



**Regional
Sustainability
Network**

Introduction

The Regional Sustainability Network (RSN) is an initiative that fosters dialogue and knowledge sharing across Sub-Saharan Africa on topics including climate change, environmental sustainability and energy. It constitutes 12 member organizations ranging from grass-root activism initiatives (community-based organizations) to analytical think tanks. 11 Sub-Saharan countries are represented in the network.

Our Position

Climate Change Driven Natural Events

In 2021 and 2022, many extreme and high-impact events were reported across Africa with the continent experiencing heavy rainfall, floods, tropical cyclones, droughts, heatwaves, wildfires, and sandstorms. The most vulnerable have been hardest hit by these events, further exacerbating food insecurity, population displacement and stress on natural resources.

With agriculture being the backbone of Africa's economy and accounting for most of its livelihoods, the continent is therefore an exposure and vulnerability "hot spot" for climate variability and change impacts.

Therefore, RSN is calling on all stakeholders to deliver on their commitments in addressing the adaptation gap and strengthening resilience and enhancing confidence for scaling up of future ambition and actions.

Support to the Loss and Damage Approach

As RSN, we also welcome and appreciate the historic decision of the COP27 aimed at establishing the Loss and Damage (L&D) Fund for supporting developing countries particularly those vulnerable to the adverse effects of the climate crisis.

As vulnerable people in these contexts continue to experience severe losses arising from droughts, floods, rising sea levels and other disasters attributable to climate change; RSN recommends that the finalization of the implementation modalities of the fund be expedited.

Although there are stakeholders that believe that climate loss and damage financing is only related to humanitarian response, our position is that the Loss and Damage Fund will achieve better results if an integrated development (resilience building) – humanitarian approach is considered, allowing the two sectors to support each other and learn from each other for coordinated and consolidated actions.

Future loss and damage costs depend on mitigation and adaptation actions, hence, the need to support scaling up of climate actions, adequately. Also proposing funding pathways for this Fund to be opened to include direct funding to Community-Based Organisations, in the light of the localisation agenda.

Within this agenda, the recommended positions to be taken are for the fund to have the following characteristics:

- ▶ To be Full spectrum of loss and damage (L&D) that includes extreme events and state- owned enterprises (SOEs); economic and non-economic; recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction.
- ▶ To be Programmatic approach over project approach
- ▶ To be a standalone fund as part of the financial mechanism of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) & Paris Agreement, independent Board and Secretariat
- ▶ The Funding Arrangements to be composed of developed country contributions together with new, additional, predictable, equitable and polluter pays/ Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR–RC) aligned alternative/innovative sources eg: International Maritime Organization (IMO) levy, fossil fuel tax
- ▶ To be Grant based that is a non-debt generating funding
- ▶ To have option that for i) early response, ii) rehabilitation and recovery, iii) SOEs.
- ▶ To be direct government provision rather than having windows of application

Micro Level Engagement

Furthermore, we recommend the translation of agreements made at COP meetings into actions that also directly benefit grassroots whose livelihood systems have been hard hit by the impacts of climate change.

More resources should be channeled towards the micro level where the farmer makes tactical decisions in response to climate variations, which have an impact on agriculture production systems including the natural resource base that support livelihoods.

The resources can be used towards scaling up of soil and water conservation and renewable energy (for example solar), among other critical needs.

Health, Relief, Recovery, and Peace

We call for ensuring that actions must be context specific & relevant to beneficiaries and should be an inclusive system change including change to power/systems.

Call for the formulation and realization of an ambitious and effective overarching global goal on climate adaptation. The goal should be a collective global agenda and responsibility that is quantifiable and clear, making it easily communicable to community groups who are the most affected.

Simultaneously, clear communication with leaders is essential as they have influence over actions and policies. Furthermore, the goal should carry binding commitments, ensuring its implementation, and establish a strong link between adaptation strategies and the pressing needs of the continent. The goals should be linked to means of implementation and take into account and support national initiatives.

Trade, Gender Equality and Accountability

Call for creation of platforms and mechanisms that actively involve youth, women, and affected communities in climate adaptation planning decision-making processes. This can be achieved through participatory workshops, community consultations, and forums specifically designed to gather their perspectives, ideas, and concerns.

Capacity building should be part of the action for empowerment programmes predictability and transparency of climate financing.

Transparency framework should focus on both action and support. Also, it should be accompanied with support in terms of finance, capacity building and technology to enable developing countries to comply with the enhanced transparency requirements.

Energy, Industry and Just Transition

Call for focusing on the importance of addressing problems at their roots during this transition to overcome existing structural economic deficiencies that hinder Africa development inclusive of the development process.

By tackling the underlying issues, Africa can pave the way for a sustainable and equitable development path that prioritizes climate action (Adaptation and Mitigation).

Call for abstaining from false solutions with short-term employment or solutions that lead to permanent consequences.

We need enough research to transit to new technologies and innovations. Call for establishment of a work plan on just transition. A realistic plan for a just transition requires a fundamental restructuring of the global and Regional economic architecture.



Nature, Land Use and Water

Call for complementing scientific or modern ways of adaptation with indigenous knowledge and practices as most of the local practices and indigenous methods of managing and utilizing land are inherently more sustainable than modern approaches.

There was less attention on the aspect of water in both IPCC and COP 27, more attention is needed in the forthcoming COP as water play a crucial role in supporting livelihoods and sustainable economic development.

Lessons can be drawn from the recent World Water Week 2023, where it was highlighted that without addressing water, it will be almost impossible to achieve Agenda 2030.

Food and Agriculture

In the new four-year plan on agriculture and food security to have wider scope from agriculture to focus on food systems approach together with it reflecting the realities of developing countries. We are also calling for the realization of Sharm el Sheikh Programme on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security.

We need a comprehensive but risk-free agriculture's insurance cover. I.e., Schemes that cushion farmers against physical loss of or damage to growing crop directly caused by drought, floods, excessive rainfalls, uncontrollable pests and disease etc leading to permanent damage and loss of harvest. Such covers should combine crop insurance with other forms of insurance, such as livestock or asset insurance.

This integrated approach will help farmers manage multiple risks and provides comprehensive coverage for their agricultural activities.

We also need unique but cheap production technology, knowledge and other models of affordable investments that would allow us to overcome new challenges that climate change is posing on smallholder farmers.

Farmers also required special and separate financing mechanism that allows them to easy access with no interest. This will be allowing farmer's access the necessary financial capability needed to promote stable and sustainable agricultural production in our local communities.

Inclusion

Call to strive for equality and justice in adaptation endeavors-reducing the effects of climate change on the most vulnerable and ensuring the benefits and burdens of climate action are equitably distributed.

Need to have dedicated multi-stakeholder engagement through a Pan African Alliance emphasizing the importance of creating such an alliance or aligning with existing platforms to avoid duplicative efforts.

The alliance should have a robust link with media spaces to enhance outreach and awareness. The alliance should primarily focus on managing loss and damage and adaptation issues at both regional and global levels.

Adaptation Finance

Call for Materialization of adaptation finance including doubling adaptation as Climate adaptation remains chronically underfunded & action continues to be lagging. The process of accessing climate finance should not be tedious. Currently the process needs finance to access finance.

Call for fulfilment of financial pledges provided by developed nations as multiple report show lagging in fulfilment of pledges.

Call for annex I parties to prioritize adaptation finance and other related support to enhance resilience.

Technology and Innovation

RSN is calling for support in the implementation of National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) in alignment with the overarching global goal on adaptation, once it is formulated.

In countries NAP have conducted technology needs assessments but are faced with financial, technical and technological constraints towards implementation.

There is need for research or supporting data in adopting technology and innovations from global North to ensure they fit Global South context.

Ensuring a Detailed and Extensive Global Stock Take

Address the needs and challenges of the global south through:

- ▶ Prioritize and finalize the process to establish methodologies for assessing progress in enhancing resilience to climate change.
- ▶ Assessment of adequacy and efficiency of current financial flow.
- ▶ Identification of opportunities existing in developing countries should be harnessed and utilized to support climate action and sustainable development.
- ▶ Call for establishing a new quantified collective goal for climate finance to replace the unmet annual target of \$100 billion with clear tracking and disperse mechanisms that are appropriate.

Conclusion

We, the RSN members, believe that climate change adaptation measures in Africa should in their majority be implemented based on international grants in accordance with the "polluter pays" principle.

Although African countries can actively contribute to the mitigation of current and future climate change effects by reducing their greenhouse gas emissions, this would require additional external funding given the development and industrialization needs of this region.

Viable scenarios of industrial and economic growth that nevertheless allow for the reduction in net GHG emissions need to be developed and validated.

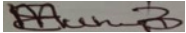
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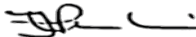
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