



**“Presentation Outcomes of COP 26 and  
Climate Change impact on Women and Girls  
in Africa”**

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## WHY THE GLOBAL FOCUS ON CLIMATE CHANGE?

- Since 1992 the global community coordinated by the United Nations System has realized without undoubtable scientific evidence that the world's climate is changing at a rapid pace and most of the change is caused by human activities.
- Therefore, if a coordinated global attention is not paid to climate change, we risk losing our very survival especially in the most vulnerable regions of the world, particularly Africa.

### Negative impacts of climate change in Africa



**Climate Induced migration** – Creating Internally Displaced Persons and putting strain on existing facilities in major towns.



**Coastal flooding** - Sea-level rise which could lead to many cities and towns which are located along the coast disappearing





**Climate induced migration and Conflict**



**Impact on Food Security**



**Impact on tourism**



**Impact on Women economic empowerment**



# Climate Change affects critical African ecosystems such as wetlands & rivers; forest ecosystems; marine & coastal areas; African mountains, savannahs grasslands & rangelands, drylands and deserts

## Destruction of vital ecosystem services such as:

- Purification of water and air
- Medicinal resources (including pharmaceuticals, chemical models)
- Recreational experiences (including ecotourism, outdoor sports, and recreation)
- Nutrient cycling, primary production, soil formation



# WHAT IS THE UNFCCC COP 26 AND WHAT WAS THE FOCUS OF DISCUSSIONS?



COP 26 is the 26<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties or countries who have signed a Convention under the umbrella of the United Nations to develop a global cooperation for tackling climate change.

The COP is held annually and has been taking place since 1995 when the first COP was held in Germany. It is an annual event and was supposed to have been held by the UK in 2020 but had to be postponed due to the COVID 19 Pandemic.

As the Host Country, the United Kingdom presided over the deliberations of this COP and set the main priorities for the COP. The main priorities are set out by the Host Government



# Main priorities of COP 26

## Secure global net zero by mid-century and keep 1.5 degrees within reach by:

- accelerating the phase-out of coal
- curtail deforestation
- speed up the switch to electric vehicles
- encourage investment in renewables.

## ii. Adapt to protect communities and natural habitats

- Protect and restore ecosystems
- Build defences, warning systems and resilient infrastructure and agriculture to avoid loss of homes, livelihoods and lives

## iii. Mobilise finance

- To deliver on developed countries pledge to mobilise at least \$100bn in climate finance per year.

# Main Outcomes of the UNFCCC COP 26

The main document which is an agreed text by the Parties to the Convention is known as the Glasgow Climate Pact.

For first time the COP targeted fossil fuels as the key driver of global warming, keeping alive the hope of capping global warming

The Glasgow Climate Pact is a balancing act between the demands of developing countries, climate-vulnerable nations, big industrial powers, and those depending on fossil fuels to lift their economies and populations out of poverty.

100 countries, representing about 85% of the world's forests, promised to stop deforestation by 2030

A scheme to cut 30% of current methane emissions by 2030 has been agreed by more than 100 countries.

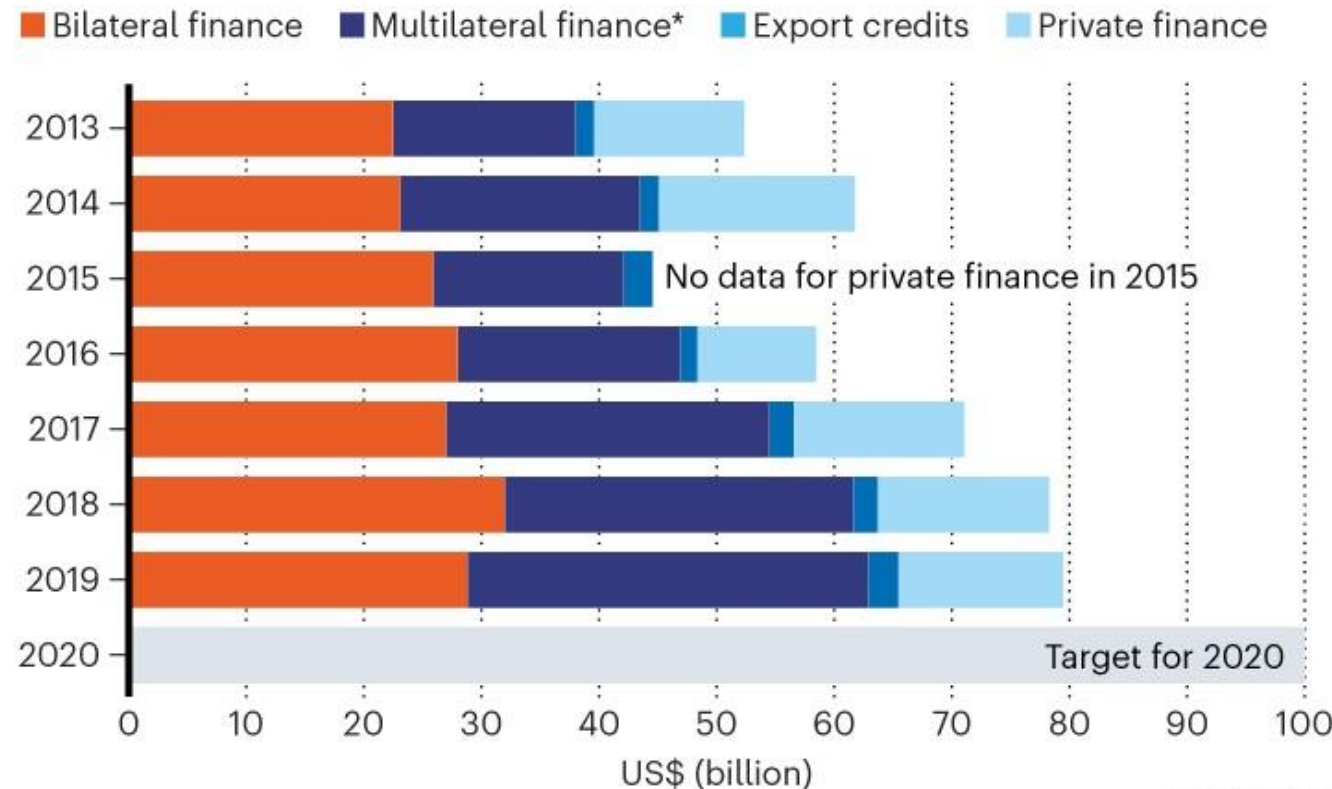
# Implications of COP 26 for Africa

## 1. Climate Financing & Climate Justice

- Africa doesn't contribute much to global GHG emissions-4%. Its people are already suffering from the consequences of CC.
- Likely to be an increase in financing for adaptation projects. Whilst this sounds exciting and will assist African countries to have access to additional funding for climate adaptation interventions, Africa should remain cautiously optimistic and measured in their expectations.
- Most of the funding to be made available will be channeled through the private sector and Multilateral Development Banks through loans and other complex financial instruments. **Question is "how to ensure these funds reach the vulnerable communities"**
- African countries should also build own capacity to independently verify climate funding that is spent in the continent rather than relying on figures produced by developed country Parties. **Here the question is How to Coordinate the various actors ?**

## MISSED TARGET

Rich countries promised developing nations US\$100 billion a year in climate finance by 2020.



\*Including financing through multilateral development banks.



### Understanding the Carbon Market

- Intensive and robust capacity development needs to be undertaken to ensure that Africa countries and practitioners are equipped with the needed skilled set to understand the complexities of carbon accounting and reporting.
- African countries should build the requisite capacity to take full advantage of the carbon markets unlike the Clean Development Mechanism under the Kyoto Protocol.

# CLIMATE IMPACT ON WOMEN AND GIRLS IN AFRICA



## Education

In agrarian societies and those that overwhelmingly depend on environmental resources, girls are often the first to drop out of school to help their families make money, do domestic chores or look after their brothers and sisters.

## Forced/Early Marriage

- Girl children are the first to be sacrificed and given away in child marriages to as a way to reduce the financial burden on the families in the event of climate induced hardships



# CLIMATE IMPACT ON WOMEN AND GIRLS IN AFRICA

## Sexual Violence:

Climate induced conflicts and migration puts girls at increased risk of violence and exploitation, including sexual and physical abuse, and trafficking.

- These risks are heightened especially when they have to travel long distances to collect food, water and firewood.

## Post Harvest Losses:

Women are generally responsible for putting food on the table in many regions in Africa.

- Climate Change damages highly perishable produce especially vegetables which are mostly produced and transported by women





# How to improve support for Women and Girls in the face of Climate Change

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- Building Capacity and developing knowledge, skills and behaviours that girls need to adapt to climate change.

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- Providing leadership capacity for young girls and women to play an active role in climate policy and decision-making is central to ensuring that women and girls are integral to the climate discussions.

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- Advocacy and community mobilization to ensure that we take adequate care of our environmental resources especially in tackling deforestation

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- Engage with communities in both developed and developing countries to support climate change related interventions in developed countries.





## SO WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

### COP 27

- COP 27 will focus on countries updating their Nationally Determined Contributions or NDCs. The NDCs are commitments that individual countries themselves have made to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions
- COP 27 will be held in Egypt. Under the Egyptian Presidency, COP 27 will focus significantly on Adaptation which is a priority for many African countries.

### Why is COP 27 important for Africa

- As the host continent for COP 27 Africa will play an important role in shaping the agenda and issues for discussions and negotiations.
  - Climate financing,
  - Loss and damage, adaptation and
  - strengthening the means of implementation for tackling climate change





# Conclusion

- Africa countries continue to be severely impacted by the Covid 19 Pandemic. The Pandemic creates considerable uncertainty in future adaptation financing, but also opportunity to catalyze resilient and equitable recovery. Stimulus packages must include programmes to build resilience and empowerment of for Women and girls

- Adaptation investment needs to be mobilized from a wider variety of sources including a greater role for Foundations.

- Mainstream the now almost silent voices of Women into Climate Decision Making. Create enabling environment for the participation of Women in policy processes and platforms such as this to tell the story of the struggles but also the resilience and creativity of these women.







**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION**

