

PRESS STATEMENT

“Enough of Rhetoric; Swing to Action Now”

Bonn, Germany | June 16, 2026

As SB64 enters its second week, the African Civil Society under the auspices of Pan African Climate Justice Alliance are deeply concerned about the slow pace at which the negotiations progressed in the first week. With only two and a half days remaining to the closure of the 64th session of SBs; and with nothing substantive coming out of the many hours of formal and informal dialogue processes, the hopes of African communities whose livelihoods are decimated by climate-fuelled droughts, floods, heat waves and diseases are dashed.

Unfortunately, Bonn negotiations have been reduced to workshops and “consultations” while critical agenda items, especially those that relate to unlocking climate finance are systematically relegated to the periphery.

As the clock ticks, beckoning the closure of unimpactful SB64, the vulnerable communities continue staring at imminent danger of El Nino. According to US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the current seasonal forecast guidance suggests that the developing El Niño is likely to be a devastating event, with sea-surface temperature anomalies likely to exceed 2°C in the central and eastern tropical Pacific, which would be notable by historical standards and some forecasts suggest much higher values that would be of record strength.

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If historical occurrences are anything to go by; communities at the frontline of climate crisis – women, youth, Indigenous peoples, smallholder farmers - must brace to deal with debilitating floods which will inevitably wipe out livelihoods, destroy critical infrastructure and lead to loss of lives. In other regions, severe droughts will be experienced, rendering communities destitute.

The unfolding scenarios are particularly notable:

i) Troubling question of procedural justice

The right to representation at the decision-making fora, particularly for frontline communities, is immutable, and any effort to extinguish such rights must be condemned with the strongest terms possible. The Secretariat of the UNFCCC is the home to SBs, and it should be as accessible as possible to all negotiators and observers accredited delegates, whether they come from the North or South. It is unfathomable that quite a number of negotiators and observers, particularly from developing nations, were denied Visas to travel and attend SB64. We call upon UNFCCC to ensure that host country protocols do not become an impediment to participation of accredited participants in the future.

ii) Missing agenda on National Adaptation Plans and Loss & Damage

In our statement last week, we flagged out the conspicuous omission of National Adaptation Plans and Loss & Damage agenda items in the negotiations in-tray. We retaliate that adaptation remains a key priority for Africa and that the NAPs are the vehicles through which countries navigate their adaptation priorities. In the previous SBs, the negotiation item on adaptation plans is usually stuck on the means of implementation. Indeed, the annual adaptation needs for Africa is estimated at USD70 Billion, and developed countries should deliver that as public finance to support NAPs. The reality on the ground, however, is that the developed countries have vacated their responsibilities, shifted goalposts and are now pushing for domestic and private sector financing of the NAPs, which is not aligned with the provisions of Article 9.1 of the Paris Agreement that clearly stipulates the leadership and responsibility of developed countries in the provision of the funds. The omission of this agenda item in the SBs Program sends alarm bells among African stakeholders, and could be interpreted as systematic maneuver to postpone or block the inevitable question on financing of the NAPs.



iii) Blurring of the Belem- Addis Vision on GGA Indicators

The Belem Addis Vision agreed at COP30 was envisioned as a reliable vehicle through which the work on GGA indicators would be fast-tracked to enhance implementation. We reiterate our position as communicated in our statement last week that the GGA can only succeed if accompanied by robust means of implementation and indicators that reflect local realities, traditional knowledge systems and community resilience. Adaptation outcomes must be measured not only through technical metrics but through improvements in food security, water availability, public health, ecosystem integrity and human wellbeing. Curiously, the negotiations on GGA indicators work have been reduced to a tag of war between developed and developing countries on the composition of the taskforce that would deliver on the Belem-Addis Vision, notably on metadata to enable to operationalization of the indicators. While Africa demands for a party-driven process, developed countries are favouring a technical expert's pathway. We assert that the work on the indicators cannot be reduced into purely a technical affair left at the hands of technocrats. It must be a party-driven process but most importantly, the disagreements on this matter must not be used as a diversionary trick to evade the all-important facet on means of implementation for the GGA operationalization.

Similarly, the commitment to triple adaptation finance by 2035 agreed in Belem is likely to hit the guardrails as negotiations on this item at SB64 starts on the wrong footing. While developing countries are pushing for strong language, reaffirming the urgent need to triple adaptation finance coupled with full commitment and urgent delivery of finance for adaptation implementation; the developed countries almost unanimously opposed introduction of adaptation finance goal and tracking under this agenda item. Equally, blocking of the language on means of implementation in the Baku roadmap on adaptation is ill-informed. It is our considered view that MoI in all agenda items, especially in adaptation, is the most important missing link between the current paradigm and a sustainable future for communities impacted by climate change. What developing countries need is not the numerous diversionary Workshops and others proposed in the future, but rather a substantive focus on delivery of climate finance at scale commensurate with the existing financing gap.

iv) Just Transition Mechanism (JTM) must not become yet another debate platform

Last week, we articulated our position regarding this emotive subject; that just transition cannot become another unfunded aspiration. It must be backed by finance, technology and capacity-building support commensurate with the scale of transformation required. We support the Africa Group of Negotiators' position on the subject, and call for a decision that will position the Just Transition Mechanism to become an instrument with authority, clear scope, and above all fully-enabled with means of implementation required to deliver genuine transformation for the last mile communities. It must be capable of enhancing international cooperation, technical assistance, capacity-building and knowledge-sharing, and enable equitable, inclusive just transitions while taking consideration of the local context in Africa.

Finally, we call on Parties to break the jinx which has characterized the negotiation agenda on climate finance for many years. We plead for a Party-driven process and dedicated space to discuss provision, accessibility, quality, predictability and accountability of climate finance. We caution that Article 2(1c) of the Paris Agreement must not be substitute for developed-country finance obligations under Article 9.1. Rather, the two article must be read together. The decision on this specific item has far-reaching ramifications on means of implementation cited in all the other negotiation items.



United Nations
Climate Change

SB64

Parties must understand without iota of doubt that they hold the key to a successful SB64. But this can only happen if they shelve diversionary tactics, procrastination, nationalistic interest manoeuvres, promote multilateralism and embrace the cardinal principle of Common but Differentiate Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities. -

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