative but important step by setting a new quantified goal for climate finance. The agreement includes a core commitment of at least 300 billion U.S. dollars per year by 2035, with an additional "outer layer" of up to 1.3 trillion U.S. dollars, primarily drawn from private finance. This signals progress, yes but it also raises questions.
- Sweden believes that this new goal must reflect not just ambition in numbers, but also fairness in burden-sharing. The donor base must expand. And this means encouraging

wealthier developing countries many of which have long benefited from climate finance to step up as contributors. As their economies grow, so too must their responsibilities. This is an important principle if we are to uphold the integrity and sustainability of the international climate finance system.

- But even as we look to scale up resources, we must ensure that they reach the right hands. And this is where your role as African non-state actors becomes vital. You are not observers. You are the conscience of this process. You are the mobilisers of grassroots energy. From women farmers who are transforming local adaptation strategies, to youth networks that are reshaping innovation ecosystems, to Indigenous communities who safeguard centuries of ecological knowledge you are at the heart of real climate action. And you must shape the agenda for the Second Africa Climate Summit and beyond.
- The Africa Climate Summit itself has emerged as a vital space, Africa's own climate moment for consolidating the continent's position and priorities ahead of the global COP processes. It provides an opportunity to unify African voices, build strategic alignment among governments, civil society, and regional institutions, and assert a strong, homegrown agenda on the global stage. Sweden welcomes the leadership shown by African governments and stakeholders in convening the ACS and supports efforts to institutionalize it as a recurring and strategic event, potentially with the full engagement of the African Union. Making the ACS a formalized, inclusive, and high-level continental fixture will help ensure continuity, coordination, and credibility in Africa's climate diplomacy.
- Sweden is proud to partner with you in advancing a vision that puts justice at the center of climate response. Our priorities remain clear and unwavering:
 - **First**, we support Africa's call for a bold, needs-based New Collective Quantified Goal on climate finance.
 - **Second**, we continue to advocate for deep reforms to global financial structures so that climate action.
 - **Third**, we are committed to strengthening our partnerships with African nations and institutions to co-develop solutions solutions that enhance adaptation, build resilience, and promote a just and inclusive energy transition.
 - **And fourth**, we believe that international climate finance mechanisms must be grounded in justice, transparency, and accountability. We must ask not only how much is committed, but how it is delivered, to whom, and with what effect.
- As we look ahead to COP30 in Belem, Brazil, let us ensure that ACS-II speaks with a united African voice one that is unapologetic in its demand for fairness, and unrelenting in its commitment to equity and ambition. We must stand firm in securing meaningful, accessible, and predictable climate finance. And we must continue to uphold the foundational principles of the Paris Agreement: common but differentiated responsibilities, and respective capabilities.

- This convening is more than a meeting. It is a moment. A moment to align strategy, build solidarity, and accelerate mobilization across all levels from communities to continental platforms, from Addis to Belem and beyond.
- Sweden remains your steadfast ally on this journey. We are here not to lead, but to listen, support, and stand with you in advancing a people-centered, justice-driven climate agenda.
- **Thank you.**