

AFRICAN GROUP OF NEGOTIATORS ON CLIMATE CHANGE MEET IN ZANZIBAR FOR CRUCIAL AGENDA-SETTING SESSION

The African Group of Negotiators on Climate Change (AGN) convened this week in Zanzibar, Tanzania, for a pivotal meeting aimed at consolidating Africa's climate agenda ahead of the 30th UN Climate Change Conference (COP30), scheduled for later this year in Brazil. The gathering brings together climate diplomats, technical experts, and policymakers from across the continent to refine Africa's unified position on critical issues such as climate finance, adaptation, and loss and damage.



Chaired by Dr Richard Muyungi, who is also the Special Envoy and Advisor to the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, the AGN is building upon momentum from previous sessions, including a February 2025 meeting in Nairobi. In his opening remarks, Dr Muyungi called for a just transition that addresses Africa's energy poverty, noting that Africa cannot talk about just transition while over 600 million people on the continent do not have access to energy.

"It is for this reason that the inclusion of the Clean Cooking agenda, which is being championed by Her Excellency Dr Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of the United Republic of Tanzania, in the just transition work programme, is key. I am delighted to note that the African Union, at its last assembly, adopted both the AU declaration on Clean Cooking and the Dar-es-Salaam Declaration on Mission 300 Energy Summit that focuses on providing energy access to at least 300 million people in Africa by 2030. At this meeting we will ensure these two important decisions by the AU Assembly are embedded in the Just Transition and Mitigation Work Programme towards Belem and beyond," he said.

In the context of climate change, 'just transition' refers to a strategy that ensures a fair and equitable transition to a low-carbon economy, minimising negative impacts on workers and communities while maximising social and economic opportunities. It aims to balance climate action with social justice, creating decent work, reducing inequalities, and ensuring no one is left behind

Speaking at the event, Mr Ibrahima Cheikh Diong, Executive Director of the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage, said the Fund acknowledges the African Group of Negotiators "for the strong leadership, collective voice and advocacy on behalf of a region that has long stood at the forefront of the global climate conversation".

"I wish to emphasise that the time we are meeting is when climate change impacts are no longer distant projections, they are our reality today," he added. "For many across the region, loss is irreversible and damage is immeasurable. It is in this context that the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage was created; to assist developing countries that are vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change in responding to climate-induced economic and non-economic loss and damage."

The Zanzibar meeting also serves as a platform to strategize for the upcoming Committee of the African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC) and to set priorities for Africa's united position ahead of COP30.