

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Notes from Global Press Briefing by Amb Ali Mohamed, Kenya's Special Envoy for Climate Change and Chair of the African Group of Negotiators, on Africa's position and expectations at COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan

Date: 13/11/2024

Baku, Azerbaijan

“Ladies and gentlemen, we are working towards a positive outcome for all of us on all the most political issues for Africa and world on the whole issue of a new finance goal.

“We think that at least there was some understanding on the reason we did not welcome the Text as shared by the co-chairs of NCQG, and we are hoping that any text that will come out, hopefully, will be much more balanced than the one that was there before. I say this because the one that was there earlier was very much imbalanced and did not take into consideration the issues as we perceive them.

“Another important issue for the African continent is the whole issue of adaptation survival, and we are emphasising on bridging the adaptation finance gap. Also, in all the discussions from Day One, Africa has spoken towards benefiting from the carbon credits market. We hope for a positive outcome as it is still too early. This is just the second day and Heads of States and governments are still making their statements.”

Q1. What about the Text that was so disagreeable that had to be relooked?

“The NCQG Text that was shared by the co-chairs, as I said, was completely imbalanced. It was trying to redefine the agreed articles of the Paris Agreement. The matters of climate finance are properly stipulated under Article 9; and we, as people from the developing world, were not comfortable with that, so it had to be completely set aside following our submissions.”

Q2. So what is Africa pushing for?

“You know, Africa is currently facing severe droughts in the whole of the southern region, while the Horn has just come out of the worst flooding episodes in recent history after a terrible five seasons of drought. At the same time, more than a million people in West Africa have been displaced by climatic vagaries.

“So, Africa is pushing for a commensurate goal on climate finance to deal with the challenges that we face as a global community. We did commit during the Dubai conference last year that the world will be transitioning towards a low carbon- and climate-resilient environment that requires investments and adequate and reliable financing. So that is what we are pushing for.

“Now, a funding figure in the range of trillions of dollars has been given by many groups. And that is the discussion that is currently going on. There's no contention about the

magnitude of the amounts required for the global community to transition. And that is what Africa and other developing countries are pushing for here.”

Q3. What is Africa’s position with the loss and damage being a sub-goal of NCQG?

“I think that is a discussion that is currently ongoing. What I want to emphasize is the importance of having a goal that is going to respond to the evolving needs of developing countries, and countries that are most vulnerable to the climate catastrophe.”

Q4. Initially, Africa was pushing for US\$1.3 trillion. Will the figure change?

“No! That’s a position that the African ministers have given us to push, but we are still in negotiation mode, and therefore that is the figure we are tabling. I should add that this figure is not just Africa’s position; the need for trillions of dollars is agreeable to all. But how, where, by whom, that is the discussion that’s currently ongoing.”

Q5. What do you see as the biggest obstacles in a way of getting to a good outcome?

“The attempt to redefine the commitments and the obligations under the Convention and the Agreement is the biggest obstacle, and that is the reason why we had to reject the earlier draft.”

Q6. What do you want changed?

“Well, the Convention is very clear with regard to the flow of the financing. There are commitments and obligations under the Convention and the Paris Agreement; developed countries must lead in terms of provisioning the financing, while developing countries will receive it. So that is the essence of the Convention and the Agreement, and that is what we don’t want to be renegotiated afresh. We cannot open the Convention and Agreement for the negotiation.”

Ends

About the African Group of Negotiators on Climate Change

The African Group of Negotiators on Climate Change (AGN) is a technical body of the three-tier African negotiating structure that engages in the technical negotiations during the Conferences of the Parties (COPs) and the intersessional negotiations on Climate Change. It was established in 1995 with the objective of representing the interests of Africa in the international climate change negotiations, with a common and unified voice. 3 African Group of Negotiators on Climate Change The AGN prepares and drafts negotiating text and common positions at COPs, guided by decisions and key messages from the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC), the highest decision-making tier and the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN), the second highest decision-making tier. Its structure comprises of Lead Coordinators and Strategic Advisors, thematic coordinators, former AGN Chairs and UNFCCC focal points of the 54 African Member countries and the Secretariat. The Group is currently chaired by the Republic of Kenya through Mr Ali Mohamed, who is President William Ruto’s Special Envoy on Climate.

*Send media enquiries on WhatsApp to **Bernard Mwinzi** (+254 721 787570) or **Friday Phiri** (+260 96 9624582).*