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Amb Ali Mohamed, Chair of the African Negotiators and Kenya's Special Envoy for Climate Change, Reacts to the Release of New Text on NCQG at COP29 in Baku

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The African Group of Negotiators (AGN) at COP29 expresses both hope and concern in response to the release of the third draft text on the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) framework at the ongoing United Nations Climate Change Conference in Baku, Azerbaijan. While recognising the progress made, we feel the need to emphasise that the talks must result in more than just an agreement; they must lead to meaningful outcomes that address the unique challenges faced by Africa and the Global South.

As we have repeatedly said, COP29 is of immense importance to Africa as the continent faces the most severe impacts of climate change despite contributing the least to global emissions. Africa's low-lying coastal regions, drylands, and diverse ecosystems, from Cairo to Cape Town and Mombasa to Monrovia, are at high risk from rising temperatures, extreme weather events, and disrupted rainfall patterns. We are calling for bold action and equitable solutions that can ensure a fair and sustainable future for all.

Reacting to the new text, Amb Ali Mohamed, the AGN Chair and Kenya's Special Envoy for Climate Change, says: "A lack of significant progress at the technical negotiator level during the first week raises significant risks moving into the second week. However, at the end of the day, Africa is clear about the objectives it requires. For Africa, simply reaching agreement for the sake of agreement is not good enough. The new climate finance goal must offer confidence that developed countries will support delivery of real-world outcomes in the response to climate change by developing countries. Africa stands resolutely behind its call for \$1.3 trillion per year as a mobilisation goal, underpinned by provision of at least half of this in grants and concessional finance."

For Africa, COP29 is not just about securing climate finance, but about ensuring that the solutions put forward will support long-term resilience and a just transition. The African Group of Negotiators stresses that any agreements made at Baku must be grounded in the principle of climate justice, ensuring that those most vulnerable are prioritised.

For Africa, adaptation is no longer an option, it is a necessity

"African nations are facing mounting costs due to climate impacts. The need for scaled-up adaptation financing is urgent," states Amb Mohamed. "Adaptation is no longer an option, it is a necessity. For our countries to continue their development efforts while safeguarding the livelihoods of millions, we need access to reliable, predictable, and accessible funding. Without this, the promises of international cooperation will remain empty."

Amb Mohamed calls for a clear commitment from developed nations to meet their financing obligations, and for financial flows to be directed towards the adaptation priorities set by African governments and communities, ensuring that resources address the most pressing vulnerabilities.

The rising need for multilateralism and global cooperation

Amb Mohamed also reaffirms the importance of multilateralism in tackling climate challenges, noting: “This is a global crisis that demands global solutions. Climate change cannot be fought in isolation. The role of multilateral institutions like the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is critical in fostering inclusive, transparent, and accountable discussions. We must remain committed to the spirit of cooperation and mutual support.”

African and Global South Nations have repeatedly emphasised the need for a fair and equitable global governance system that enables countries to meet their climate goals while recognising their unique national circumstances and development needs. Multilateralism provides the platform for this dialogue and cooperation, ensuring that all nations, especially those in the Global South, have an equal seat at the table.

We want a good deal, not just any deal

While acknowledging the difficult and complex negotiations underway, African negotiators are united in their call for a deal that brings real solutions rather than a symbolic agreement. “We are not here to secure just any deal, but one that ensures the most vulnerable nations receive the support they need to cope with and mitigate climate impacts. We need a deal that addresses finance, technology transfer, loss and damage, and ensures robust accountability for the promises made,” says Amb Mohamed.

Finally, the African Group of Negotiators would like to emphasise that any agreement from the Baku talks must align with the goals of the Paris Agreement, particularly in terms of limiting global temperature rise to 1.5°C and enhancing support for adaptation efforts in vulnerable regions.

“We are hopeful that through continued dialogue and a commitment to fair outcomes, we can achieve a comprehensive agreement that truly addresses the needs of Africa and the Global South. Our children and generations to come deserve a future in which climate action is not just aspirational but tangible, and where the burden of this crisis is shared fairly,” concludes Amb Mohamed.

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. 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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