

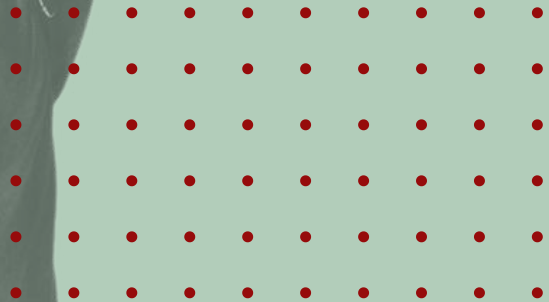


# SPOTLIGHT ON THE AFRICAN ACTIVISTS FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE



AFRICAN ACTIVISTS FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE

## NEWSLETTER: A LOOK BACK AT COP27



27 NOV 2022

# BENSON SIMBA, AACJ PROGRAM COORDINATOR

The UN climate talks or COP27 - also called the 'Implementation COP' this year owing to urgent global action needed to limit global warming to 1.5 °C - ended this weekend in Sharm-El-Sheik, Egypt. However, did the outcomes compare favorably to the kind of action and commitments required to meaningfully tackle the global climate crisis? Unfortunately, no, and there remains a stark gap between rhetoric and action.

The last two weeks have seen a multitude of announcements, many of which are positive steps forward. However, the scale of the problem vastly outweighs the scale and pace of efforts that nations, especially the wealthier ones, have agreed to take. These nations will need to work harder to build trust in their ability to deliver. As Mary Robinson put it earlier this week; leaders of the poorest countries are in crisis mode, but some of the leaders who could and should be doing most are not. Or as a climate activist, Vanessa Nakate said "we are drowning in promises".

Climate change is having a profound impact on communities. How the world responds to the climate emergency is crucial to all our futures and we know that those living on the front line are now facing an emergency of unprecedented proportions. It was with this in mind that we joined the climate summit.

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***There remains a stark gap between rhetoric and action.***  
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We were there to amplify the voices of the people advocate for, and to share what we have learned from those who are already adapting to extreme climate events. Some of our partners were part of national delegations, directly influencing the negotiations. Others made sure that a range of people with influence on the COP outcomes was hearing what is required by the most vulnerable and focused on ensuring more support and finance is directed to meeting those needs.

Through the two weeks our consortium , **PACJA, OXFAM, FEMNET , NATURAL JUSTICE AND THE AFRICAN YOUTH COMMISSION** provided evidence and technical support to governmental delegations participated at events and spoke to the media. We showcased bottom-up adaptive work by people on the front line of climate change, which works with nature, not against it. We called for a new focus on the approaches and resources needed to scale change and enable communities to adapt and deal with the loss and damage that they are already experiencing. Here are some of our highlights:



# CASE BUILDING AND AMPLIFICATION OF LOCALLY LED ADAPTATION (LLA) INITIATIVES

On 14th November, AACJ held a side event at the Green Zone at COP 27! A short but impactful panel! "Locally led adaptation " brought AACJ partners on Amplify locally led initiatives through sharing of experiences of women, youth, indigenous and marginalized groups.



AACJ SIDE EVENT SPEAKERS

**HIGHLIGHT :** Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) can unlock, support and leverage the enormous potential and creativity of communities to develop and implement solutions. Shifting power to local stakeholders, without expecting them to shoulder the burden of adaptation, can catalyze adaptation that is effective, equitable, and transparent.



from left to right , Azara Sanogo Oxfam Novib) Lead West Africa Regional Platform, and Charles Mwangi, Chief Program at PACJA

## SOME QUOTES

*Communities are frontliners of #ClimateCrisis, so they are in the best place to identify solutions to the problem. International/national authorities should entrust finances and delegate authority and power to local communities to use resources to protect & build their resilience*



Gino Cocchiario,  
Director of Programs and Development  
Natural Justice (NJ)

*Women, particularly viewed through an intersectional lens, are disproportionately affected by climate change. It is the right of people, particularly the most affected, to have their say in decisions that affect their lives and in designing solutions to address the risks they face.*



Dr. Melania Chiponda  
Climate Justice and Gender Advisor (FEMNET)

*Recognizing community members as part of the solution saves money and leads to more sustainable results. This means providing the enabling conditions for grassroots groups, women & youth who have expertise in the local context to take the lead*



Mr. Michael Khaduyu  
Africa Youth Commission (AYC)  
Project Lead for AACJ



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**Africa is drowning and burning at the same time. We're so focused on protected the developed countries from liability. What more does Africa need to prove? How many millions of losses do we need to see before we see this as an emergency?**

”

*Augustine NJAMNSHI, Chair of technical and political affair at PACJA*





# PACJA HOISTS THE HOPES AND ASPIRATIONS OF AFRICAN PEOPLE TO COP27



## PACJA'S PRESS CONFERENCE AT COP27

In its press conference held on the 17th november at sharm el sheikh, The Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance noted with disappointment the lack of progress at COP27. It expressed deep concern about how this will impact millions of Africans plunged into misery because of climate change.

Read the full statement here

<http://bit.ly/3V98hS8>

## LAUNCH OF THE AFRICA GREEN CLIMATE FINANCE NATIONAL DESIGNATED AUTHORITIES NETWORK (AFDAN)

The launch event of AfDAN Network, expanded coherence of African climate finance positions with needs and priority actions that are Locally Led by African Countries (LoLAC) themselves with targeted support from the development partners to increase the climate finance ease of access, available and sustainable manner for locally-led implementation at scale.

Read more : <https://pacja.org/pacja-partners-launch-african-green-climate-finance-nationally-designated-network-afd-an-at-cop-27/>



## GLOBAL MARCH AGAINST CLIMATE INJUSTICE

November 12,2022, Hundreds of people from across Africa, people from Egypt, Joined PACJA in the protest against Climate Injustice. The global march happened at moment key aspirations of African at this COP were disregarded and dropped off the agenda discussions. Dr. Mithika called all Africans, CSOs from Global north and Media to join hands for change and alerted that Climate change will not show mercy to global north.

Read more : <https://pacja.org/africa-in-on-intensive-care-mithika-mwenda/>

## ELEVATING THE VOICES OF WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

This side event focused on elevating the voices of women in agriculture promoted the importance of women farmers to strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate change, particularly in Africa.



Learn more about PACJA's participation at COP27

[www.pacja.ORG](http://www.pacja.ORG)

[@pacja1](https://twitter.com/pacja1)



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**The Eco-feminist  
DEMANDS we are  
talking about are a  
summation of  
African Women's  
views. These women  
DO NOT have the  
means to attend this  
#COP27 but their  
voices do.**

”

*Dr. Melania Chiponda, Climate change and  
gender Advisor*



# BECAUSE WOMEN'S VOICES COUNT



## FEMNET PRESS CONFERENCE ON AFRICAN FEMINISTS DEMANDS FOR COP27

In this press conference, Femnet presented African Women's and Girls' Demands for COP27. The demands outlined 13 specific demands across six priority areas. They include 1) the Inclusion of women and young people in national and UNFCCC decision-making processes; 2) a just and equitable transition from fossil fuels for all; 3) the provision of adequate, accessible, affordable, flexible, and human rights-centered finance as a matter of justice and equity; 4) agriculture and land rights; 5) sustainable, community-owned and women-led technological solutions; and 6) intersectionality and coherence with broader frameworks for sustainable development.

In this side event, intersectional and sub national experiences on climate financing that can contribute to African women's involvement in discussions and eventual application of the New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance (NCQGCF) were shared.

"Climate Finance can catalyze actions that can alleviate/ exacerbate #genderequity & poverty. Mechanisms that fund #ClimateAction should be designed to enable, rather than hinder marginalized populations, notably #women and the poor, in facing #ClimateCrisis.



## "LINKING LOCAL TO GLOBAL – SHARING EXPERIENCES ON GENDER AND CLIMATE FINANCE IN SUB SAHARAN AFRICA"

## VOICES OF WOMEN LEADERS IN CLIMATE POLICIES

Women in leadership remain to be underrepresented, thus impairing their involvement in enacting policies. In this panel, leaders, experts & leading voices presented the challenges faced on the ground and tangible solutions.



## GENDER DATA IS IMPORTANT FOR THE NEW COLLECTIVE QUANTIFIED GOAL ON CLIMATE FINANCE

The 2022 SDG Gender Index sounds the alarm on gender equality, revealing that global progress has been slow and marginal – at best – over the past five years.

Read more : <https://femnet.org/2022/11/from-cop-27-gender-data-is-important-for-the-new-collective-quantified-goal-on-climate-finance/>





## LOSS AND DAMAGE FINANCE NOW!

Throughout the year Oxfam across the world has joined Elizabeth Wathuti from Kenya to promote her letter to the COP presidency asking for a loss and damage fund. The action has been signed by over 133k people around the world, so a great message for her to bring to Sharm el-Sheikh. Her letter and the signatures were handed over to the Egyptian COP president, one extra push to put pressure on the negotiations at COP in the fight for a loss and damage fund. And we got it! A big victory for civil society and in particular a glimmer of hope for the millions and millions of people and communities who are suffering the injustices of climate impacts not caused by them.



## #PAYUP4LOSSANDDAMAGE

OXFAM helped to flood the COP, with a loss and damage protest inside the COP27 venue. Supported by different CSO's, with one loud demand: #PayUp4LossandDamage now.



## THE AFRICAN CLIMATE CARAVAN AT COP27

The African Climate Caravan happened in 27 African countries, supported by over 150 CSO's. A massive effort in demand for climate justice across the African continent. The voices from these national caravans was brought to Sharm el-Sheikh by representatives of the national caravans. These caravaniers present at COP27 were amazing spokesperson for the reality of the climate crisis in Africa. They were very active in organizing actions, joining lobby meetings and being part of events. They created their own African Climate Caravan scarves which were handed over to decision makers they had meetings with. A great memory for those they try to influence with their demands of the African Climate Caravan.



## KIDS MESSAGE TO NEGOTIATORS AT COP27

Oxfam and partners asked school kids to make drawings on postcards with a message to negotiators at COP27, to remind them of their wishes for our planet and also that the world is watching them to protect their future. In the end 20,000 cards were made, with beautiful and powerful messages. The cards were handed out to COP27 participants. Some negotiators liked the cards so much that they made social media videos with them and even one country mentioned it in one of their country speeches.





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**We believe in democratizing law and justice. How can a community dialogue with an external agent in a way that is understandable for both and that allows them to determine their own futures?**

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*Gino Cocchiaro  
Director of Programs & Development,  
Natural Justice*



## 27 COPS DOWN THE LINE: ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDERS STILL INVISIBLE

In this year's UNFCCC COP27 negotiations, Natural Justice launched a set of policy recommendations on how the negotiations could enhance the protection of environmental defenders through the Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) deliberations and the Global Stock Take (GST) process.

The recommendations urged parties to include activities in the ACE Action Plan aimed at creating space for dialogue with environmental defenders to identify obstacles and gaps to the effective exercise and realization of their civic rights to access information, education and participation in climate action. The policy also recommended the inclusion of targeted actions by parties, inter-governmental bodies, and other relevant stakeholders to take action to increase the protection of defenders and create an enabling environment for the exercise of their rights.

**Read more:** <https://naturaljustice.org/27-cops-down-the-line-environmental-defenders-still-invisible/>



## RIGHT TO A CLEAN AND HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT

On the 12th of September, Natural Justice hosted the UN Special Rapporteur, Dr David Boyd, in a discussion with civil society and community representatives to unpack the United Nations General Assembly Declaration on the right to a clean and healthy environment for Africa.

A major concern raised by many participants was how the right to a clean and healthy environment could be enforced within Africa, a continent that is undertaking rapid infrastructural and energy projects. To this end, Dr Boyd, UN special rapporteur called upon countries to balance these projects with social and environmental concerns.

**Read more:** <https://naturaljustice.org/right-to-a-clean-and-healthy-environment-a-post-webinar-reflection/>



# COP27 AT A YOUTH GLANCE

At COP27 the Sharm El Sheik outcome recognized the important role children and youth play in responding to and addressing climate change the UNFCCC further

***“Recognizes the role of children and youth as agents of change in addressing and responding to climate change and encourages Parties to include children and youth in their processes for designing and implementing climate policy and action ”***

it is important to note that there were key Agenda items that African youth were looking forwards to them being achieved, they included; Loss and Damage (L&D), Global goal on Adaptation (GGA), Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, how the global stocktake will be conducted come 2023 among the other agenda. This is pegged on the premise that Africa has suffered and continues to suffer the effects of Climate Change which have become more frequent and severe threatening the probability of reversing and dealing with some of these climate effects. This is considering the special circumstances for Africa and its Historical Green House Gas (GHGs) contributions vis a vis the developed countries' contributions, This called for COP27 to deliver on the outcomes that were being pushed for “The African COP or Implementation COP” as it was dubbed by Africans themselves.

As the African Youth Commission (AYC), we note that as much as the number of youth participating and attending the COP has increased it is essential to engage the youth and children prior before they come to the COP taking them through the diplomacy and negotiation processes to ensure that they understand and engage with the COP negotiations fully. Compared to our counterparts from the Global North majority of the negotiators were younger showing the level of trust that their governments have entrusted to them, this call for the African governments to start trusting and incorporating the youth be negotiators. As much as the majority of youth have been given opportunities to attend the COP as a Party delegation they must be equipped with skills on how to engage properly with the process.

With the United Arabs Emirates being the host of the COP28 the youth must start engaging with the COP28 presidency and see how they engage better at COP28. Another engagement that we are looking towards engaging in is to host a Post COP27 for the African youth to collect their feedback about COP27 and start planning for COP28. As the African Youth Commission we commit to continue supporting and pushing for an African youth-led agenda at COPs and any other subsequent meeting, that’s why we will be hosting a Post COP27 early this year

***Khaduyu Michael ,AACJ Project Lead AYC***





# A MOMENT AT COP27

