

FOURTEENTH CONFERENCE ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA (CCDA-XIV)

STATEMENT BY DR. MITHIKA MWENDA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PAN-AFRICAN CLIMATE JUSTICE ALLIANCE (PACJA)

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H.E. Moses Vilakati, Commissioner, Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment, AUC

H.E. Claver Gatete, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary, ECA

Dr. Negusu Aklilu, Chief Executive Officer of the COP32 Presidency Secretariat, Representative of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

HE Ashebir Gayo, First Vice President of the Pan African Parliament;

Right Hon. Sir Sam Onuigbo, President, Global Legislators Organisation, GLOBE

Distinguished representatives of the ClimDev-Africa Partners — the African Union Commission, UNECA, the African Development Bank and PACJA

Development Partners, Excellencies, distinguished delegates, colleagues, comrades and friends,

Let me begin by expressing our appreciation alongside all partners for convening this *Fourteenth Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa* at a particularly consequential moment for our continent.

The theme, “From Pledges to Implementation: The Belem–Antalya–Addis Roadmap,” could not be timelier, because Africa does not lack climate commitments.

We have the Paris Agreement, outcomes of successive COPs, our Nationally Determined Contributions, the National Adaptation Plans, and, more importantly, the Addis Ababa Declaration which came of the second Africa Climate Summit last year.

The challenge before us is not another declaration. The challenge is implementation, and accountability for implementation.

This is why CCDA-XIV is so important and is not simply another stop on the road to COP31.

It is the platform where Africa must take stock, exchange perspectives, build convergence and develop the positions and strategies with which we will engage COP31, while beginning to chart the African pathway towards COP32 here in Addis Ababa.

We must therefore use this Conference to ask some difficult, but necessary questions.

1. What have we secured through previous COPs? What has been fulfilled? And what remains unfulfilled?
2. What lessons are emerging from implementation across our countries and communities? And where are the gaps between commitments and delivery?
3. And, most importantly, what must Africa now demand, propose and organise around at COP31 to close those gaps?

This is where the Belem–Antalya–Addis continuum becomes meaningful. Belem gave us important political direction. Antalya must become an accountability moment, a moment to assess whether commitments made to Africa are actually being advanced, ensuring geopolitical and geostrategic conveniences are not used as a mere shield against accountability by developed countries.

And Addis must build from that experience, using the opportunity of COP32 not simply to host another conference, but to secure stronger implementation, accountability and transformation for Africa.

For us, therefore, COP31 is not an isolated negotiation. It is an opportunity to build momentum around implementation of what has already been agreed, while simultaneously advancing the next generation of African priorities.

CCDA-XIV must help Africa do both. It must help us consolidate the African position for COP31 and identify the strategic propositions and alliances required to consolidate those negotiations. It must help us begin defining what Africa wants COP32 to deliver politically, economically, ecologically and for our people.

This is where the role of Civil Society and the wider fraternity of non-state actors becomes particularly important. We join this CCDA XIV dialogue to strengthen African agency. We bring evidence from communities, voices of farmers, women, youth, workers, Indigenous Peoples, local communities and other constituencies on the frontlines of climate change. We help connect policy commitments with lived realities.

We are in the forefront of shaping accountability architecture necessary to ask whether commitments are being translated into action, finance and results. This is also why we must not lose sight of the Addis Ababa Declaration, one of the most potent political assets Africa has

crafted in 2025. The task now is to move it from declaration to delivery, ensuring lessons from that implementation inform Africa's engagement at COP31 and the ambition we take into COP32.

This is the accountability bridge we must build, almost a year after ACS2, between the Addis Ababa Declaration, COP31 and COP32.

As PACJA, we are spearheading the consolidation of African Non-State Actors Roadmap to COP32 seeks to contribute to that bridge. At the centre of this roadmap is a proposition for African People's Climate Agenda centred on climate finance and debt justice; adaptation, resilience and loss and damage; just transition, energy access and green industrialisation; African value addition from our natural resources and transition minerals; and meaningful civic participation and accountability.

But these are not issues to be carried to COPs as slogans. They must be grounded in evidence and be connected to implementation driven by African political and social coalitions capable of influencing decisions.

Our pathway, therefore, must be clear:

- Evidence must inform the agenda
- The agenda must inform political action
- Political action must influence negotiations
- Negotiations must produce commitments.
- Commitments must be implemented.
- And implementation must be accountable to African people.

That is what we see as central in the journey from Belem to Antalya to Addis and that CCDA XIV must invest substantial energies in defining.

Comrades,

Africa must enter COP31 with a clear position, but also with a clear strategy for influence. We must internalise what we are seeking; We must understand what is non-negotiable; We must be sure where alliances are possible; And we must know how we will measure success; Then, coming out of COP31, we must not simply move on to the next conference.

We must measure what was delivered, what was not delivered, and what must therefore be carried forward to Addis.

That do we build momentum. That is how we build accountability and that is how we ensure that COP32 - and amdelighted that Dr. Negusu,the man driving the process is here - is not simply another moment of promises, but a moment of delivery.

Our ambition as the continent, therefore, should be larger than hosting a jamboree called COP32.

Our ambition should be an African-shaped COP32 — informed by African priorities, grounded in African evidence and aspirations, connected to Africa's development realities and accountable to African and global community.

Let CCDA-XIV be where we begin that journey with clarity. Africa must arrive with carity what it wants, why it wants it, how it will secure it — and how it will hold itself and others accountable for delivering it.

That is the opportunity before us! That is the responsibility of CODA-XIV.

I thank you.