CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK AFRICA

Dear Excellency,

Africa stands at a critical crossroads, confronted with extraordinary challenges. Climate change is one of the foremost threats not only to Africa's prosperity but also to the very survival of its vulnerable populations.

Africa contributes less than 4% to global greenhouse gas emissions, and yet we unjustly bear the brunt of loss and damage from the climate crisis. Many African nations are grappling with the effects of one of the worst droughts in recent history, followed by devastating floods. This flooding has left over 1,000 people dead, displaced nearly a million, and affected millions more in West and Central Africa as well as North Africa.

African governments are grappling with an unprecedented economic crisis—high inflation, widespread unemployment, and an escalating food crisis— compounded by one of the highest public debt levels in history. Debt servicing in Africa now outstrips total spending on education, health, and social protection by two-thirds, further eroding the ability of governments to deliver on their social contract and also invest in climate action.

Africa's extreme vulnerability makes Adaptation finance essential for building resilience and safeguarding development. UNEP says the global adaptation finance gap has widened to around $366 billion annually. Adaptation finance needs are 18 times greater than current international public adaptation finance flows.

An urgent scaling up of climate finance for Africa is crucial to not only implementing the COP28 decision to transition away from fossil fuels and triple renewable energy but also to achieving our Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), including our ambitions of low-carbon development and preservation of our forests and natural carbon sinks to prevent catastrophic global warming beyond 1.5 degrees Celsius.

African countries require $277 billion annually in climate finance, but current finance flows amount to only $30 billion annually (Climate Policy Initiative, 2022). Thus, Africa faces a staggering financing gap that threatens the continent's ability to respond to the climate crisis and secure a sustainable future.

It does not have to be this way. Under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), developed countries have an obligation to provide finance for developing countries to address climate change. This is sustained under the Paris Agreement in Article 9.

This year, as the parties to the Paris Agreement negotiate a New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) for climate finance to replace the $100 billion annual commitment ending in 2025, the 29th Conference of Parties (COP29) in Baku presents a critical opportunity for you to insist on what is just and what is necessary for Africa.

At the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) in September 2024, you agreed to stand in the NCQG process for a **"quantum of not less than USD 1.3 trillion annually [...] to be regularly reviewed [...] delivered mainly through concessional finance and grants**." As African civil society groups, we urge you to remember and honour this agreement.

We, the undersigned African civil society organisations, urge you to demonstrate leadership at COP and advocate for an NCQG that is fit for purpose by providing quality finance in sufficient quantities:

- **Mobilise at least $1.3 trillion in public and private finance, consistent with the AMCEN position. The NCQG should establish a public finance provision target of at least $1 trillion annually in grants and other public finance, measured in grant-equivalent terms.** This is a reasonable expectation when the Global North is assessed to be incurring a climate debt of at least $5 trillion annually to the Global South.
- **Be outcome-based. The NCQG should include high enough thematic sub-goals for (i) mitigation, no less than $300 billion annually in grant-equivalent finance; (ii) adaptation, no less than $300 billion per year in grant-equivalent finance; and (iii) loss and damage, no less than $400 billion per year in grant-based finance.** Studies indicate that, without these, the NCQG will not ensure a 1.5-aligned just transition, the delivery of NDCs or National Adaptation Plans or the Global Goal on Adaptation, nor address current levels of economic loss and damage.

If we fail to seize the moment to assert our positions and interests, the developed nations will avoid providing the necessary resources for adaptation, mitigation, and loss and damage.

We cannot return from this COP with an NCQG that perpetuates current injustices against Africa. After years of negotiations, Africa cannot leave with ambiguity, facing a future where we are left to pay the climate debts of developed countries. This COP29 must deliver justice by holding developed countries accountable.

You have the right to refuse an inadequate NCQG, and we call on you, as representatives of sovereign nations, to reject any NCQG that does not commit quality finance in sufficient quantities for mitigation, adaptation, and loss and damage. Instead, we ask you to insist that developed countries return home for further preparations and raising their ambition, until and unless they can put forward fit-for-purpose proposals.

This is your obligation. To do otherwise would be to dignify the undue death, damage, and destruction among Africa's vulnerable communities under the validation of the United Nations. Legitimizing an inadequate NCQG by acceptance will go down poorly in the histories written of our time.

We call on you, as our ministers, to stand strong in defending Africa's interests.

Sincerely yours,

(Organisation names to be inserted here)