

Preparations of Africa's Common Position for COP-28



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Introduction



The 2023 UN Climate Change Conference (COP 28) will convene from 30 November to 12 December 2023 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE). It will comprise:

- i. the 28th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 28);
- ii. the fifth meeting of the COP serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA 5);
- iii. the 18th meeting of the COP serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP 18);
- iv. the 59th meeting of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI 59); and
- v. the 59th meeting of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA 59).

.....Introduction



- This Conference is of particular significance, as it marks a critical juncture in the global response to climate change;
- It marks eight years since the adoption of the Paris Agreement and as the world takes stock of its progress on the Paris Agreement through the first Global Stocktake (GST).
- The GST offers a comprehensive assessment of the global progress since adopting the Paris Agreement, highlighting the necessary measures to bridge gaps and realign efforts for effective climate action.

What informs Africa's Common Position?



Africa's approach to these multilateral climate negotiations is underpinned by principles of multilateralism, equity, sustainable development, and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities;

African countries seek to prioritize Africa's interests and speak with one voice while ensuring that their voices, concerns, and proposals are heard and acted upon.

We are guided by Africa's development frameworks; Agenda 2063, Africa Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy and Action Plan (2022 to 2032), Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and of course NDCs

Africa will be coordinated by Zambia as the Chair of the Africa Group of Negotiators on Climate Change (AGN), Ministers by Ethiopia as the Chair of the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN), and Heads of state by Kenya as the Coordinator of the Committee of Africa heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC),

Objectives Of the African Common Position



- The African Common Position serves as the guiding document for the textual negotiations under the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol and Paris Agreement and beyond
- The Common Position outlines the African Common Position, and elements included within it are a reflection of the compilation of decisions by CAHOSCC, AMCEN, and AGN negotiating positions within the UNFCCC and in its related instruments and constituted bodies;
- The Common Position serve as a useful broad guide and source of information and reference for African negotiators and representatives in the UNFCCC committees, panels and other climate related institutions like the IPCC, GCF, GEF, CDM-EB, and AFB.

....Objectives Of the African Common Position



- The Common Position has three specific purposes:
 - To describe in technical detail the AGN position for each negotiations process;
 - To provide a description of linkages between different negotiations processes, to further co-ordination between these, and to avoid inconsistencies; and
 - To provide a coherent overview of the negotiations process as a whole, as a basis for strategic reflection and co-ordination.

Africa Common Position is a living document and will be regularly reviewed and updated, before each COP and subsidiary body meeting, to reflect changing circumstances, emerging issues and any new guidance received⁶



Broad Thematic Areas for Africa Common Position

- Adaptation to Climate Change;
- Ambitious Mitigation;
- Means of Implementation – Finance;
 - Capacity Building;
 - Technology Development and transfer;
 - Cross-cutting issues such as gender, health, etc

Over-riding Political position; Africa's Special Needs and Special circumstances

Global Stocktake (GST)



- The GST, a central part of the Paris Agreement, offers a critical opportunity for the world to course-correct and address the gaps across all elements of climate action
- These include Adaptation, Loss and Damage, Mitigation and response measures, and Means of Implementation and support, with a particular emphasis on equity and best available science;
- The GST process outcome should reflect an integrated, fair, just and balanced view of political messages on climate action and support that inform addressing gaps in the implementation and the ambition requires in the NDCs and international cooperation to achieve the global goals of the PA, recognising the need for proportionate responses in each area;

.... GST



- Africa supports a GST outcome that take into consideration Africa's special development circumstances and provides the policy space necessary for Africa to achieve SD and just transitioning to low emission and resilient development.

Strengthening Adaptation actions



- Africa's core focus at COP 28 is to enhance action on adaptation and resilience against the consequences of climate change;
- Key to this is the effective operationalization of the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) under the Paris Agreement through the adoption of a concrete, science-based framework to achieve the goal on adaptation and enhance adaptation efforts;

Operationalization of the Loss and Damage Fund



- Building on outcomes at COP 27, COP 28 should operationalize the Fund; including with the adoption of governance instrument;
- This measure will support African countries in coping with the irreversible impacts of climate change and aid in the recovery of affected communities;

Climate Finance



- As a crucial facilitator of climate ambition, developed nations should make substantial financial commitments and address the outstanding deficit in the delivery of the promised USD 100B per year since 2020;
- The conference should also be a platform to propel the decision to double adaptation finance and advance negotiations on a new quantified finance goal;
- There is also need for progress in reforming Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) to make them more suitable for the climate challenges ahead by enhancing scale, affordability, and accessibility with the necessary safeguards for developing countries in the context of the UNFCCC principles;

Just Transition Pathways:

- Africa will call for the adoption of an ambitious decision under the work programme on just transition pathways that strengthen the global climate response in the context of sustainable development and operationalise equity in the pathways for mitigation, adaptation and finance under the Paris Agreement;
- The decision should be cognizant provide the policy space and support in consideration of the continent's unique needs and development circumstances and urgent needs;
- This should ensure a fair and equitable shift to a low-carbon and climate resilient development;

Consideration and recognition of Africa's special needs and special circumstances –

- The latest IPCC reports have daunting findings, in particular regarding the African continent;
- Africa is and will be impacted more than any other continent, and the adverse impact of climate change is limiting Africa's economic and development trajectory while the continent only contributes less than 4%;
- COP 27 must launch work on a consideration of the special needs and special circumstances of Africa under the Paris Agreement in line with the relevant and previous decisions adopted by the COPs.

Enhance mitigation ambition and implementation –

- COP 28 should respond to the latest science provided by the IPCC through its Working Group III report and take decisions to enhance mitigation actions and advance the implementation of NDCs;
- Developed countries should scale up their mitigation actions and provide necessary support to developing countries to contribute their fair shares.

Formulation Process of the Common Position

- The Common Position has been in place for a number of years but is regularly updated to make it responsive to emerging needs;
- For COP-28, the AGN has held three meetings so far in refining the African Common Position; in March in Livingstone, Zambia, Bonn, Germany in June, and in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia;
- The Common Position was presented to AMCEN 19 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 18th August and endorsed by the Ministers;
- The AGN met here in Nairobi, Kenya from 31st August and 1st September to continue preparations but also to specifically provide support to the Africa Climate Summit and the Africa Climate Week;

