



10th Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa (CCDA-X)

Theme: Just Transitions in Africa: Transforming Dialogue into Action

Windhoek, Namibia 24 - 28 October 2022

Pre-Event Concept Note

Event Title	African Women’s Voices on Just Transition
Event Date & Time	24.10.2022
Room	TBC
Online Link	TBC
Event Sponsor	ACSEA/PACJA
Event Partners	FEMNET, Natural Justice, AYC, AACJ
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Summary

The side event will provide an interactive forum for varied stakeholders to engage each other in appreciating African Women’s narratives and perspectives of just transition, specific policy progress, challenges, and possible solutions in advancing a gender just transition.

Background

There is no doubt that the world must transition from fossil fuels to clean, renewable energy. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has set a target for net-zero carbon emissions by 2050, which will help keep temperatures below two degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. The current climate crisis is a result of an extractivist development model that continuously extracts the earth’s natural resources and destroys the planet and humanity’s common goods. This brings out an intricate dilemma between the global system of accumulation, and the need to shift the paradigm, not only of production, consumption and trade globally but a transition that addresses what is produced, how, and for whom, and addressing the unequal power relations that emanate from colonial biases, and patriarchy.

Low carbon emissions can only be achieved through a process of transforming economies, together with the development models that cause high emissions. To meet the targets set by the Paris Agreement, countries need to undergo a transition from high carbon emitting fuels to low carbon.

This is highly dependent on countries, rethinking and reimagining low carbon development models and putting in place both domestic policy and system change.

Just transition is a strategy to mitigate climate change and should be managed in a way that ensures climate justice. Countries with strong regulatory frameworks and policy stability are likely to achieve success in their efforts to transition towards a low carbon economy. The path to 'low carbon economies' for Africa means a shift in the way people produce and consume using different technologies and sources. Moreover, the just transition debate has largely focused on energy but there are multidimensional issues such as agriculture and regenerative economies, jobs displacement, community impacts and distribution of benefits, extractives, the pace, type and availability of finance and investment in clean and affordable renewable energy projects that meets the needs of people.

The concept of just transition varies and is also dependent on the rights holders. The development of green sectors has a significant potential for addressing gender inequalities by ensuring that sectoral and occupational segregation is not perpetuated, wage and skills gaps are eradicated, inclusive social dialogue is established, working conditions are improved, and social protection enhanced. This should place emphasis on respecting the human dignity of peasant and working-class women, the indigenous groups, youths and groups living with disabilities through placing value on the informal sector, the subsistence economies, care work and the household burden.

The relationship between nature and the working class, peasants and the indigenous groups is at the core of any transition that seeks to address climate justice and wellbeing. This is the reason why the just transition concept was developed from the working-class movement and at present, has placed itself in the international climate debate. The just transition has been co-opted to imply serving the interests of capital instead of being that transformative alternative that services humanity and the planet.

Therefore, while building a low-carbon and sustainable economy, a just transition can ensure an inclusive and participative society in which women play a key role, and their existing and potential contributions essential for stimulating green growth and achieving sustainable development for all, are not undermined.

Objectives

- To shape discussions and enhance understanding of gender implications in the just transition discourse.
- To elaborate on just transition opportunities available for women
- To leverage and enhance inter-sectoral collaboration

Format

- *Panel discussion.* A one -half hour panel discussion to share insights and perspectives

- *Plenary debate.* to enhance the understanding and participation of women in defining solutions to catalyse a gender just transition for Africa.

Speakers

Mithika Mwenda Executive Director (PACJA)	Key note Speaker
Elizabeth Wangechi Energy Efficiency & Cooling Specialist: SEforALL & Chair of Africa Regional Network of WorldGBC	Moderator and Scene-Setter
Dr. Melania Chiponda Climate Justice and Gender Advisor	Discussant 1, 2 & 3 <i>Care economy and sovereign debt as it relates to just transition</i>
Ikal Angelei Director, Friends of Lake Turkana (FoLT)	<i>Extractives future and how African states can keep away from ecological disasters with the scramble towards 'low carbon economies'</i>
Bhumika Challa Policy researcher, analyst,	<i>The feminist decolonial green new deal and how it compares to demands by African feminists</i>
Dr. Kgaugelo Chiloane Executive Director KECES (Pty) Ltd	<i>Why a just transition in Africa must include the agricultural sector and how this will be a win for women</i>
Plenary Debate	Questions, Answers and Comments
	Next Steps

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