



East African Legislative Assembly Roundtable on
the Implementation of the Paris Agreement.

At EAC Committee Room, Arusha Tanzania.

REPORT

20th June 2019



LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

| | | |
|------|---|---|
| ACLI | - | African Climate Legislation Initiative |
| COP | - | Conference of Parties |
| CSOs | - | Civil Society Organizations |
| EAC | - | East Africa Community |
| EALA | - | East African Legislative Assembly |
| IPCC | - | Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change |
| SDGs | - | Sustainable Development Goals |
| NDCs | - | Nationally Determined Contributions |

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|--|----------|
| List of Abbreviations | i |
| Table of Content | ii |
| | |
| 1.0 BACKGROUND | 1 |
| | |
| 1.1 Overview and the objectives of the session | 2 |
| | |
| 2.0 PROCEEDINGS | |
| 2.1 Opening of the session | 2 |
| 2.2 Introduction remarks from PACJA | 3 |
| 2.3 Introduction remarks from FORUMCC | 3 |
| 2.4 Introduction remarks from ATNR | 3 |
| 2.5 Presentation | 4 |
| | |
| 3.0 OUTCOME | 7 |

Annex

1.0 BACKGROUND

The Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), described as set of actions Parties will undertake as part of their commitment to the Paris Agreement, constitute an important aspect of climate ambition in all countries that are signatory to the Climate Change Convention and the Paris Agreement.

The most dramatic characteristic of the Paris Agreement, and its NDCs, is the emphasize for action at sub-national and national level, as well as the role of non-state actors who will definitely provide important impetus to the momentum on climate action so as to turn the tide on the growing threat of climate change - manifested by such disasters as floods and chronic droughts have serious and significant impacts on communities, ecosystems and economies with negative impact on sustainable development, whereby African countries are most vulnerable to climate change.

As representatives of the citizens of the East African Region, EALA members have expressed concern on the growing threat of climate change to regional development, and as stakeholders, seek to proactively engage in the ongoing international conversations on Climate Action, and particularly the implementation of the Paris Agreement. In addition, coming from individual countries, it essential they actively participate in the implementation of their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), and make EALA an information exchange platform on the progress from respective countries.

EALA members require sufficient understanding of the current and evolving processes. Though the Assembly was represented in the 2nd Parliamentarians Summit on Climate Policy held in Nairobi ahead of the COP21 in Paris which adopted the Paris Agreement, follow-up processes with other stakeholders, including capacity building, has remained erratic.

In addition, several Reports and Resolutions have since been prepared and presented to the Assembly for debate and adoption. In the past, EALA has passed several environmental Bills including the Trans-boundary Ecosystems Management Bill (2010), the EAC Polythene Material Control Bill (2016) and the EAC Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Bill (2014).

The East Africa Community developed a climate change policy founded on three pillars namely adaptation, mitigation, and climate research. This policy seeks to mainstream climate change adaptation into national and regional development plans by sector: water resources; agriculture and food security; energy; and ecosystem services. All these need updating as many issues have emerged, rendering some of them obsolete. The rapid evolution of the climate change discourse requires constant updating of the documents in governmental and intergovernmental institutions.

It is with the above background that EALA Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources, has invited PACJA and FORUM CC to among other things, reflect on the key outcomes of the COP24, the Paris Rulebook which effectively define the guidelines of the NDCs implementation in Eastern African Countries (all countries have adopted the Paris Agreement and submitted their NDCs).

The Roundtable will build on the outcomes of the “EALA Consultative Workshop on Climate Legislation”, which was held in June 2018. Participants during the workshop requested for more capacity building and outreach with other institutions, including strengthening EALA will potential partners.

1.1 OVERVIEW AND OBJECTIVES OF THE SESSION

PACJA and FORUMCC organized East African Legislative Assembly Roundtable on the Implementation of the Paris Agreement at EAC Headquarters, Arusha on 20th June 2019. The meeting brought together fifty (33) representatives from civil society organization, Member of EALA - Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources, academic institutions, and media for roundtable discussion on the outcomes of the UNFCCC COP 24 and also present on the NDCs implementation and role legislator in its implementation. The session aimed at reflection and sharing the key outcomes of COP24 and key entry points for implementation of the Paris Agreement Work Program, to introduce the National Determined Contributions and to share the opportunities for legislators to engage in its implementation and to develop a road map for future engagement between EALA and the African Climate Legislation Initiative (ACLI).

2.0 PROCEEDINGS

2.1 Opening of the Session

Committee Chair, ATNR Hon. Mathias Kasamba opened the session by welcoming stakeholders and other invited participants to the session. And then started by briefly explaining on the objective of the session and outlined key areas that will be covered during the session. He called on all participants to be active and fully engage during the whole session. This was followed by a quick round of introduction by all participants

2.2 Introduction Remarks from PACJA

PACJA thematic leader (Charles Mwangi) briefly explained about PanAfrican Climate Justice Alliance and its works. Mr. Charles stressed that Climate change is no longer an environmental issue anymore but it is economically issue that affects every sector development.

2.3 Introduction Remarks from FORUMCC

FORUMCC Executive Director (Rebecca Muna) briefly explained about FORUMCC as a member based non-profit organization committed to works in climate issues in Tanzania. She said FORUMCC work at Local level with farmers group, pastoralist, also at national level, influence policies, strategies and other adaption process in Tanzania. Also FORUMCC have been working with department of Natural resource and Environment in East Africa Community. “We grateful for this opportunity since we are trying much to link and reach all level to see that we all speak the same language, as Mr. Mwangi said earlier Climate Change is no longer an environment issue and most of Africans take it so, but Climate Change is all about economic and this is why we are trying to reach out all levels to change the way we look at climate change so that we come together to influence the global on where the real challenge is in terms of Climate Finance, action and access of technology and it is a key for implementation to the most of all our Climate change struggling.”

2.4 Introduction Remarks from ATNR

Hon. Dr Woda Jeremaih brief shared her appreciation to PACJA who has been working in global environment, sustainable development, equality and justice for all around Africa in climate change issues and that has been recognize when Mr. Mithika (PACJA Executive Director) were awarded as one of the most influential people in Africa who work around Climate Change. Hon. Woda said she is also looking forward to network more with FORUMCC.



2.5 Presentation

During the session, two main presentations were made by FORUMCC Executive Director and PACJA thematic leader. These were followed by open plenary and opportunities for EALA member's engagement in Africa Climate discourses, including ACLI.

- Context; Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs):

FORUMCC Executive Director – Rebecca Muna shared her presentation on the understanding the concept of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and their context. Rebecca said the awareness level though Paris Agreement and NDCs context is still low among CSOs, Local Government Authority leaders and some sector ministries and departments' officials. She started with providing overview of NDC in the context of Paris Agreement, overview of Tanzania NDCs and National process of NDC. Rebecca said Paris Agreement is the world's first comprehensive agreement on climate change since 195 Signatories entry into force in November 2016. NDCs set out high-level objectives and a vision that a country seeks to accomplish through its mitigation and adaptation efforts, Tanzania after ratified Paris Agreement identified the INDC, she also highlighted that Tanzania has already domestically adopted NDCs from INDCs last year, October 2018.

- **Outcome of COP24 and its implications for EAC countries:**

PACJA thematic leader – Charles Mwangi shared a presentation on the outcome of COP24 and its implications for EAC countries, he started by explaining how Climate change is having significant impact on Africa, and its effects are set to get worse, while Africa’s contribution to the GHGs is negligible (Less than 4% of the total GHG), but it is facing – and will increasingly face - severe effects from climate change and its impacts as a result of its low adaptation capacity. He said according to IPCC the continent is to suffer, with a high degree of certainty, from climate change induced food insecurity, water stress, ecosystem service disruptions, coastal inundation and a spread of disease vectors. Mr. Charles said the special report on the impacts of 1.5C global warming, published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in October, became a major source of tension at the talks for COP 24.

Mr. Charles explained that the heart of talks in Poland was the Paris “rulebook”, which was mandated in 2015 to be finalised by the end of COP24 and this is the detailed “operating manual” needed for the Paris Agreement to enter force in 2020. One of the main issues was whether to agree a single set of rules for all countries – with flexibility for those that need it – or to maintain the current divide between rules for rich and poor referred as “differentiation”. The second issue was the provision of climate finance to help developing nations adapt to the impacts of global warming, mitigate their emissions and participate fully in the Paris process. Countries’ climate pledges (“Nationally Determined Contributions”, NDCs) are mandated by Article 4 of the Paris Agreement. The rules around what should be contained in the same are supposed to make it easier to compare pledges and to add them up as a global aggregate. To this end, the final decision says that all countries “shall” use the latest emissions accounting guidance from the IPCC, last updated in 2006, but now in the process of being refreshed next year.

He highlighted the road from Paris and beyond;

- Countries have developed and adopted nationally-determined contributions
- Countries continue to develop National Adaptation Plans
- Other national climate strategies are also being developed and/or implemented
- Parties prepare for next ‘cycle’ to increase ambition – either 2020 or shortly afterwards.
- Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) begins

The presentation was finalized by very critical questions as a way forward or action point to deal with Climate Change in Africa.

- Climate change should no longer be viewed as just an environmental issue, but one that can impact a nation's overall development
- Can we take advantage of NDCs to boost energy access from Africa? Energy poverty on the continent is high – over 60% or 621 million people have insufficient access to energy
- Can we revisit our NDC as check whether they are too ambitious?
- How can we enhance access to climate finance for our region?
- How can our governments at national and subnational levels be mobilized to allocate finances for climate change interventions?



Group photo during East African Legislative Assembly Roundtable Meeting.

3.0 OUTCOME

The East African Legislative Assembly Roundtable on the Implementation of the Paris Agreement contributed to the following outcomes;

- Enhanced awareness and coordinated approach among members of EALA and CSOs;
- Parliamentary initiatives driving climate change agenda in African countries this will increase participation and visibility of EALA parliamentarians in national, regional and international climate dialogue processes;
- To share the key outcomes of COP 24 and the key entry points for implementation of the Paris Agreement Work Program;
- The committee members were introduced the National Determined Contributions and the opportunities for legislators to engage in its implementation and
- The committee members promised to engage in influencing of NDCs from their individual countries and align them to the regional strategies