

The Dakar Declaration on Climate Change 2023
by the Ministers of the Least Developed Countries

We, the Ministers and Heads of Delegation of the Least Developed Countries (LDC), as Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement, having met in Dakar, Senegal on 28th of September 2023, in preparation for the 28th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (COP28):

Underscore the urgency of strengthening global solidarity and enhancing the response to climate change; and that this response must be informed and driven by the latest available science, equitable and advance, in particular, the priorities of the least developed and most vulnerable countries and peoples, including for sustainable development;

Underscore that while LDCs are home to over 14% of the world's population, they only contribute around 1% of emissions from fossil fuels and industrial processes, have the least historical responsibility for climate change, are being forced to adapt beyond their capacities and are at the forefront of the climate crisis;

Stand in solidarity with the younger generations who are particularly vulnerable to climate change and emerging as bold agents of change to protect our future;

Welcome efforts to empower youth to take leadership on climate change, including the appointment of a youth climate champion by the incoming COP28 presidency; and encourage future COP presidencies to continue this role and to focus on meaningful youth engagement in climate negotiations;

Recall the preamble of Paris Agreement which notes Parties should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights, the right to health, the rights of indigenous peoples, local communities, migrants, children, persons with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations and the right to development, as well as gender equality, empowerment of women and intergenerational equity;

Note with serious concern the findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Synthesis Report for the Sixth Assessment Reports cycle (IPCC AR6 SYR) that human induced global warming has spurred changes to earth's climate that are unprecedented in human history, and there is a rapidly closing window of opportunity to secure a liveable and sustainable future for all;

Also note with concern recent findings from the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) on record high temperatures, extreme glacial melt, and record ocean temperatures, including that global sea level rise has doubled pace;

Welcome the convening of the Climate Ambition Summit by the UN Secretary General in September 2023, which emphasised the urgency of climate action, noting the message that the 'era of global boiling has arrived'; and underscore that the Summit must be translated

into tangible increases in climate ambition and concrete outcomes, including the reduction of global greenhouse gases (GHGs), the operationalisation of the new fund for loss and damage and an ambitious conclusion of the first Global Stocktake (GST);

Welcome the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on their upcoming presidency of COP28; and their commitment towards a COP that delivers ambitious outcomes that reflect the priorities of LDCs;

*On the **Global Stocktake**,*

Call for an forward-looking ambitious outcome on the first GST at COP28 that captures the progress towards achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement, and the ambition and implementation gaps that need to be closed, which include raising ambition in line with 1.5°C, mobilisation of scaled up finance, implementation of adaptation action, and loss and damage;

Invite countries to include in their 2025 Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) on how their NDCs have been informed by the GST and are aligned with pathways for limiting global warming to 1.5°C within this critical decade;

Call for a roadmap for the period after 2023 to implement the recommendations from the first GST and offer clear steps for monitoring and ensuring accountability for actions;

Reiterate the call to the UN Secretary General to hold an event in 2025 for the presentation of NDCs aligned to 1.5°C pathways;

*On **mitigation**,*

Note with serious concern the findings of IPCC AR6 SYR that global GHG emissions have continued to increase, and that global warming is rapidly approaching 1.5°C;

Emphasize the findings of IPCC AR6 SYR that limiting warming to 1.5°C requires rapid, deep, and immediate GHG emissions reductions in all sectors, with global GHG emissions peaking before 2025, reducing 43% of emissions by 2030 compared to 2019 levels, and reaching net zero CO2 emissions by 2050;

Urge all Parties, in particular major emitters, to urgently and significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and to revisit and strengthen the 2030 targets in their nationally determined contributions (NDCs) to align them with their fair share of the global effort required to limit warming to 1.5°C;

Note that many LDCs have high renewable energy potential, including solar and wind, and call for climate finance to support the development of these resources in LDCs;

Calls upon the Sharm el-Sheikh Mitigation Ambition and Implementation Work Programme to help identify drivers, challenges and barriers, as well as create enabling conditions for effective implementation of mitigation actions through the mobilisation of adequate support, particularly for the implementation of conditional NDCs; and investment focused

events should leverage funding from public, private and multilateral funders, while ensuring that LDCs are not left behind; and supports the commitment to tripling renewable energy and doubling energy efficiency investment by 2030, particularly in LDCs;

Affirms that the just transition is crucial for LDCs and that this is a cross-cutting issue linked to adaptation, mitigation, finance, loss and damage, technology development and transfer and capacity building; and stresses that resources are crucial to achieving a just transition, particularly for LDCs, to ensure that no one is left behind and avoid increasing debt stress;

On adaptation,

Note with serious concern the findings of IPCC AR6 SYR that adaptation gaps exist, and will continue to grow at current rates of implementation; and that current global financial flows for adaptation are insufficient for, and constrain implementation of, adaptation options, especially in developing countries;

Call on developed country Parties to present a clear road map on delivery of at least doubling adaptation finance delivered by 2025, through public, grant based finance;

Call for equitable support under the Green Climate Fund (GCF) with a guaranteed funding allocation for the implementation of National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) for LDCs;

Recognise the importance of the global goal on adaptation (GGA) for effective implementation of the Paris Agreement and call for finalizing the framework at COP28 with an overarching target, as well as targets against the dimension and themes and indicators that would operationalize the GGA including relevant targets on Means of Implementation;

Request the LDC expert group on Climate Change (LEG) to continue strengthening support to LDC countries to finalize their NAPs formulation and assist in developing bankable projects to swiftly move towards implementation;

On loss and damage,

Note with urgency the findings of IPCC AR6 SYR that some climate impacts are already so severe that they cannot be adapted to, leading to loss and damage; that vulnerable communities who have contributed the least to current climate change are disproportionately affected; and that even effective adaptation does not prevent all loss and damage;

Note the work done by the Transitional Committee on the operationalisation of the loss and damage fund;

Call on all Parties to ensure that the Loss and Damage Fund is operationalized at COP28 as an operating entity of the Financial Mechanism of the Convention, serving the Paris Agreement, and that the Fund assists developing countries particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change to respond to economic and non-economic loss and

damage arising from climate-induced extreme weather events and slow onset events, in the context of ongoing and ex post action;

Emphasize the need to ensure simplified and equitable access to the Loss and Damage Fund for LDCs to ensure that no country is left behind due to capacity and data constraints, and to ensure grant-based financing for LDCs that does not exacerbate already significant debt burdens;

Call on developed country Parties to make substantial and adequate pledges to capitalize the new Loss and Damage Fund at COP28;

Encourage Parties to work together to operationalize the Santiago Network for Loss and Damage (SNLD) at COP28;

Stress that the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage (WIM) remains under dual governance of the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement;

On climate finance,

Note with serious concern the existing climate finance gap between support provided and mobilized by developed countries and support needed by developing countries; and call for parties to agree on a definition of climate finance;

Note with concern that climate finance has predominantly taken the form of loans rather than grants, prioritizes mitigation over adaptation, and is not reaching LDCs at the scale necessary;

Call upon developed countries to urgently scale up climate finance to make up for the shortfall caused by failure to deliver US \$100 billion a year by 2020 and through 2025;

Call upon developed countries to significantly scale up support for implementing National Adaptation plans and adaptation actions and deliver their commitment to double adaptation finance by 2025;

Urge developed countries and financial institutions to enhance the quality of climate finance, including by substantially increasing the share of grants and making further efforts for improving access;

Note with concern that the LDCs continue to experience unique challenges, complexities and delays in accessing climate finance that require further consideration;

Stress that the New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance (NCQG) should provide new and additional resources, be many times higher than its \$100 billion per year floor, based on science and address the needs of developing countries to implement their adaptation and mitigation actions, and address loss and damage, also considering technology transfer and development and capacity building;

Call upon Parties to make good progress in COP28 to facilitate a adopting an ambitious New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance in 2024;

Call for ambitious pledges to the second replenishment of the GCF; and emphasize that sufficient funds must be allocated by the GCF to LDCs in the form of grants;

On remaining work on implementation,

Underscore the importance of operationalising the UNFCCC centralised carbon market mechanism in 2024, including recognition of the specific needs and special circumstances of LDCs and operationalisation of the capacity building programme of Article 6 of the Paris Agreement;

Note with concern the vulnerability of agriculture to the impacts of climate change and call for addressing these in order to ensure food security in LDCs;

Note the need to implement the Gender Action Plan (GAP), including support Gender Focal Points on Climate Change in their roles;

Recognise the role of the Enhanced Transparency Framework plays in enhancing ambition and building trust among Parties and emphasize the urgent need for financial and technical support for reporting, and for capacity-building with specific considerations for LDCs;

On LDC initiatives and Secretariat,

Commit to continue advancing LDC initiatives, including the LDC Universities Consortium on Climate Change (LUCCC), the LDC Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Initiative for Sustainable Development (REEEI) and the LDC Initiative for Effective Adaptation and Resilience (LIFE-AR); express appreciation to partners that have already contributed their support towards LIFE-AR, LUCCC and REEEI, and call for scaled up support from the international community to enhance the implementation of these initiatives;

Welcome the progress made towards preparations to establish the LDC permanent Secretariat; and call for resources to operationalise it as soon as possible; and

Express gratitude and appreciation to the host country, Republic of Senegal, for their hospitality and leadership of this important ministerial meeting; and thank the Republic of Senegal for chairing the LDC Group.

28 September 2023, Dakar, Republic of Senegal