



MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT,
FORESTRY AND TOURISM

NAMIBIA'S CLIMATE CHANGE POSITION PAPER TO THE COP28
30 NOVEMBER – 12 DECEMBER 2023, DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

UNITE, ACT AND DELIVER

1. INTRODUCTION

The 28th Conference of the Parties (COP 28) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change will be held from the 30 November – 12 December 2023 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE), under the auspices of UAE Climate Change Envoy Dr. Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber as the COP 28 President Designate. The Government of the UAE intends to organise COP28 around 10 thematic days of focused on open consultation and discussions, including side events, panel discussions, roundtables and other interactive elements to bring governments and non-governmental stakeholders together to work towards common goals.

In Sharm el- Sheikh COP 27, Parties succeeded in concluding most part of the extensive negotiations including a landmark for the adoption of the Loss and Damage Fund to operationalise the Paris Agreement. With the latest science from the IPCC Sixth, assessment report highlights that the world is off track from pathways consistent with keeping 1.5 degree Celsius and the Paris Agreement within reach, and highlights the urgent need to significantly raise ambition with regard to emissions reduction.

Parties at COP28 will embark on the full implementation of the agreement and on the delivery of the various commitments and pledges made in order to effectively adapt to the negative impacts of climate change. Therefore, COP 28 will define the future of the climate change regime in view of the Global Stocktake to review, in totality, the achievements made so far under the Paris Agreement, particularly with respect to mitigation efforts, transfer of technologies, and capacity building by developed countries and the provision of climate finance to developing countries.

Global warming is one of the major threats to human kind ever that needs a global solution. Although all nations across the globe are affected by its adverse impacts, their adaptive capacities vary in terms of recovery from the losses and damages associated with the impacts of climate change. In most cases, developing countries (non-annex 1) including Namibia have limited capacities to cope with the impact of climate change fluxes due to limited financial resources, technology and human resources.

It is against this background that a United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was born at the Rio-Summit on sustainable development in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1992 with entry into force in 1994 and Namibia ratified it in 1995. The ultimate objective of the Climate Change Convention (UNFCCC) is to achieve **"stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system."** The latest climate analysis has identified a stabilization range of 450 to 500 parts per million (ppm) CO₂. According to the UNFCCC, this level should be reached within a time frame that allows the ecosystems to adapt naturally to global warming, while making sure that food production is not at risk and that development occurs in a sustainable manner.

The UNFCCC is guided by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) that provides advanced scientific advice to the Convention as well as the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technical Advice (SABSTA) that works closely with the Subsidiary Body of Implementation (SBI). Under the Convention, a Kyoto Protocol adopted in 1997 to give the quantified emission reduction (ER) targets to developed countries (Annex 1 Parties) in the commitment period from 2002 - 2012. A second commitment period from 2013 - 2020 was agreed at COP 17 in Durban South Africa and amendments to the quantified emission reduction targets were agreed at COP 18 in Doha, Qatar.

In accordance with scientific findings, it was established that global warming (defined as an increase in the earth's average atmospheric temperature that causes corresponding changes in climate) was caused by a cumulative/trajectory or historical emissions from developed countries in their pursuits to

industrialize their economies. In addition, and to elaborate, these countries have caused global warming and Africa did not contribute significant emissions that cause global warming. However, the continent is highly affected by the impacts of global warming. In the meantime, some developing countries, in their pursuit to reach a high level of development as their counterparts in the west also peaked up efforts to industrialize their economies and this also increases greenhouse emissions into the atmosphere.

The IPCC report (AR6) shows that emissions of greenhouse gases from human activities are responsible for approximately 1.1°C of warming since 1850-1900, and it is anticipated that over the next 20 years, global temperature is expected to reach or exceed 1.5°C of warming. If countries do not accelerate efforts in the next 20 years to reduce the greenhouse gases as required by science, there will be catastrophic climatic events that will threaten human existence on earth, particularly in the developing countries. In the meantime, there will be medium to severe adverse effects of climate change but this is just a manifestation of symptoms of an ailing climate and these, inter alia, include:

- Prolonged droughts due to variable rainfall patterns which affects the agricultural sectors both livestock and crops;
- Floods due to variability and intensity of rainfall patterns that affects agriculture in terms of soil productivity through soil erosion, water-logging of crops and grass for livestock;
- Invasion of alien species and bush encroachment affecting the agriculture particularly the livestock sub-sector;
- Invasion by rare insects that attacks crops and threatens food security;
- Destruction of infrastructure such as roads, power lines, commercial, institutional and residential premises which retards economic development progress of nations particularly developing countries whose infrastructures are built from loans;
- Ocean warming which causes migration of commercially viable fish stocks such as Sardine which migrates to cold waters elsewhere particularly toward the western countries;
- Ocean acidification which kills plankton which are the foundation of the oceanic food chain.
- Sea level rise that submerges coastal towns and disruption to major economic activities such as tourism and fishing.
- High rate of rural-urban migration due to loss of soil productivity or agricultural failures as a result of droughts or floods which affects women, children and the youth.
- Shifting of plants distribution, decline in vegetation cover and significant changes in vegetation structure and function on the whole ecosystem.
- Increase in heat stress and other vector water borne illnesses.

This position paper is based on the four pillars of the Convention mainly; **Finance, Adaptation, Mitigation, Capacity Building and technology Transfer** as well as Article of the Paris Agreement.

Meetings of the COP28/CMP18/ CMA 5

- The 28th Conference of the Parties (COP 28)
- The 18th Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP 18)
- The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA 5)
- The 59th Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI 59)
- The 59th Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA 59)
- Various side events

Key agenda items / issues at COP 28 of direct relevance to Namibia are described in the matrix below:

Agenda items / issues	Brief description of the current status	Namibian expectation/position
FINANCE	<p>Articles 2.1(C) and 9 of the Paris Agreement stipulates that developed country Parties shall provide financial resources to assist developing country Parties to implement mitigation and adaptation actions in continuation of their existing obligations under the Article 4 of the UNFCCC. In Cancun, through decision 1/CP.16, developed countries country Parties committed to a goal of mobilizing jointly USD 100 billion per year by 2020 to address the needs of developing countries. So far, only about US\$ 20 billion was mobilised under the Green Climate Fund. This situation is worrisome for developing country and limit their ability to meet their NDC targets by 2030. Namibia is extremely concerned by inadequate provision of financial resources from developed countries into the Multilateral Funding windows serving as the financial mechanism of the UNFCCC.</p>	<p>a) Namibia urges the scaling up of the levels of climate finance, by providing concrete long term-targets for climate finance pathways and accounting methodologies for the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) by developed countries to reach a minimum target of USD 100 billion per year from 2025 and beyond, while striking a balance of the allocation between adaptation and mitigation through significant increase of grant-based support for adaptation. A considerable amount of finance is urgently needed to support the implementation of NDC in order to achieve the 20230 targets.</p>
MITIGATION	<p>Under the Paris agreement Parties have committed to periodically prepare and submit more enhanced and ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to keep the global temperature well below 1.5-degree Celsius above pre-industrial level by mid-century. The sixth IPCC report published in August 2021 revealed that, unless rapid and deep reductions in CO2 and other greenhouse gas emissions happens in the coming decades, achieving the goals of the 2015 Paris Agreement will be beyond reach as the global temperature is likely to surpass the 1.5 degree by 2030 sooner than initially</p>	<p>a) Namibia calls on all parties to submit more ambitious NDCs, and to adopt ambitious deadlines for achieving net zero emission. Namibia further calls on developed countries to provide the means of implementation and support for effective Implementation of NDC by developing countries. Developed countries shall take lead in mitigation of Greenhouse Gas emissions, line with their historical responsibilities while developing countries who are capable of doing so shall do it under the</p>

	thought. .	principle of “Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDRC)”
TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AND CAPACITY BUILDING	Industrialised countries are expected to provide financial assistance and technology transfer to help developing countries transition to a low-carbon economy.	a) Namibia wishes to see the acceleration of climate technology transfer; creating access to information and knowledge on climate technologies; and fostering collaboration among climate technology stakeholders via the Centre's network of regional and sectoral experts from academia, the private sector, and public and research institutions. Also, Namibia calls for better coordination between the various operating entities, to increase effectiveness of existing funding. As per the UNFCCC article 4.5 and the Paris Agreement article 10 of the Paris Agreement
ADAPTATION	The Paris Agreement recognises adaptation as a key pillar of the long-term global response to climate change. The implementation of the Article 7 of the Paris Agreement remains unclear, with Parties yet to clarify the Global Goal on Adaptation. The implications of Article 7 remain unacceptably vague, with Parties yet to clarify GGA interpretation and thus its implementation.	a) Namibia urges Parties to develop a global goal for adaptation and to split climate finance evenly between adaptation and mitigation. Proceeds from the global carbon market system set up under the Paris Agreement should go to the Adaptation Fund to finance projects and programmes in developing countries.
TRANSPARENCY	Paris Agreement article 13 on enhanced transparency framework aims to hold countries accountable for their climate commitments.	a) Namibia wishes to see speedily finalisation of the details of the tables and formats countries will use to track and report their greenhouse gas emission, climate and support.
ARTICLE 6 OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT	Article 6 of the Paris Agreement aims at promoting integrated approaches that assist Parties in implementing their NDCs through voluntary international cooperation. Under this	By participating in the carbon markets, Namibia can attract investment in all the IPCC sectors such as AFOLU, energy, IPPU and waste. This may contribute to

	<p>mechanism, developing countries will be able to implement projects that generate carbon credits above their NDC targets and sell to the carbon markets to generate the much-needed revenues in line with their respective National Carbon Market Frameworks.</p>	<p>climate change mitigation, economic development, and the conservation of Namibia's valuable forest resources.</p>
LOSS AND DAMAGE	<p>The Paris Agreement decision on loss and damage is a separate pillar of climate finance to compensate developing countries from losses and damages associated with climate change. It aims to establish a Fund under the Paris Agreement.</p>	<p>a) Namibia is concerned about the increasing devastating climatic events in the African continent. Namibia shall call for a speedy operationalization of the Fund on Loss and Damage, in order to support the vulnerable developing countries.</p> <p>b) Namibia should call for an inclusion of loss and damage in the discussions on the NCQG with new, additional and adequate financial resources from developed countries based on a polluter-pay principle.</p>
GLOBAL STOCKTAKE	<p>Established by the Article 14 of the Paris Agreement. It means looking at everything related to where the world stands on climate action and support, identifying the gaps, and working together to agree on solutions pathways (to 2030 and beyond).</p>	<p>It should be a party driven process and be undertaken in a transparent manner to avoid double counting of efforts (mitigation and adaptation) and support provided. It shall be done in a view to identify and closing gaps on efforts and support provided.</p>
JUST TRANSITION AND ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION/RESPONSE MEASURES	<p>The implementation of climate action may have some positive and negative economic consequences to various economies. However, the only option left is for the affected economies to undertake economic transitioning through economic diversification.</p>	<p>Namibia calls for support to developing countries to undertake comprehensive studies to fully understand the positive and negative consequences associated with global climate response measures. Namibia calls for the eradication of unilateral measures implemented by developed countries that may affect the imported products from developing countries especially the African countries with limited means of implementation.</p>

LIKELY OUTCOME

The COP 28 planned for November – December 2023 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, will aim to finalise the guidelines to fully operationalise the Paris Agreement reached in 2015 at COP 21.

- COP28 will be a significant moment because it marks the first “global stocktake”, a comprehensive assessment of progress against the goals of the Paris Agreement –

mitigation, adaptation and means of implementation. COP28 should also finalise crucial work on several long-awaited deliverables, including deciding on a global goal on adaptation, the details of the loss and damage finance facility, a global goal on finance, closing the massive emissions gap and accelerating both clean energy and a just transition, as well as work in many other areas. The current geopolitical situation makes the prospects for meaningful outcome of COP28 uncertain.

- The work under the Glasgow-Sharm el- Sheikh work programme on global goal on adaptation over the last two years will yield results at COP28 by defining a clear set of targets and indicators that guide but not prescribe, national efforts on adaptation including through strengthening processes such as NAPs and resilience approaches considered under NDCs. These targets should provide focus to strengthened adaptation action and support to increase resilience and reduce vulnerability.
- Work on the new fund for addressing Loss and Damage and funding arrangements.
- COP28 will also introduce the role of trade to COPs for climate-smart, equitable growth, including supply chain decarbonization, transition, and resilience. Gender Equality Day will focus on gender-responsive policy-making and better access to finance to achieve for the Just Transition that advances gender equality and allows for the full, equal, and meaningful participation of women and girls in climate action. In light of the global focus on private sector engagement, commitments, and finance, the program will additionally examine accountability mechanisms that help to turn promises and pledges into tangible results while boosting transparency.
- The GST outcome is set to underscore the scale of the implementation challenge. In addition, we expect the COP28 decision on the new collective quantified goal on finance (NCQG) to further speak to this implementation challenge, which must be coherently addressed through the adoption of the NCQG at COP29 in 2024.

CONCLUSIONS

Climate change is a very sensitive issue both in terms of environmental, economic, social and political dimensions. The world is at a defining moment on the future of climate stabilization. This needs decisive and urgent global commitment without further procrastination and reservation. We need to act real to ensure the continuity of life on this planet.

Since the atmospheric dynamics have no borders, this makes climate change a global concern that needs a global solution. Hence, a multilateral approach to fighting climate change is the only viable and effective option for us all the indigenous citizens of this planet. Thus, confidence building and unity of purpose is vital in the pursuit to fight global warming and its associated impacts to inform the post 2021 climate regime, and demonstrate commitment and ambition in reducing the negative impacts of climate change. Developed countries must acknowledge and accept, in line with the principles and provisions of the UNFCCC that they caused global warming and thus shall demonstrate clear leadership and decisive action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and provide financing as well as technological transfer of mitigation and adaptation actions to developing countries who contributed less to the problem.

Other important and compulsory meetings for all delegates

- Namibian coordination meetings (Time to be announced via email/whatsapp)

- African Group Meetings: 08H00 – 09H00
- G77 and China Meetings: 09H00 -10H00
- Evening Coordination Meetings: 19H00 – 21H00 or late
- Contact Group Meeting (Agenda items COP/CMP/SBI/SABSTA): On Screen or Daily Programme/app
- Daily Programme: www.unfccc.int – meetings link
- G77&China: secretary-g-77-and-china@unfccc.int