



**11<sup>TH</sup> G20  
PARLIAMENTARY  
SPEAKERS' SUMMIT**



**CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND  
ADAPTATION IN THE CONTEXT OF  
THE NAIROBI DECLARATION**

**27 July 2025**

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**Harnessing Parliamentary Diplomacy for the Realization of Global Solidarity,  
Equality, and Sustainability**

## **1 SALUTATION**

President of the Pan African Parliament, Honourable Members of the Pan African Parliament, Speakers of African Parliaments, and Distinguished Guests.

## **2 CLIMATE CRISIS**

The global climate crisis is worsening, with the world dangerously deviating from the Paris Agreement's goal to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions, limit global temperature rise to 1.5°C, enhance climate adaptation and resilience, and provide financial support through a transparent and accountable system. The recent global stocktake and current trends suggest that we'll exceed this limit before 2030, with November 2023 temperatures temporarily surpassing 2°C, and 2024 breaking historical temperature records.

Our continent is warming even faster, as such, we are experiencing more frequent and intense extreme weather events, such as flooding, storms, heatwaves, and droughts, which result in wildfires, deaths, economic losses, hunger, and diseases. These events are driving food, energy, and water insecurities and reversing some of the gains we were making towards Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals.

## **3 MITIGATION**

It is worth highlighting that G20 nations, responsible for 77% of global greenhouse gas emissions, are the main drivers of climate change. In stark contrast, Africa's 55 countries contribute only around 5%, yet are highly vulnerable to climate impacts. This inequality is often overlooked due to a lack of up-to-date, comprehensive emissions data from African nations, leaving them vulnerable to climate policies such as carbon taxes. From 2026, some G20 members, including the European Union and USA, will introduce Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanisms (CBAMs). CBAMs are designed to prevent "carbon leakage," where companies relocate carbon-intensive production to countries with less stringent environmental regulations to avoid the carbon costs. However, these taxes will impact our industries such as cement, iron, steel, and aluminium.

While CBAMs can be effective, their unilateral application risks complicating international trade and unfairly penalising developing countries. A blanket CBAM ignores the significant capacity gaps between developed and developing nations. South Africa supports emissions reduction policies and legislation, while also advocating for climate justice.

Imposing CBAM on African industries in its current form is unfair, against the spirit of the Paris Agreement, and threatens African exports and job creation. African industries, still developing, need support to decarbonise, not punitive measures. This must be combined with substantial capacity-building support, enabling Africa to implement tailored decarbonisation strategies. A fair CBAM requires differentiated rates, exemptions, or extended timelines, potentially until 2030 for African countries, alongside grant-based support. We disagree with the issuance of climate loans, as the Paris Agreement calls for grants. This approach is effectively making developing countries pay for problems caused by industrialised nations.

#### **4 ADAPTATION**

As Africa faces increasingly deadly extreme weather events, there is a need to build resilience and adaptive capacity for communities to thrive. To cope, African nations urgently need to invest more in economic diversification, climate information systems, disaster preparedness, including early warning and risk assessment tools, despite limited resources. Maximising the use of the limited resources should be prioritised as developed countries haven't honoured past financial commitments. They failed to provide the promised \$100 billion annually and now pledge only \$300 billion by 2035, far below the required \$1.3 trillion. This lack of finance disproportionately burdens African nations, exacerbating humanitarian crises and undermining Agenda 2063 and SDG implementation.

## 5 CLIMATE FINANCE

To facilitate the implementation of the Paris Agreement, financial mechanisms should be enhanced to support developing countries in mitigating climate change, building resilience, and improving their capacity to adapt to climate impacts. Climate finance has been a significant challenge in climate action, as developed countries have not honestly honoured their US\$100 billion annual pledge by the deadline.

The 2023 Oxfam Report found that developed countries:

- Restructured up to one-third of their official aid as climate finance instead of new funding,
- Allocated more funds towards mitigation as opposed to adaptation, thus not prioritising vulnerable countries,
- Converted more than half of the grants into loans,
- Provided inadequate funding for adaptation, while resisting commitments to loss and damage funding, and
- Employed misleading accounting practices to claim that they honoured their pledges.

We note the COP29 pledge in Baku, Azerbaijan, where developed countries pledged to triple climate finance to developing countries, from the previous goal of US\$100 billion annually, to US\$300 billion annually by 2035. This pledge is voluntary, and countries can withdraw, as we have seen one developed country withdrawing from the Paris Agreement. Furthermore, bureaucratic and exclusionary criteria imposed during the application process effectively prevented many African countries from accessing the climate funds, with only a few countries on the Continent being exceptions. As such, least developed and developing countries remain sceptical based on their experience with the unfulfilled pledges for climate finance and inaccessibility of the funds.

The African Development Bank estimates that Africa will need between US\$2.6 trillion and US\$2.8 trillion by 2030 to fulfil its climate commitments. Additionally, the United

Nations projects that Africa requires US\$1.3 trillion annually to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Therefore, closing Africa's climate finance gap and achieving the SDGs solely through domestic sources is not feasible. As many African countries face difficulties in securing climate finance due to a combination of systemic and institutional challenges, there is a need to build capacity to access this funding. Similarly, we should optimise the use of national resources towards building resilience, as some African countries have already begun to do.

## **6 ROLE OF PARLIAMENTS AND INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT**

- Parliaments have a critical role to play in combating climate change through legislation, oversight, and financial allocation. As parliamentarians, we should ensure that our governments create an enabling environment, enact policies and legislation that facilitate the investments necessary to unlock resources and meet climate commitments, and contribute meaningfully to sustainable development, including the decarbonisation of our sectors. They must incentivise renewable energy, facilitate fossil fuel transitions, and consider carbon pricing while safeguarding local economies.
- As guardians of public interest and allocators of national budgets, we should play an active role in climate finance, ensuring that governments develop the required capacity to meet the climate application requirements. By enhancing our oversight of climate finance planning, execution, and reporting, parliaments can help guarantee that climate finance is mobilised efficiently, utilised strategically, and distributed fairly to promote resilient and sustainable development across the Continent.
- Climate action is not possible in the absence of a coherent and harmonised policy and legislative environment. We should thus ensure development, alignment and implementation of climate legislation across sectors and governmental levels.

These interventions should have constituency-based programmes, such as awareness campaigns.

- Our oversight function should extend to monitoring domestic capacity for climate finance coordination, requiring regular government reporting on climate targets, and promoting intra-Africa trade within the African Continental Free Trade Area to build regional economic resilience.
- Climate action is only possible when we work together. Therefore, we should lobby other global parliaments to honour climate commitments.
- Internally, parliaments should lead by example by monitoring and reducing their own carbon footprint, promoting green procurement, ensuring water and energy efficiency, and leveraging technology for virtual meetings to cut carbon miles. Annual sustainability audits will ensure transparency in their greening efforts.

## **7 CONCLUSION**

South Africa is committed to the Paris Agreement, as supported by our Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC). We aim to reach net zero emissions by 2050. While we pursue our climate ambitions at a pace and cost that we can afford, we continue to advocate for climate justice and human rights and support developing nations in meeting their climate obligations. We are actively using our G20 leadership role to advance Africa's interests on mitigation, adaptation, reforms in the climate financial architecture and investments.

Addressing the climate crisis in a fair and sustainable manner requires a comprehensive approach to climate finance and policy. A just transition must be supported with dedicated funds for economic diversification, social protection, and equally investing in climate resilience and adaptation. This includes building resilient infrastructure, establishing early warning systems, and promoting climate-resilient agriculture to protect

communities from the increasing impacts of climate change. On global trade, rules must adhere to the principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities. Tools like the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism need careful design to prevent unfair pressure on developing economies that are already managing complex developmental changes. Parliaments must strengthen their oversight role. They need to ensure that climate policies and finances are transparent, inclusive, and fair, driving solutions that benefit every community.

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