

**The Civic Commission for Africa Presentation On Climate Change to TICAD IV Meeting.
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Ladies and Gentlemen it is an honor to be presenting to such an important group of decision makers on such an important issue as climate change. I speak on behalf of the Civic Commission for Africa. I am one citizen, a South African, among the close to 1 billion people that live in our beautiful and diverse continent of over 50 countries. This is a continent with an incredible endowment of natural resources that we have cared for well enough that people come here to enjoy the wildlife. Our forests and savannahs contribute to maintaining some balance in the global climate through the absorption of carbon. We need to use these and other assets wisely for the benefit of the people of Africa. When we conserve our forests for the benefit of the entire planet let it be done in such a way that local people see an improvement in their lives. Sadly this has not always been the case: Africa's human and natural resources have been plundered for centuries and often continue to be exploited today with no fair exchange. Climate change is yet another chapter in the sad story of the under-development of Africa. Despite doing the least to cause the problem of climate change Africa, from Dakar to Dar es Salaam, is already suffering the negative consequences. Industrialized nations have in developing themselves taken up far more than their safe and fair share of atmospheric space.

Allow me in civil society style to point out how large this injustice is. Japan emits over 10 tons of carbon per person per year. This is comparable to most European countries and far less than the USA with its more than 23 tons per person, but it is not sustainable. It is also more than 100 times the less than 0.1 tons emitted on average per Tanzanian.

Climate change is important to us because of its impact on the lives of our people, especially the poorest and most vulnerable. It is undermining progress and threatens the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. We cannot and do not blame all poverty and all natural disasters on climate change, but we do know that climate changes are adding to the other stresses that our people and our environment face.

We are seeing more frequent droughts of greater intensity than in the past. Pastoralist communities in the Ngorongoro District, not far from here, lost 80% of their livestock in the last year due to drought. The same pattern has occurred in countries such as Ethiopia, Kenya, and Uganda. Now ironically floods in this region have taken lives and destroyed houses and crops. The droughts and floods are two sides of the same coin: they are results of greater extremes in weather patterns. We have spoken to fisher people who do not know when they can go out to fish as they are not sure when storms will come. Small farmers that produce most of the food we eat are no longer sure when they can plant and if they will get any harvest.

The increasing scarcity of natural resources is adding to conflicts between and within countries and these will certainly get worse if we do not act with urgency.

Women despite being the majority of our farmers face many constraints such as having weaker rights to more marginal land and receiving less services. For example Women farmers receive less than 10% of credit to farmers and as they use less artificial fertilizer they also benefit less from input subsidies. Unless we give special consideration to how women will benefit from new interventions to respond to climate change we will miss women, just as many existing development and support interventions miss women.

The COP15 (Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC) meeting in Copenhagen last year was an historic opportunity to agree on global climate action. In the end COP15 was an historic disappointment falling far short of what is required and what African governments asked for. As civil society in Africa we supported and still support the science based position of the African Group of governments as presented to COP15 by Algeria on 12th December.

Civil society wants a Fair, Ambitious and Binding global agreement. It must be fair in that those responsible for the problem must take responsibility and those suffering the worst of the consequences must get the assistance needed. It must be ambitious enough to deal with the scale of the problem and provide conditions for a secure and prosperous future for all of us. It must be binding, because we know from past experience that some nations will not honor their commitments thus threatening the required global collective action.

COP15 did not produce a binding agreement, and even the actions suggested in the Copenhagen Accord fall far short of what is required. The goal of keeping average global temperature rises to 2°C is unacceptable as it implies a 3°C average rise in Africa. Worse the limited pledges made will actually lead to a temperature rise of 3.9°C globally by the end of this century. This is estimated to result in a truly catastrophic 6°C rise in temperature in Africa.

Specifically the African Group asked developed countries to cut their green house gas emissions to 45% below the 1990 levels by 2020. Instead we got voluntary pledges from developed countries that amount to cuts of only 13-19%. Japan continues with the promise of a 25% cut. We appreciate this as larger than many other countries and specifically wish to express our appreciation to the honorable Minister of Foreign Affairs Katsuya Okada for his efforts to maintain this commitment, yet we have to point out that this falls far and dangerously short of what is required. We also note with concern that Japan is one of the countries that has not been meeting its existing Kyoto Protocol commitments.

The African Group asked for \$400billion in fast track funding for adaptation and mitigation that must be additional to existing overseas development assistance. We got \$30billion (this is less than some individual banks received to help them through the financial crisis and far less than European farmers receive every year in trade distorting subsidies). Japan has made a relatively generous promise of \$15billion dollars toward the fast track funding. While appreciating this we note that it is short of what is needed and it includes private sector funding, loans, and some existing overseas development assistance commitments.

While finances are important we must never forget that without addressing the causes of climate change all our adaptation and other development efforts will be undermined. We must therefore never trade or reduce our demands for far reaching mitigation efforts in exchange for finances. Nor must we allow a situation where African countries are effectively paid to remain under developed.

Looking forward we call on all countries to continue with the multilateral process and build on the work done before Copenhagen to reach a binding global agreement under the auspices of the UNFCCC as soon as possible.

While appreciating the climate change projects that Japan has supported through TICAD the response to climate change requires more than projects. We appeal to Japan as we go towards the COP16 in Mexico to support by example and politically the required response to

climate change as articulated in the African Group position. A commitment to this effect would be a welcome part of the conclusions of this TICAD meeting.

We encourage African governments to stand united and firm in their demands internationally. We note the progress made in a number of African countries, but urge that more is done at national level to put in place policies, programmes, and capacity that will ensure people in poverty benefit from adaptation funds. We must prove our ability to effectively use the limited funds available if we are to argue for more in the future.

We appeal to all parties to ensure mitigation efforts, such as REDD (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation) projects, do not displace local communities, but rather benefit them while also conserving our environment.

While most African countries have no obligation to cut carbon emissions let us embrace the opportunities in areas such as clean energy. Leadership from African governments along with finance and technology from countries like Japan could bring exciting results.

As the Civic Commission for Africa we will add our voices in support of African government calls for international action, and will do what we can to assist local communities to adapt to the negative effects of climate change. For this there needs to be space for a meaningful civil society participation in policy development as well as programme implementation. We don't want to replace the government role of leading and coordinating development, but believe the participation of all sectors of society will strengthen responses. In particular let us make space for the voice and participation of women in decision making and ensure that they are the primary beneficiaries.

Thank you for your attention and we look forward to working together to meet the challenges of climate change in the future.

Summary of suggested commitments from TICAD IV and all its participants:

1. Support the multilateral process under the auspices of the UNFCCC to reach a binding science based agreement as soon as possible.
2. Japan to support the African Group position in COP16.
3. African governments to stand united and firm in their science based demands internationally.
4. African governments to put in place policies, programmes and capacity to ensure people in poverty benefit from adaptation funds.
5. Respect the land rights of local people and ensure they benefit from all mitigation efforts.
6. African countries and Japan cooperate in grabbing new opportunities such as in the fields of clean energy.
7. Civil society will advocate for pro-poor policies and collaborate with governments in assist with community based adaptation.
8. Governments ensure space for a meaningful civil society participation in policy development as well as programme implementation.
9. Ensure women are part of decision making and are the primary beneficiaries of interventions.