

INFORSE EAST AFRICA WEBINAR

1ST SEPT 2021

11-12.30PM EAT

CLIMATE ACTION IN EAST AFRICA.

Overview of the progress in Global
Discussions Related to NDCs to
combat Climate Change in relation to
Poverty Reduction

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- The Paris Agreement on Climate Change requires Parties to submit new or updated national climate action plans, the so-called Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) every five years.
- Five years after its adoption, many countries revised or updated their NDCs which was to be delivered in 2020.
- The end of 2020 marked the moment, under the Paris Agreement's "ratchet mechanism" when nations were supposed to formally submit more ambitious commitments for cutting their emissions.



- However, just 45 “parties” (44 countries, plus the EU’s 27 member states viewed as one bloc) met this deadline.
- After a year disrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic, nations representing only around 28% of global emissions registered new or updated “nationally determined contributions” (NDCs) on the UN’s official registry by the end of the year.
- Some big emitters did register their NDCs in time, including the UK and EU. But major absences included the US, India and China.
- Even among the new submissions, many showed no increase in ambition since the first pledges made five years ago, or even backtracked with scaled-back proposals





- With the adoption of the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) an ambitious agenda for mitigating climate change, fostering human development and protecting the biosphere has been set by the international community. Its implementation requires climate policies to go hand in hand with broader sustainable development objectives



- Arguably one of the most important targets of this agenda is to **eradicate extreme poverty** as measured by a daily income below the international poverty threshold (SDG 1.1). However, the impacts of climate change could undermine the efforts to eradicate poverty.
- Negative economic impacts from increased temperatures would affect countries of the Global South more severely leading to an increase in global inequality. Within a given country, poorer households are also more vulnerable to climate impacts.



Importance of eradicating poverty is explicitly recognized in the Paris Agreement. Notably, ending extreme poverty would only marginally increase the efforts required to meet mitigation targets

- The Current NDCs of East African countries predominantly **focus on adaptation but also include mitigation actions.**
- In East Africa, **Kenya** Submitted its revised NDC on **30th December 2020**, While **Tanzania** Submitted on **30th July 2021**. Uganda is yet to finalize its Revision.

SITUATION IN AFRICA & E.AFRICA



- More than **40 percent** of the population in East Africa is living in poverty with income per person of below 1.9 USD per day.
- By 2030, climate change will shift more than 100 million more people into poverty, with farming communities in sub-Saharan Africa being among the hardest hit.
- Poverty eradication is only possible if pervasive inequalities in incomes and economic opportunities within the East African Community (EAC) region are addressed, between rural and urban areas, and between men and women.

SITUATION IN E.AFRICA



- Some of the prioritized sectors and climate actions in the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda have potential elements for poverty reduction but specific targets aimed to shift people out of poverty are missing.
- Effective NDCs in East Africa should integrate climate and poverty eradication solutions in sectors with high impact to poverty and emission reduction such as agriculture, energy, forestry, and livestock.

SITUATION IN E.AFRICA



- Incorporation of effective pro-poor climate actions into national policies, strategies and plans will enhance implementation of NDCs. However some mechanisms should be in place to protect and ensure poor and marginalized groups will benefit from these actions.
- Integrating poverty in the NDCs requires renewed political will and commitment from the EAC Partner states.

SITUATION IN E.AFRICA



- **However**, these NDCs are not explicit on local level climate and sustainable energy solutions on adaptation and mitigation actions. This is somehow **ignoring** the effective and efficient low emission local solutions that offer a sustainable alternative to support more productive and resilient communities with social, economic and environmental returns.





**WHAT CAN BE
DONE?**

In order to integrate poverty reduction in implementation of NDCs of EAC partner states the following measures could be undertaken:

The EAC Secretariat and Institutions

- Prioritize pro poor adaptation and mitigation actions in the implementation of NDCs in the partner states
- The EAC should ensure clear alignment between Partner climate change policies and poverty reduction strategies to mainstream the Paris Agreement commitments.

EAC Partner States

- Relevant climate change ministries and departments should ensure that actions of sector ministries that are integrated into national development plans, recognize the needs of vulnerable and poor groups.
- They should also set specific targets and monitoring indicators to ensure the poor and marginalized are benefiting while implementing the climate action plans (NDCs).
- Ensure wider participation of stakeholders especially the poor and their representatives in the implementation of the NDCs and their reviews.

CSO's

- Document and share regularly the information and lessons related to NDCs and poverty eradication through publications, media, documentary, etc.
- Mobilize citizens and citizen groups to regularly generate information and ideas for contribution to raise the ambition of the NDCs by highlighting the need to address poverty that affects millions.
- Play a role in the promotion of local technologies that have been adopted by communities in the energy and agriculture sectors, in order to attract support for pro-poor technologies from EAC governments and the private sector

PRIVATE SECTOR

- Should abide by and provide support to implementation of regional and national climate laws and regulations established to guide the gradual implementation of NDCs.
- Should work collaboratively with national governments in creating subsidies for energy and agricultural technologies thus enabling access by the rural and urban poor.

DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

- Should ensure that development cooperation support for the implementation of NDCs in East Africa is sensitive to addressing poverty.
- Support CSO and other subnational platforms that can generate information and ideas to raise the implementation of NDCs in East Africa.

CONCLUSIONS

- Despite the different local and international efforts, poverty remains world's biggest challenge. Fighting climate change and achieving sustainable development in the East Africa region will not be possible if poverty eradication is not integrated in climate policies.
- Designing and implementation of climate policies such as NDCs should put poor people at the centre. The SDGs and the Paris Agreement





THANK YOU!

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