



EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

**27TH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF PARTIES OF THE UN FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE UNFCCC (COP27);
THE 17TH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES SERVING AS THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE KYOTO PROTOCOL (CMP 17); AND
THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES SERVING AS THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE PARIS AGREEMENT (CMA 4)**

**6TH -18TH NOVEMBER 2022
SHARM EL-SHARK, EGYPT**

KEY MESSAGES

**EAC SECRETARIAT
ARUSHA
SEPTEMBER, 2022**

INTRODUCTION

East African Community (EAC) recognizes climate change as a threat to sustainable development globally and particularly in the region. The impacts are evident across all sectors of the economy including agriculture and food security, water resources, ecosystems, tourism, human health and settlement, industrial development, energy and peace and security. EAC also recognizes the following amongst others:

- (i) Over 70% of natural disasters in the EAC region are climatic related and that the greatest impacts of climate change are evidenced in form of climatic disasters including floods and droughts.
- (ii) There are opportunities for sustainable development accruing from climate change adaptation and mitigation measures, in particular those geared towards green economy and low carbon development.
- (iii) Tackling climate change challenges requires participation, as appropriate, relevant stakeholders, including non-state actors.
- (iv) Solid foundation for the realization of the goals of the Paris Agreement through strengthening the cooperation and implementation of adaptation, transparency, compliance, technology development and transfer, mitigation, capacity building, and loss and damage initiative.
- (v) A balance between adaptation and mitigation with respect to means of implementation.
- (vi) The forthcoming UN Climate Change Conference should be seen as the “Adaptation COP” with a solution to the adaptation aspects – the COP that will deliver agreement on an elaborated outline of elements with respect to the scope, definition, progress review, communication, and reporting on the global goal on adaptation.

East African Community reaffirms the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), its Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement as the fundamental global framework on climate change. EAC further reiterates its call that all actions or measures related to climate change must be in full conformity with the

principles and provisions of these instruments, in particular those of equity, polluter pays and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. EAC also affirms decisions on Climate Change of the Eighteenth Session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN).

East African Community is confident that COP27/CMP17/CMA4 present an opportunity to keep momentum on the implementation of the previous decisions including the Paris Agreement rule book. The conference should allow Parties to harness this collective enthusiasm to strive for ambitious goals. East African Community is looking forward to inclusive and participatory approach to harness a collective drive to achieve ambitious goals in Sharm El-Sherk; especially building resilience and the attainment of below 1.5°C.

KEY MESSAGES

The East African Community position is informed by its climate change priorities and it advocates for global compliance and actions in adaptation, mitigation, finance, development and transfer of technologies and capacity building for effective implementation of global climate change framework. EAC calls for developed country Parties to honor their commitment and increase ambition in the post-2020 period.

1. Adaptation

Adaptation is the global responsibility, therefore, the developed countries have obligation of supporting adaptation goals and actions as per the Convention, and in order to effectively implement the actions and achieve the goals. At the regional level; adaptation is a priority hence the need for formulation and implementation of National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) as the vehicle for prioritizing and communicating medium and long-term adaptation needs, and initiating national systems for long-term planning and implementation.

Call for operationalization of Global goal on adaptation and successful doubling adaptation finance as a stand alone implementation plan.

East African Community emphasizes for increased availability, accessible and predictable financial resources including for youth for adaptation measures through a

Paris Agreement transparency framework,

2. Loss and damage

The international community needs to move on from trying to understand the complexity of climate loss and damage to the necessity of dedicating resources to address it. Build and strengthen climate resilience and adaptive interventions of all developing country communities living in fragile ecosystems, flood-prone water basins, low-lying areas, and mountain slopes.

East African Community reiterates its call for the need to incorporate loss and damage into all relevant processes in the implementation of the Paris Agreement, including the enhanced transparency framework and the global stocktake.

Financial support for loss and damage is urgently required. East African Community calls for establishment of a dedicated source of finance and mechanism for delivery actions to address loss and damage.

East African Community also calls for the establishment under the UN Climate Change institutional arrangement an international financing commitment/facility for loss and damage by responsible countries by 2025.

East African Community request for a special IPCC to inform the on loss and damage.

3. Finance

East African Community restates the importance of mobilizing and securing predictable and adequate financial support for implementation of actions for addressing the adverse effects of climate change. It affirms the need for enhanced transparency of reporting, accountability and modality as crucial for assessing climate finance flows and the implementation of the obligations of developed countries under the Paris Agreement.

Strengthen support to countries and communities that are most vulnerable to climate change impacts to access new and additional scaled-up climate finance. This will support the strengthening of the community adaptation capacity, while also,

facilitating the systematic and planned relocation of vulnerable communities from disaster-prone areas to safer settlements.

It is evident that post 2020 arrangements on finance, and more specifically, procedures for the communication of indicative support envisaged in the Paris Agreement is paramount.

East African Community reiterates the removal of barriers for developing countries to access financial resources and encourage developed country parties to fulfil their financial commitments. EAC further calls for developed countries to scale up the provision of adequate, new and additional, gender-sensitive, direct, reportable and predictable funding to enable developing countries meet their medium and long-term adaptation actions; and clarity in distinguishing between Climate Finance and the Official Development Assistance (ODA).

COP27 should result in a clear call to developed countries to not only scale up annual financing in the period 2022-2026, with a minimum of US\$ 100bn per year, but to go beyond that \$100bn figure given that the true needs for mitigation, adaptation, and loss and damage are far greater. Furthermore, we must secure an accelerated implementation of the Climate Finance Delivery Plan. We call on to put these climate finance needs front and Centre in the African COP narrative and priorities

4. Mitigation

East African Community calls for ensuring mitigation actions consider co-benefits for adaptation and other development objectives in developing countries.

Parties in particular developed countries should enhance their ambition in view of the latest scientific findings from sixth report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change on global warming of 1.5°C and in accordance with the principles and provisions of the Convention and the Paris Agreement

Commitments to mitigation actions by developed countries should not be compromised by circumstance that are outside the processes of the UNFCCC processes.

5. Development and transfer of technologies

Developed countries should continue to develop and transfer appropriate technologies to ensure accessibility and affordability for the community. and mitigate the overexploitation of natural capital and GHG emissions.

Parties should continue to elaborate on the scope and modalities for the periodic assessment of the effectiveness of the Technology Mechanism and the adequacy of the support provided to the Technology Mechanism in supporting the implementation of the Paris Agreement on matters relating to technology development and transfer.

Establish and strengthen regional and national weather and climate institutions and systems to generate accurate, timely data and information on climate change impacts on human mobility; and increase collaboration between/among the Member States.

Exhaustive elaboration of the technology framework that would provide overarching guidance to the technology mechanism under the agreement is paramount. Parties should consider supporting the National Designated Entities (NDEs) of the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) to enable them to operationalize their respective offices and deliver on their roles. Parties are encouraged to ensure the implementation of and increasing funding for Technology Needs Assessment in view of the requirements of NDCs implementation.

Parties should ensure the a linkage between technology mechanisms and financial mechanisms and inclusion of technology transfer in the transparency framework and global stock-take process. Parties should consider the role of and document best indigenous knowledge practices to increase resilience of local communities within developing countries.

6. Capacity building and skills development

East African Community reiterates the value of the objective and scope of capacity-building in developing countries and note a progress made in the implementation of

the framework for capacity-building in developing countries at the institutional, systemic and individual level.

The current and emerging areas in the context of the Convention and the Paris Agreement should be taken into account in the further implementation of the capacity-building framework in developing countries. The development of mechanisms that will permit for country to enhance its capacity for fulfilling obligations on reporting and for undertaking modalities for transparency and accountability; and participation in climate change processes- policy development and implementation of actions.

East African Community affirms the need for capacity building and skills development to respond to the climate change impacts in terms of technical knowledge, coordination and institutional support across all sectors.

Capacity building should be responsive to regional needs. Sufficient financial resources and technological support need to be mobilized and availed to strengthening capacity taking into account needs of developing countries in accordance with Article 11 of the Paris Agreement. Access to technology is vital towards building of capacity in developing countries. COP 27 should provide special window for capacity building through existing global climate funds.

7. Sustainable agriculture

The impacts of climate change are highly affecting agriculture practices in East African Community region. The Koronovia Joint Work on Agriculture should catalyse concrete actions including scientific research and science in building resilience to our agriculture systems. East African Community encourages all Parties to engage constructively so that we achieve a common goal to ensure food security for our people.

The Koronovia Joint Work on agriculture should address the vulnerabilities of agriculture to climate change, reduce food insecurity, address gender, and eradicate poverty amongst communities whose livelihoods depend on agriculture. The modalities for implementing the Koronovia Joint Work on agriculture shall take into

account sustainable agriculture, women and men farmers at the grassroots to tackle the challenges of climate change by equipping them with the means of implementation (finance, capacity building as well as appropriate technology).

8. Carbon markets and non-markets approaches

Within the virtuous cycle that is the Paris Agreement, Article 6 plays a crucial role in helping Parties to fulfil their NDCs and ratchet up ambition. Parties can undertake cooperative approaches including Internationally Transfer of Mitigation Outcomes (ITMOs) to meet their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). Further, approaches must be allowed to all Parties and other stakeholders and must respect environmental integrity, rigorous accounting, credible governance and effectively contribute to enhancing mitigation and adaptation ambition.

East African Community emphasizes the need for balance in the standards applied to cooperative approaches and to the mechanism to contribute to the mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions. East African Community reiterates to emphasize cooperative approaches should support sustainable development in order to keep a level playing field for all Parties, and not disadvantage those that have to rely on a centrally operated mechanism for lack of capacity to develop their own approach.

Article 6 of the Paris Agreement in the context of the carbon markets, should take into account the transition of the existing Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects to ensure continuity of actions beyond 2020 and in order not to lose the capacities that have been built up in terms of project activities but also institutional capacity.

Article 6.8 should consider adaptation benefits mechanism under the non-market approaches. Approaches to sustainable development shall enhance the linkages and synergies between existing mechanisms without duplication (mitigation, adaptation, finance, capacity building, technology development and transfer) and provide funding for developing countries' NDCs.

East African Community recognizes the need to avoid double counting and use of market mechanisms shall contribute to the sustainable development of the host country.

9. Response measures

East African Community reaffirms response measures taken to tackle climate change should not adversely affect socio-economic endeavours of developing countries.

East African Community supports measures taken to combat climate change should not constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination or a disguised restriction on international trade, in particular regional exports. EAC calls for avoidance of shifting responsibility to developing country parties through a focus on economic diversification and just transition of jobs, which should include and focus on an understanding of the impacts of the policies of developed country parties in developing country parties.

10. Facilitating implementation and compliance

Parties should continue to engage and work for developing the modalities and procedures of the compliance mechanism of the Paris Agreement.

Compliance mechanism should enable the successful and effective implementation of the Convention and Paris Agreement. Compliance mechanism should promote the implementation of, and enforcing compliance of all provisions of the agreement in order to ensure compliance of developed countries and facilitating implementation for developing countries.

11. Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)

Implementation of Article 4 of the Paris Agreement should consider long term temperature goal set out in Article 2; progression on successive NDCs be informed by the outcomes of the global stock take and transparency of support.

Discussions on the implementation of the NDC should enable developing country parties to employ the latest clean technologies to realize a low carbon and climate-resilient development outcome. International support in form of finance, investment, technology development and transfer, and capacity building will enhance effective implementation of the NDCs.

The Nationally Determined Contributions should be aligned with national and sub-national planning and development strategies; innovatively mobilize domestic resources and strategically tap on international funding; establish robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks to follow-up and assess the implementation progress; and ensure multi-stakeholders engagement.

The common timeframe for NDCs should be five years to allow for ease of comparability and harmony with the cycle of the “global stocktake”. The registries referred to in the Paris Agreement Article 4(12) and Article 7(12) should be simple to enable each party to access information with ease and ensure the comparability of information submitted by parties.

Developing country parties need support (both technical and financial) from the developed country parties in order to implement the already in place NDCs.

12. Transparency of Action and Support

East African Community recognizes a transparency framework of the Paris Agreement as an architecture for raising ambition over time. There is need for enhanced transparency of information on support provided by developed country parties to developing country parties.

East African Community calls for a framework that must provide an accurate and reliable mechanism to address climate change and its impacts through action and support.

13. Gender, youth, and Climate Change

East African Community reaffirms gender and youth engagement as crosscutting issues that need to be mainstreamed across all areas of climate change responses and actions. Financing measures should be availed for developing countries to develop, review and implement the Gender Responsive Action Plans.

It is crucial to provide demand-driven technical assistance and capacity building support particularly to developing countries to fast track integrating gender-

responsive to the climate policies, plans, strategies and actions. We call upon COP 27 to give support to promote adoption of gender-responsive technological solutions for improving climate resilience.

WAY FORWARD

These key messages of the East African Community are submitted to the African Group of Negotiations on climate change for consideration towards COP 27/CMP17/CMA4 sessions. EAC Partner States will support Africa for constructive discussions during the forthcoming UN climate change conference in Egypt.