

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

At COP29 Summit in Baku, African Group of Negotiators Calls for Robust Climate Action

*Excerpts of Statement by **Amb Ali Mohamed**, Kenya's Special Envoy for Climate Change and Chairman of the African Group of Negotiators (AGN), on the occasion of the Joint Opening Plenary of the 29th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP29), 19th session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP19), 6th session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA6), 61th Session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA61), and Session Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI61)*

Baku, Azerbaijan. November 13, 2024

Amb Ali Mohamed, Kenya's Special Envoy for Climate Change and Chairman of the African Group of Negotiators (AGN), speaking on behalf of the African Group at the opening of the 29th Conference of the Parties (COP29) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), has called for urgent and ambitious actions to address the climate crisis. His statement was delivered at the joint plenary, and underscored the African Group's priorities and expectations for meaningful progress at COP29. In his remarks, Amb Mohamed commended the Azerbaijani COP Presidency for hosting this pivotal event and emphasised Africa's commitment to constructive engagement. He said: **"For the African Group, COP29 must deliver meaningful results that send a clear signal of the multilateral system's ability to address the most pressing global challenges effectively."**

KEY PRIORITIES FOR AFRICA AT COP29

The African Group highlighted three main priorities:

1. Establishing an Ambitious Climate Finance Goal

Amb Ali stressed that COP29's success hinges on setting a robust, transparent, and time-bound climate finance goal. The African Group seeks a goal aligned with the assessed financial needs of developing countries, with a particular focus on adaptation, loss and

damage, and mitigation. African negotiators are calling for reforms of the international finance system to have more equitable finance instruments, including grants and concessional loans, to support sustainable development. **“Our vision for a New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) sends a strong message to the global financial system on the need for reform, especially addressing debt sustainability for developing countries,”** Amb Mohamed said.

2. Prioritising Adaptation and Addressing Loss and Damage

The AGN called for enhanced support for adaptation, noting the urgent need for resources to prevent devastating climate impacts. According to the World Meteorological Organization, Africa’s climate vulnerability costs the continent up to 5% of its GDP, with many nations diverting nearly 9% of their national budgets to address climate impacts. The African Group urged COP29 to provide guidance on adaptation indicators and finance to close the adaptation gap and align with the Glasgow commitment to double adaptation finance by 2025. Additionally, the African Group welcomed the significant steps taken to operationalize the Loss and Damage Fund, and called for swift establishment of a replenishment process. **“We applaud the appointment of Mr Ibrahima Sheikh Diong as the first Executive Director of the Fund,”** said Amb Mohamed, emphasizing that timely fund mobilization is essential for protecting vulnerable communities.

3. Advancing the Just Transition Work Programme

Amb Mohamed highlighted the need for a Just Transition Work Programme that promotes equity in climate action while upholding sustainable development and poverty eradication goals. **“International cooperation and an enabling financial environment are essential for overcoming barriers to sustainable development,”** he emphasized, calling on COP29 to develop a roadmap to support balanced progress on all climate imperatives. The African Group also underscored the need for greater inclusion of human mobility concerns in climate discussions. Climate-driven displacement affects millions in Africa each year, with 2023 alone seeing over 5.7 million displaced across the continent. **“We must integrate climate impacts and migration into just transition dialogues to mobilize the resources necessary to protect affected communities,”** Amb Mohamed added.

A CALL FOR IMMEDIATE AND DECISIVE CLIMATE ACTION

Amb Mohamed urged all countries to act quickly, emphasising the urgency of meeting climate targets. **“We are at a crossroads—facing two gaps which can easily turn into deadly cliffs,”** he said, referencing recent findings from the Emissions Gap Report, which indicate that global emissions must fall by 42% by 2030 to keep warming within the 1.5°C limit. Despite the urgent needs, only a fraction of global climate investment reaches Sub-Saharan Africa, where climate impacts are most severe. In 2022, less than 3% of the \$1.3 trillion global climate investment reached the region. This disparity underscores the need

for immediate action, Amb Mohamed said, calling for equitable distribution of resources to regions bearing the brunt of climate change.

He concluded by assuring the African Group's commitment to ensuring COP29's success as a triumph for multilateralism, noting: **“We look forward to working together to achieve outcomes that reflect our shared vision and our commitments to a resilient and sustainable future for all.”**

Ends.

See full statement [here](#)

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.

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