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2024 WAS THE HOTTEST YEAR ON RECORD, AND THAT'S A STARK WARNING TO HUMANKIND

Citing Africa's climate imperative, Amb Ali Mohamed, Chair of the African Group of Negotiators and Kenya's Special Envoy for Climate Change, calls for decisive global action in the wake of new report that shows 2024 was the warmest year in recorded history, and the first to surpass the critical 1.5°C threshold above pre-industrial levels

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Africa joins the world in acknowledging the sobering confirmation by the Copernicus Climate Change Service that 2024 was the warmest year on record globally. For the first time ever, the average global temperature exceeded 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. This marks a perilous milestone, underscoring the deepening climate crisis with profound implications for Africa and the global community.

Noting the urgency of the climate crisis, Amb Ali Mohamed, Chair of the AGN and Kenya's Special Envoy for Climate Change, notes:

“Africa, responsible for less than 4% of global greenhouse gas emissions, remains disproportionately affected by the intensifying impacts of climate change. The warming trajectory outlined in the 2024 climate highlights, coupled with record-breaking temperatures, manifests in extreme weather events that devastate livelihoods, infrastructure, and ecosystems across our continent. It is unacceptable that this devastation is caused by the pollution of just a few countries in the world, specifically the G20, and they must take responsibility for their actions. We strongly urge that their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) must meet the expectations of the Paris Agreement, whose limits we have already surpassed.”

A YEAR OF ALARMING RECORDS

The findings, presented by global climate monitoring organisations—including ECMWF, NASA, NOAA, the UK Met Office, Berkeley Earth, and the WMO—paint a stark picture:

- 2024 was the first calendar year to surpass the critical 1.5°C threshold above pre-industrial levels.
- Heatwaves, droughts, floods, and wildfires reached new levels of intensity and frequency, inflicting misery on millions worldwide.
- Greenhouse gas concentrations climbed to record annual levels, with carbon dioxide reaching 422 ppm and methane 1897 ppb.

In this regard, Amb Mohamed notes:

“For Africa, these statistics translate into poverty and livelihood stagnation, and an escalation of climate-induced conflicts over dwindling resources. The science is clear: human-induced climate change remains the dominant driver of these unprecedented conditions. While the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) contributed to 2024’s extreme weather patterns, the overarching factor is the unchecked rise in greenhouse gas emissions. Africa’s vulnerability demands urgent action. The cascading impacts of climate change have laid bare the inadequacy of current global responses. Despite our limited contribution to the crisis, Africa faces the heaviest burden, experiencing exacerbated poverty, displacement, and biodiversity loss.”

THE AFRICAN GROUP OF NEGOTIATORS CALLS ON:

- 1. Industrialised Nations:** To meet their obligations of the Paris Agreement, especially at a time when negative nationalism and conservatism are overtaking global goals on multilateralism.
- 2. Global Leaders:** To enhance ambition and accelerate the implementation of the Paris Agreement targets, with a focus on achieving net-zero emissions well before mid-Century.
- 3. All Stakeholders:** To recognise Africa’s unique opportunity to decarbonise the world by investing in renewable energy infrastructure and building capacity for resilience.

In conclusion, Amb Ali says:

“Despite the challenges, Africa is a beacon of opportunity. Our vast renewable energy potential, youthful population, and rich natural sinks position the continent as a critical player in the global fight against climate change. By harnessing these strengths and fostering international partnerships, Africa can contribute to a sustainable and equitable future for all. 2024’s unprecedented heat is a stark warning. Without swift and

transformative action, the world risks breaching the limits of climate resilience. Africa's voice is clear: the time for pledges is over—this is a moment for bold, decisive action. The climate crisis is not an African problem; it is a global challenge requiring global solutions. Together, we can turn this crisis into an opportunity to build a resilient, sustainable, and equitable world.”

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 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 Amb Ali Mohamed, who is President William Ruto's Special Envoy on Climate.

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