

A CONCEPT NOTE ON COP 28 AND TANZANIA'S NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTIONS (NDC's): A ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

MAJOR THEME: Keeping 1.5°C Goal Alive and Strengthening Implementation of Both Adaptation and Mitigation Actions Including Loss and Damage

1.0 PREAMBLE: Background and Scenario Analysis

The United Nations' Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC), Conference of Parties (COP28) is scheduled to take place in the United Arab Emirates, Dubai from 30th November to 12th December, 2023. Its major goal is to critically reassess the real implementation of 2015 Paris Climate Agreement as the COP 26 Glasgow Climate Pact and COP 27 Sharm El Sheikh's Implementation Plan. The main COP 28 Agenda will be: Loss and Damage, Climate Finance and Just Energy Transition Partnerships (JETP). Climate Science shows that the Current Emissions and Global Warming Projections are reaching catastrophic proportions and levels particularly in Greenhouse gases emissions whereby last year 2022 the warning levels reached 1.15°C. Undoubtedly, these facts pose untold and unprecedented critical quantitative and qualitative human – economic, existential, health, educational, social, nutritional, political, infrastructural dilemmas, challenge, risks and vulnerabilities both to people, planet and biodiversity to thousands of years to come. Hence, threatening common wellbeing, peace and security of humanity the planet locally and globally than ever before.

It is an undeniable fact that Africa (including) Tanzania is the most affected continent. In response to this the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS) in Tanzania collaboration with the Kilimanjaro Consortium for Development and Environment (KCDE) based in Kilimanjaro, deemed it relevant and critical to engage Pre-COP 28 Stakeholders, academia, policy makers and climate experts for round table discussions and consultations as effective spaces and opportunity for collective awareness, accountability and action. More urgent and critical, in order to adequately achieve the Goals of the 2015,

Paris Climate edifice, the following fundamental pillars and regimes in particular, need urgent evaluative focus and prioritization in particular:

- (A) Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC's) general and specific status in Tanzania.
- (B) Tanzania recent Nationally Contributions in particular: a critical post-mortem and deep analysis on:
 - Adaptation Contributions
 - Mitigation Contributions
- (C) Tanzania's Critical Gap's Weaknesses and Discrepancies: Calibrating:
 - Ambition gaps
 - Budgetary gaps
 - Policy gaps
 - Managerial/Leadership gaps
 - Organizational and Planning gaps
 - Technical resilience and expertise gaps
 - Human Resource mobilization gaps
 - Non-human resource mobilization gaps
- (D) The Critical role of Cities and Urban Contents in Climate Change Mitigation.

2.0 JUSTIFICATION/RATIONALE

The underlying key reasons behind the round table COP28 is pivotal, extremely relevant and urgent. Why?

- 2.1 Time, resources and patience are running out in our collective responsibility to avert the worse climate change crisis ever.
- 2.2 COP 27 in Sharm El Sheikh in Egypt in 2022, brought about some glimpses of hope particularly for climate justice, climate finance especially in funding loss and damage as a whole.
- 2.3 The relevance of ambitious goals particularly by and with nations most vulnerable to climate change calamities not only to put higher NDC's ambitions, but also smart, scalable and achievable goals.
- 2.4 The call for all public and private greenhouse global emitters to re-think, rediscover and play their rightful roles particularly for climate justice, climate action and climate funding locally and globally.
- 2.5 The intrinsic nexus especially on Africa's preparedness in the constitutional and legal potentials and spaces in unveiling the synergy of the Paris Agreement, SDG's and NDC's. Hence, a critical triad both for reflection and concerted action.

- 2.6 The collective quest particularly in viewing the climate change crisis in Tanzania in particular, and Africa in terms of multiple technological socio-economic, and environmental opportunities. Hence, viewing the climate crisis not only as a curse, but as an imminent opportunity as well.
- 2.7 The collective global accountability to account for loss and damage, climate finance, early warning mechanisms, global stakeholders, adaptation, food systems and supply chain as a whole.

3.0 EXPECTED ROUND TABLE OUTCOMES

At the end of round table discussion, it is hoped that all participants both present and online:

- 3.1 To have acquired a better and broader notion and understanding of both COP 28 and NDCs regime.
- 3.2 To have developed a collective and passionate sense of accountability particularly in the quest for credible and sustainable solutions against the impacts of climate change in an effective and efficient way.
- 3.3 To develop a rigorous road map and action plan for climate justice and decarbonization strategies in Tanzania in particular and globally in general.

4.0 THOUGHT PROVOCKING DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- To what extent have the COPs particularly COP 21, (Paris Agreement) COP 26 (Glasgow Climate Conference), COP 27 (Sharm El Sheikh) been really relevant or impactful especially against the climate change crisis for Africa in particular? In other words, did these COP's deliver their targets quantitatively/qualitatively?
- If not, should we now term COP's simply as Conference Of Polluters/Politicians?
- What are the key and critical issues which Africa/Tanzania need to re-address at COP 28 this year as far as climate justice is concerned?
- How is the Tanzanian government, NGO's, FBO's, CBO's, etc. prepared to effectively participate in the COP 28 negotiations and decision-making platform, etc.?
- What are the weaknesses especially in the legal regime of the NDC's towards decarbonization of the planet, adaptation, and mitigation strategies and goals locally and globally?
- Are the NDC's simply a mere "diplomatic" tool causing more greenhouse emissions and climate disasters nationally and worldwide?

- Are there countries or nations states which could be taken as best practices especially in the implementation of the NDC's in Africa?
- What are the salient critical issues which need urgent solutions at COP 28?
- Do we have a common understanding and strategy for the implementation of the NDC's as a country? (Tanzania) as a region (East African Community) as a continent (Africa)?
- What are the negative impacts of Tanzania's lack of common institutional and resilient regulatory organs for both climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies?
- How will COP 28 readdress Climate Change dilemmas particularly on funding poor vulnerable nations especially on damage and loss?
- Have FBO's been fully engaged in the COP 28 preparatory discussions as key stakeholders for earth keeping values and spirituality? Are their potentials not underutilized?
- To what extent will the issue of energy transition ("*Energiewende*") particularly from fossils-based energies to eco-friendly renewable energies get rightful place and action plan at COP 28?
- Could we aptly affirm that most of the CPO's are characterized with too many "side events" than one focused theme or agenda? (Hence, COP's as the "Tower of Babel"?) Do we now need more concerted and collective vision and awareness on the key issues?
- To what extent are the national (Tanzania) regional and continental climate change policies and frameworks, relevant and timely?

5.0 THE FOCUS OF THE ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

- 5.1 The current status of climate change and impacts to Africa and Tanzania
- 5.2 Progress achieved and the key challenges in achieving the long-term global Goal of the Paris Agreement (2015).
- 5.3 Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC's) of Tanzania: Main priorities, targets for adaptation, mitigation and current status for implementing.
- 5.4 Identifying the key outcome of COP 27, the Sharm El Sheikh implementation plan and highlighting opportunities for Tanzania.
- 5.5 What is needed to be done pertaining the implementation of the goals by and through the private sector, FBO's, NGO's, CBO's, etc.

6.0 CONCLUDING REMARKS

It is hoped that, this round table discussion will have tried to provide a critical multi-disciplinary space and platform to analyze, re-assess and rethink particularly on the salient positive impact of COP 28 in the context of the Paris Agreement. Moreover, the discussions will have provided a unique opportunity of reassessing the strength weaknesses, opportunities and challenges with regard to the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC's) model particularly from the Tanzania perspective. Hence, enhancing our collective efforts to combat the ever increasing and worsening vulnerabilities, threats and risks connected with climate change and climate injustices as a whole.