

Civil Society Statement for COP 28 on Energy Package for Africa

To the African Group of Negotiators (AGN) & COP 28 Presidency,

Background

Africa is heading to COP28 expecting nothing short of historic and ambitious commitments on renewable energy. Specifically, this COP must make a decision that underscores access to energy as a basic human right. It must also recognise renewable energy as a necessary condition for a dignified life for all.

To be truly successful, this COP must set a global goal for tripling renewable energy capacity, with a particular focus on Africa. Increased renewable energy capacity in Africa means increased energy access in a continent that has been in the dark and cold for generations.

Thankfully, Africa boasts vast mineral wealth, including metals critical to the manufacture of renewable energy technologies. This COP must, therefore, consider supporting the development of Africa's local value chains for transition minerals to stop their exportation in raw form that has historically fetched minimal revenue for the continent.

This statement presents African Civil Society's reflections and priorities for COP28 and beyond, as follows:

- Renewable energy must be scaled up to more than 15,000 GW in 2030 or an average of 1500 GW annually to keep the 1.5°C temperature target within reach.
- This endeavour must, however, be accompanied by an immediate phase-out of the fossil fuel era in all sectors. Developed countries that have benefitted from historical emissions must phase out faster and support African countries with their decarbonization efforts.
- Based on this, and as the global renewable energy target continues to receive increasing political support, we call for a massive shift in global policy and investment.

- We recognize that, driven by the need to attain energy security, access and avoid carbon emissions, there are already African countries that have developed ambitious renewable energy targets by 2030. Regional leaders such as Kenya, Rwanda, Morocco and Mauritania have successfully integrated renewables targets into their national energy plans.
- We also recall that during the recent Africa Climate Summit, African countries reaffirmed an ambitious target of increasing installed capacity for renewable energy from 56GW to 300 GW by 2030.
- International public finance for renewable energy in Africa is, however, marginal. In the four years following the Paris Agreement, international public finance from G20 countries and the major multilateral development banks provided only \$13 billion of public finance for renewable energy in Africa, 3.7 times less than the support given to fossil fuels.
- We recognize that Africa holds 30% of global mineral reserves, including dozens of minerals critical to the energy transition due to their importance in renewable and low-carbon technologies.
- We are calling for the immediate stop to malaligned support from developed countries as recently witnessed during the dash for Africa's gas. Africa demands genuine support from historical polluters who must be responsible collaborators to limit global temperature rise and avert a catastrophic future.
- Financing trends for Africa's renewable energy reflect a laggard energy transition on the continent. Between 2010 and 2020, Africa received only USD 55 billion for renewable energy investment, compared to the total global investment of USD 2.25 trillion.
- We note with gravity that recent investments in Africa's energy have been dominated by oil and gas. This accounted for 70% of all energy-sector investments over the 2015-2019 period.
- Recognizing that a rapid roll-out of people-centred, environmentally and socially appropriate renewable energy in Africa is the answer to both the climate crisis, energy access as well as an enabler to Africa's development aspirations.

Principles

We emphasize the need for:

- Equity and historical responsibility. Developed countries historically responsible for the climate crisis and should fulfill their obligations and fair share of contributions, as enshrined in principles of 'Common but Differentiated Rights and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC)', they must reduce their emissions to real zero, but also provide poor nations with the scale of financial support needed to address the crisis.
- Adherence to human rights and protection of workers, communities and ecosystems. Energy development in Africa must respect the rights of communities and ensure the whole value chain of energy production is available, sustainable and harmless.
- Fair and transparent processes and providing opportunities for African countries to be at the centre of decision-making processes regarding their energy development. Leading energy development initiatives must be at the core of global cooperation with Africa.
- Accountability, transparency and involvement of stakeholders in all processes must be prioritised.

Our call on COP28:

Fossil fuel Phase out:

- Fossil fuel phase-out should be a COP 28 decision. COP28 must decide on a fair, complete, and rapid phase-out of all fossil fuels - coal, oil, and gas - in all sectors by no later than 2050.
- In addition, a phase-out of all subsidies for fossil fuels should be decided.
- The COP decision must stress the need for support of developed countries to African countries for access to existing and emerging low-emission technologies and solutions that avoid greenhouse gas emissions.

Renewable energy phase in:

- COP 28 must make a decision that underscores access to energy as a basic human right and a necessary condition for a dignified life for all.
- COP28 should set a global goal for tripling fair, safe, and clean renewable energy capacities to over 11,000 gigawatts by 2030 and a goal for doubling annual energy efficiency improvements to over 4% per year by 2030.
- The COP 28 decision should set a global goal for scaled up to more than 15,000 GW in 2030 or an average of 1500 GW annually in a fair, safe and equally distributed

renewable energy to realise increased energy access in Africa and contribute to global mitigation efforts.

- The African continent is rich in minerals and metals that are urgently needed worldwide for the green energy transition. These important raw materials have been exported without further processing and therefore without local value creation. A decision on the renewable energy phase in must also consider supporting development of Africa's local value chains for transition minerals.

Financial needs:

- COP 28 must address Africa's unique financial needs for energy development, this includes breaking the renewable energy investment ceiling in Africa. This will set the stage for increasing Africa's renewable energy investment tenfold to meet the continent's current ambition and unlock its immense renewable energy potential.
- More than 20 countries in Africa are at acute risk of falling into debt distress. The COP decision must be able to call for a shift in the global financial architecture that continues to indebt African countries.
- The COP decision must call for de-risking Africa's renewable energy investments. Access to finance remains challenging for most African countries, and the cost of capital can be up to between 6 and 7 times more expensive than in other regions. Africa requires increased financing to scale up renewable energy investments and propel it closer to its ambitions, including increasing its installed renewable energy capacity fivefold by 2030, to attain Agenda 2063 and to achieve sustainable development goals.
- The COP decision must call for new, additional and adequate and appropriate financing and technology support to be committed by developed countries to African countries.

Just transitions:

- The Just Transition Work Programme needs to establish a framework for workers and communities, including through sound investments in low-emission sectors, social protection for fossil-fuel workers and poor communities, and local economic diversification.

- The Just Transition Work Programme should also call for equitable and fair sharing of transition costs. The largest cost burden needs to be borne by those with the greatest ability to pay, namely developed countries that have already benefited the most from fossil fuels.
- The Just Transitions Work Programme also needs to establish calls for capacity building, especially for workers and communities. It must call for the establishment of a framework for financing the transitions to ensure that the shift from fossil fuel use to renewable energy protects workers, communities and national economies from negative consequences. It must also be conducted in a manner that enhances sustainable development.

Signed by: