

Civil Society Network on Climate Change, Malawi
on behalf of
Civil Society in Southern Africa

9th Civil Society Forum Climate Change Statement

Background

Never in the years gone by has the reality of Climate Change in the SADC community been drastic and harsh like what is now. Our rivers and lake levels continue to drop and due to unreliable rainfall patterns food production is also plummeting. Seasons shift and change. : Women and children are the worst affected by climate change. The effects of climate change are reflected in the expectant eyes of hungry children, and in the lengthening footsteps of women carrying water

Across Africa, a growing congregation of people suffers starvation and disease while others, after freeing themselves from the grip of grinding poverty, are shackled again by an increasingly hostile climate. It is a cruel irony that a people who have lived for so long in harmony with Mother Earth, imprinting the lightest of carbon footprints, now suffer a crisis they did not cause.

Poor developing countries are bearing the burdens of climate change, but least contributed to the problem. For over two centuries the developed world have extensively released greenhouse gasses into the atmosphere through their drive to prosperity.

As civil society, we are concerned about the ravaging impacts of climate change. We are therefore grateful to our leaders and stand resolute with them in the quest to break the deadlock in international climate negotiations for our right to a just climate, development, life, wealth and a future. It is however disheartening that with all the efforts, the world is still firmly on track to more climate disasters by 2100 with the SADC community and Sub-Saharan Africa glaring at the threat to its food production, the stability of its ecosystems and the viability of its jobs and livelihoods.

In twenty years experience of the UNFCCC, the process has remained trapped in a competitive, 'zero-sum' game, where each state party has attempted to protect its short-term national interest, particularly defending industries and energy sources which emit green house gases. Over the years we have seen Annex 1 countries are preoccupied with short term political and economic concerns than than making necessary tough decisions to wrestle the climate challenge through increased ambition in emissions cuts and providing new, additional and adequate financial support to poor developing countries are affected more severely by climate change. With every passing Conference of Parties (COP), it is clear that climate change fundamentals are not being addressed. COP is increasingly becoming a retreat from the principles of the Convention itself and a stark reminder that the UNFCCC has not met expectations and this has done nothing but breed an atmosphere of ever-diminishing trust and confidence in the international negotiations processes.

Against this background, civil society in Southern Africa would like to bring the following to the SADC Heads of State and Governments:

A legally binding agreement

- *Acknowledging that* SADC member states are members of the UNFCCC and therefore acknowledging that climate change is a global problem requiring collective global agreement;
- We call upon SADC leaders to stand by the Common but Differentiated Responsibilities with respective Capabilities (CBDR- C) principle of the convention according to which Annex 1 (developed countries) parties are expected to reduce emissions by at least 40% below 1990 level by 2015 and 100% by 2050 below 1990 level; as recommend by the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report – AR4 to keep temperature increase well below 1.5°C. Any agreement by African governments to accept keeping the temperature above 1.5°C amounts to condemning Africa to more climate change related disasters such as floods, droughts, and extreme weather conditions which continue to make us more poor and compromise our national development efforts.
- We call on Parties to the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol use the 2014 Review as an opportunity to negotiate for increased ambition in emission cuts.
- Further, we call upon Parties to respect the timeline for the adoption of the global climate change deal in 2015 and come up with an ambitious, fair, equitable, and legally binding agreement.
- We call upon the 2015 Climate deal must ensure that it exhaustively deals with the production of dirty energy that poisons our communities and destroys our planet yet ensuring the access of energy for 1.3 billion people currently without. It should protect the production of food and sovereignty for all members of the human family.
- The global agreement should also bind wealthy nations to provide financial support to developing and most affected countries to support them in adaptation and mitigation.
- While the global agreement binds all countries to take pledges to cut emission we reckon that developing countries will need additional financial support for them to decarbonize their development pathways. We ask through you our SADC leaders that rules on technology transfer be relaxed to ensure faster adoption.

National level action

- *Appreciating* ongoing efforts in most SADC countries to develop climate change policies
- We call upon SADC leader to ensure that climate change should not merely be mainstreamed but it should be considered as a stand-alone issue
- We call upon countries to develop policies, establish implementation structures and commissions to deliver climate policies and to build capacity of these structures

- We ask for a climate change monitoring mechanism at national and regional levels in SADC

Loss and damage

After a long time of negotiations loss and damage was accepted into UNFCCC negotiations processes.

- We urge SADC leaders to ensure that the principles of the convention guide the processes and outcome of the international mechanism on loss and damage. We ask the ADP to ensure that the 2015 agreement addresses loss and damage and fully respects the principles of the convention.
- We ask through SADC leaders to ensure that the global agreement fully provide for loss and damage, including provision of finance and the transfer of technology to support the world's poor particularly from Africa who have contributed the least to climate change for them to adapt and to be compensated for their losses.
- WE urge SADC leaders to ensure that sharing of obligations in the new agreement should be based on equity in relation to historical responsibility, capabilities and the right to develop. The agreement should build a practical results based approach to increase pre -2020 ambition by limiting annual emission below 40gigatonnes.
- We urge SADC leaders to ensure that the agenda of the Durban – Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP) to define a legally binding agreement is prioritized and concrete milestones are achieved in the 19th Session of the UNFCCC (CoP19) in Poland.

Finance

Public funds for climate change are not scarce. It is a question of political will. Trillions of dollars have been made rapidly available to pay for wars and Wall Street bailouts. Multiple feasible proposals exist for generating large amounts of public money in developed countries from innovative sources, including financial transaction taxes, shifting fossil fuel subsidies, and better enforcement and reform of existing corporate tax laws.

Since the Green Climate Funds (GCF) was established to ease difficulties assoaited with existing financing mechanisms, GCF Board should start by asking how the GCF can serve the waste picker in Bangladesh, the slum dweller in Kenya, the farmer in Bolivia and the fisherfolk in the Caribbean. This approach does not necessarily leave out the private sector, but it doesn't assume that the private sector will be at the centre.

For the GCF to fulfill its mandate, it cannot be viewed simply as another bank or financial institution. The kinds of projects the GCF should fund in both mitigation and adaption must fundamentally be about development. In its hiring and its day-to-day practices, the GCF should prioritize development expertise (in the broad social sense, not a narrow economic sense) as much as or more than financial expertise. There may be more money to be made in mitigation, but low income countries are far less likely to have high mitigation potential (least developed countries have among the world's lowest per capita greenhouse gas emissions) and economies of scale big enough to attract much private finance. Thus, a

private finance-focused GCF would largely bypass the energy needs of lower income countries.

Based on these observations, our appeal is as follows:

Recalling that developed countries are required to provide new and additional financial resources for developing countries to meet their obligations under the convention

- We call upon SADC leaders to ensure that developed countries honour and deliver on their pledge of providing finance.
- We further call upon Annex 1 Parties to scale up their pledges to fulfil their obligation to provide adequate, new and additional funds as the amount so far pledged is far from all estimates of climate finance needed by developing countries.
- We urge SADC to call for the speedy operationalisation of the Green Climate Fund with clearly drawn timeframes.
- We call upon SADC leaders to reject calls for the GCF to maximise attraction for private finance.
- We request SADC leaders to insist that the \$100 billion that developed countries promised to contribute to climate finance by 2020 must be made up entirely of public funds and provided through multilateral means for easy tracking and reporting. This is in line with the basic tenet of the polluter pays principle, not to mention climate justice.
- We urge SADC leaders to aggressively negotiate for the replenishments of the Adaptation Fund as a matter of urgency which is running low due to the overdependence on proceeds from the Clean Development Mechanisms.
- We call upon SADC leaders to ensure speedy in establishing National Implementing Entities to increase national capacity to access and utilize climate funds in the region.

Capacity building

We acknowledge all SADC government for playing a key role in shaping the African position to UNFCCC negotiations.

- We call upon all SADC governments to promote and ensure inclusive processes of developing preferred positions to UNFCCC negotiations.
- We call upon our leaders to ensure maximum participation of negotiators during international negotiations and to provide feedback after the negotiations.
- We call upon SADC leaders to prioritize education and awareness and training about climate change and its effects in accordance with article 6 of convention
- We call upon all SADC government to deliberately enhance participation of women, youth, indigenous people and marginalized groups in UNFCCC negotiations.

- We also ask for balanced representation of parties of bodies between North and South, taken into account the respective differences

Technology transfer

- We ask developed countries to support capacity building to ensure efficiency in the development and utilization of appropriate technology in developing countries
- Developed countries must remove or relax intellectual property rights to facilitate transfer of technologies which are key in addressing adaption needs in developing countries.
- In line with the establishment of the Climate Technology Centre Network (CTCN) at COP 17, we call upon all governments in the SADC region to nominate National Designated Entities (NDEs) to facilitate communication of national technology requirements to Climate Technology Centre for action
- We call upon developed and developing countries to support the adoption and development of indigenous and locally innovated technology.
- We call upon developed countries to support capacity building in technology development so as to promote national ownership of technology

Agriculture

Agriculture is one of the crucial sectors affected by climate change and which supports food and livelihoods security of millions around the world especially in developing countries.

- We call upon member states and SBSTA to conclude the agriculture negotiations under UNFCCC with focus on adaptation and expand the remit to cover sustainable livestock production systems as part of a solution to climate change as recommended in paras 111 and 112 of Rio+20 final outcome document.