

A *Monthly* from the East African Sustainability Watch Network and INFORSE East Africa

Uganda's Unveils Updated NDC With More Focus on the Energy Sector

Recently, Uganda through the Ministry of Water and Environment, submitted its Updated Nationally Determined Contributions with an ambitious economy-wide mitigation target of 24.7% reduction below the Business As Usual (BAU) in 2030, from the 22% reduction target communicated in the first NDC in 2016. Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) is a climate action plan to cut emissions and adapt to climate impacts. Each Party to the Paris Agreement is required to establish an NDC and update it every five years.

The Paris agreement asks countries to update their NDCs every five years. But given the large gap between the emissions cuts required to limit global warming to 1.5°C and the emissions reductions currently planned, the 2021 Glasgow Climate Pact in called on all countries to revisit and strengthen the targets in their NDCs in 2022.

The update process was informed by a stocktake of NDC implementation that highlighted the performance of the first NDC and emerging issues, which included unclear methodological approaches for estimating and accounting for GHG emissions and lack of targets, among others. The NDC scope of sectors, with priority adaptation to address key adaptive capacity at all levels, increasing the resilience of ecosystems. The updated NDC energy and highlights 48 priority adaptation actions for 2025 and 2030.

Achieving the ambitious targets in the Updated NDC, calls for strong partnerships including scaling up available local solutions, and pooling resources.

adaptation and mitigation sectoral update process has broadened the response to climate change being vulnerabilities in sectors, building addressing loss and damage, and communities, infrastructure, and focuses on 13 sectors including

Despite being a rich country in terms of energy resources, Uganda's energy potential has not been fully harnessed. To ensure a sustainable electricity supply, the country has created a conducive regulatory environment and incentives aimed at diversifying the country's energy generation mix. While the total installed generation capacity has grown from 60 MW in 1954 to 1,267.2 MW as of 2020 (MEMD, 2020), biomass - accounting for more than 89% of total primary consumable energy, continues to play an important part for majority of the population with limited access to the electricity grid. In 2005, direct combustion of fuel for energy use in the residential sector was approximately 369,000 Tera Joules (Ministry of Water and Environment, 2019), of which the vast majority (almost 99.5%) was from biomass sources. The remainder (0.5%) was from liquid fuels (e.g., kerosene). Also, Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) Sector is the greatest contributor to GHG emissions, due to deforestation for various reasons including energy use, agriculture and logging

Hence, the updated NDC highlights the adaptation and mitigation actions under energy and other sectors. On adaptation, there is a planned tripling by 2030 of the proportion of the population with access to electricity. The updated NDC also seeks to half the share of biomass energy used for cooking by 2030, while increasing five-fold per capita electricity consumption. Achieving these ambitious targets call for strong partnerships including scaling up available local solutions, and pooling resources. But these efforts are hinged on both conditional and unconditional targets. The 5.9% (unconditional target) BAU emission reduction by 2030 will be facilitated by own domestic resources, while the 18.8% (conditional target) is subject to the availability of means of implementation from international support such as financial resources, capacity-building, and technology transfer. Also, the NDC counts on capacity building and technology development and transfer to smoothly implementing the interventions in this updated NDC and achieving the Paris Agreement's goals. Hence, the importance of supporting climate change education, training, public awareness, public participation and access to information is seen as crucial to the implementation of the updated NDC. Also underscored is the need for a whole-of-society approach to promote knowledge, awareness raising and information sharing. For gender-responsiveness actions have been identified in NDC implementation, but will need to be sharper and more actionable. **Read the Updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) from:** https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/NDC/2022-09/Updated%20NDC%20Uganda_2022%20Final.pdf

World Food Day 2022 is a Reminder for Global Solidarity for Sustainable Agri-Food Systems



The East African region is facing a wave of inflation as disruptions in the global supply chain continue, and prices of essential commodities including food rise. According to monthly data from the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics as quoted by *The East African Newspaper* (September 4, 2022), the country's inflation figures have been on an upward trend from a low of 5.1 percent in February before Russia's invasion of Ukraine disrupted supply chains, pushing up global energy and food prices.

In Kenya, the situation has been compounded by the removal of a government food subsidy that had seen the price of a two-kilogramme packet of maize flour fall to Ksh100 (\$0.83) from Ksh240 (\$2). On July 20, outgoing President Kenyatta announced the fifth stimulus package of his regime focusing on food subsidy to cushion households from hunger. The one-month subsidy elapsed after the General Election of August 9.

According to *The East African Newspaper* (September 4, 2022), in Uganda, 'the monthly inflation as measured by Consumer Price Index for August increased to nine per cent from 7.9 per cent registered in July, despite government interventions to lessen the hardship'. The Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) blames the rise to high prices of foods like plantain (*matooke*), which has risen from Ush709 (\$0.187) per kilogram to Ush802 (\$0.212), compared with an average of Ush493 (\$0.130) at the same period last year. Increases in the prices of food were noted in commodities like fish from Ush11,603 (\$3.06) to Ush13,339 (\$3.527) per kilogramme; dry beans from Ush3,607 (\$0.95) to Ush3,805 (\$1.006); maize flour from Ush3,343 (\$0.88) to Ush3,421 (\$0.904); fresh cassava from Ush827 (\$0.218) to Ush914 (\$0.24); and green cabbages from Ush810 (\$0.214) to Ush1,012 (\$0.267).

This year's World Food Day therefore will be commemorated against a backdrop of increased food prices across East Africa, coupled with a worst drought in Kenya in 40 years, according to the Kenya Government and UN. More than four million people are "food insecure," and 3.3 million can't get enough water to drink.

This year's theme, "Leave no one behind: Better production, better nutrition, a better environment, and a better life," highlights the importance of global solidarity in promoting sustainable agri-food systems (from the primary production of food and non-food agricultural products, as well as in food storage, aggregation, post-harvest handling, transportation, processing, distribution, marketing, disposal and consumption). In addition, according to *The Hunger Project*, the gender gap in food insecurity is widening - in 2021, 31.9 per cent of women in the world were moderately or severely food insecure compared to 27.6 per cent of men. 'To address all of these, we need to drive structural transformation that creates a sustainable and resilient food system,' underscores *The Hunger Project*

Despite the struggle to have a more equal society, too many people have been left behind, as they are unable to be part of the perceived 'development' in the social, economic, political and technological fronts. Today, the above high food prices in East Africa will sustain millions in the food insecurity and malnutrition bracket.

Furthermore, the effects of COVID-19, climate change and the Russia / Ukraine war are aggregating food insecurity around the world, hampering access and availability of nutritious food and impeding success towards Sustainable Development Goal 2: Zero Hunger.

According to State of Food Security and Nutrition (2021), external drivers (e.g. conflicts or climate shocks) and internal ones (e.g. low productivity and inefficient food supply chains) to food systems need to be addressed. This is because they are pushing up the cost of nutritious foods which, combined with low incomes, are increasing the unaffordability of healthy diets, particularly in East countries affected by multiple drivers.

Read more about the World Food Day 2022: <https://www.fao.org/world-food-day/en>

African CSOs Urge African Leaders to Commit to Rights-focused, People-centered Actions to Climate Change



Participants at the Global People's Assembly (Pix: GCAP)

The Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP) Africa, National Coalitions, CSOs, Community groups and individual participants that met at the Global People's Assembly (Africa Session) on September 20, 2022, released a statement. They expressed concern about the deteriorating life conditions of the poor and vulnerable groups of people in Africa occasioned by a range of human factors which continue to create barriers to the realization of development goals (including the SDGs), freedoms and rights of the people

The CSOs singled out challenges all of them man-made and avoidable; and put forward thoughts on how they can be addressed. One of these is Climate Change Disasters and Justice for Poor Communities.

The CSOs noted that they agree with climate scientists' continuous, empirical assertions and warnings that the global climate is changing due to human activity and in a manner that threatens existence of all forms of life on the planet including human life.

'The widespread use of fossil fuel remains a key driver to this negative change. We are concerned that manifestations of this change as experienced in Africa include, among others, frequent and unprecedented floods and droughts resulting to wanton destruction of property, farmlands, settlements and causing deaths of people, livestock and wildlife. We are further concerned that poor communities in many parts of Africa are hit the hardest, despite contributing very little to the causes of the phenomenon', The CSOs asserted in their Joint statement.

The CSOs as a result urge African leaders to commit to rights-focused and people-centered actions to help poor and vulnerable groups in the Region to address climate adaptation challenges and increasing related losses and damages.

'We call on African leaders to create regional funds to increase the Region's capacity to adapt to effects of climate change and also to move towards a just, clean and inclusive energy transition with a priority focus on increasing access to cheaper decentralised renewable energy, ending deforestation, reducing household energy poverty and powering key economic sectors', reads the Joint statement in part.

The CSOs also urge African leaders to increase support and financing towards locally-led adaptation processes and disaster reduction mainstreaming in plans targeting vulnerable groups such as smallholder farmers, pastoralists, fishing communities and others.

On the upcoming UNFCCC COP27 Summit in Egypt due to take place November 6 – 18, 2022 and at the UN General Assembly (that took place September 13-27, 2022), the CSOs call upon African leaders to collectively engage global leaders during the for increased accountability on pollution to poor communities especially in Africa within the framework of UNFCCC and other globally agreed accountability mechanisms.

The Global People's Assembly coordinated by GCAP in cooperation with 30 regional and global networks took place from September 21-23 2021. It sought to among others, to discuss the implementation of Agenda 2030 and the Paris Agreement and make recommendations; and bring the united voice of the Global People's Assembly to the UN GA, governments and UN organisations; strengthen the cooperation between CSO networks for civil society actions and people's movements.

Inputs from the 19 sessions of the Global People's Assembly and the outcomes of National People's Assemblies in 28 countries, obtained through bottom-up processes, resulted in a Global People's Assembly Declaration.

Read more about the Full CSO statement from the People's Assembly: <http://gcap.global/peoples-assembly/>