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AFRICA'S CSOS CALL ON GLOBAL COMMUNITY TO ACT FAST AND MAKE LOSS AND DAMAGE FACILITY OPERATIONAL WITH ADEQUATE AND HIGHLY ACCESSIBLE FUNDING

Africa Regional Symposium on Loss and Damage,

Lilongwe Malawi, April 5, 2022

Civil Society Network on Climate Change (CISONECC), Tróciare, the Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA), Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund (SCIAF) and Christian Aid organized the Africa Regional Symposium on Loss and Damage aimed at providing a platform for African stakeholders and other global citizens to dialogue on how to move Loss and Damage forward with a focus on UNFCCC processes in Lilongwe, Malawi, April 03 -05, 2023.

Reflecting on the finding of the IPCC AR6 report that projects the region to experience more frequent and intense heat waves, droughts, floods, storms, and wildfires under all emission scenarios.

Further reflecting on the economic costs that are already piling up with the IPCC estimates pointing to Africa as having incurred annual losses of \$7 billion due to climate change between 2010 and 2019, which could rise to \$50 billion by 2040 under a high-emissions scenario, which could reduce gross domestic product (GDP) growth in Africa by 2-4% per year by 2040, and by 10-25% by 2100.

Taking into account testimonials of the lived realities of communities experiencing losses and damages, of all forms and magnitude as they grapple with extreme climate shocks triggered by cyclones, drought, strong wind, sea front erosions, heat waves.

Cognisant of COP28 as the cutoff date for operationalizing the loss and damage facility and therefore the accountability expectations on part of the Transitional Committee on Loss and Damage

Disturbed by the sad reality that the much-hyped loss and damage fund may just be an empty fund with no money unless collectively, we as African actors amplify our voices, engage the global community based on irreducible minimums for COP28 and create the much needed sense of urgency for the making the Loss and Damage facility fully functional.

Drawing reference to institutional arrangements on other funding mechanisms under the UNFCCC that have adopted a business centred approach, have been hijacked by global business cartels and have largely remained inaccessible and unresponsive to the plight of communities at the frontline of the climate crisis.

Reiterating that the magnitude of losses and damages will continue to grow unless urgent actions to cut on emissions by developed countries are instituted alongside stronger accountability oversights.



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Heightening the moral imperative of polluting dirty energy-based corporates who are minting profits in billions of dollars in profits as the world grapples with stark reality of limited financial resources for funding climate action.

Reiterating the urgent need to mobilise funds to address concrete losses and damages now and in the near future, while recognising the climate justice principle that polluters should pay for Loss and damage

Here by Call:

1. As a matter of principle, loss and damage fund should be locally led, broad-based and adopt a whole society approach, gender responsive and accessible to communities at the frontline of climate crisis
2. Urgently deliver on the facility for financing loss and damage alongside adaptation actions in tandem with African development . Adaptation finance must be scaled to trigger much more investments on locally led adaptation actions promoting greater trickle down of resources to communities at the frontline of climate crisis. Therefore, loss and damage fund needs to be new, predictable and adequately resourced and should be additional to existing funds and not just repackage existing humanitarian work as loss and damage
3. Whereas loss and damage was conditionally admitted as an agenda in COP27 without liability or compensation on part of the developed countries, we take cognizant of the polluter pays as guiding principle in reparation for climate injustices. In this regard, call on developed countries explore and mobilize much needed public funding inform of grants for financing loss and damage.
4. Call for establishment of carbon-based taxation measures for corporates involved in dirty energy and related value chains with 50% of the profits being taxed and ringfenced for the loss and damage fund facility
5. Funding for loss and damages should be principally from public funds. Africa is against loans in addressing losses and damages. Pursuant this position, we we denounce the application of business investment mechanisms such as the Global Shield for responding to loss and damage. Consequently, the new fund and funding arrangements need to follow the principles of equity, CBDR and must be Party-driven, where decisions are agreed by consensus.
6. We call upon developed countries, noting Germany, Ireland and the Denmark to review their approach of investing funding meant for addressing losses and damages through market base mechanisms.



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7. While we recognize the role of scientific data on groundtruthing the intervention rationale, we take note the urgency of the matter and call for greater flexibility to use community led evidence generation approaches among other forms of evidence to make decisions and inform action for application of this fund.
8. Call upon UNFCCC to set mobilize and deploy resources to support African countries and other LDCs in implementing national readiness programmes for loss and damage to enhance capacity for country level leadership in coordinated response. The fund and funding arrangements must also be aligned to the Santiago Network on Loss and Damage (SNLD) to ensure complementarity and coordination.
9. Call on developed countries to stop the destructions on lives and livelihoods urgent actions to cut on emissions as an imperative of climate justice. This action must be accompanied scaled up delivery of funding to support adaptation programmes in the continent.
10. Call on our northern counterparts to ensure that the Loss and damage funding facility is not delayed at COP28 through flimsy, self-serving, procrastination serving, technocratic arguments that have no bearing to the suffering of masses of communities in Africa and other Less Developed Countries
11. Urge the transitional committee on loss and damage to judiciously borrow on existing policy frameworks and tested approaches such as the Scottish Loss and Damage Fund to anchor recommendations on expedited disbursement of money under this fund by latest, COP29.
12. Urge the Transitional Committee to recommend inaugural call for replenishment of the loss and damage at COP28
13. Call on private investments in Africa to undertake due diligence necessary to reduce on potential losses and damages inflicted by such investments and for the governments in Africa to implement comprehensive and coherent policy and legal reforms to prevent future environmental and climate injustices
14. Call on the General Secretary of the United Nations to establish the Office of Special Envoy on Loss and Damage to improve better coordination in UN agencies in promoting this track of climate response.
15. Reiterate the need for legislatures and judicairies all over africa to take lead role in enacting and progressive legislations and interpreting these laws in a progressive manner to develop jurisprudence in polluter pays principle in context of losses and damages.
16. Whereas all measures for Africa must take control of the carbon markets must be accelerated through legal, policy and negotiations, we call on political leadership to be careful not to be derailed from urgent matters such as loss and damage, adaptation and mitigation in pursuit of globally just climate regime.

****ENDS****



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