## **Maat for Peace’ submission on “Promotion and protection of human rights in the context of mitigation, adaptation, and financial actions to address climate change, with particular emphasis on loss and damage”**

**Background**

Although African countries bear the least responsibility for the world's climate crisis, they are facing its most serious consequences. 48 sub-Saharan African countries are responsible for only 0.55% of CO2 emissions. However, 7 of the 10 countries are the most vulnerable to climate change are in Africa. Therefore, Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights makes this contribution to the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change, hoping that it will contribute to strengthening the protection of human rights in Africa, especially with the intensification of climate changes that negatively affect the lives of millions of people.

**First: Examples of some States' suffering loss and damage due to the adverse effects of climate change.**

1. **Kenya**

The agricultural sector remains the cornerstone of the Kenyan economy, employing 80% of the rural population and contributing about 65% of export revenues. Unfortunately, the latest climate estimates indicate that the drought has led to the wilting of more than 50% of the maize, beans and other crops grown during the country's main agricultural season from September to December 2021, marking the third season of low rainfall in Kenya.

The decrease in the season's production, coupled with long-standing cross-border trade battles over agricultural products, has led to higher prices of key food items in markets across the region. That was why three to four million people in Kenya were in need of urgent food assistance[[1]](#footnote-1). It also leads to civil strife, with caring societies grappling with each other for scarce resources. Accurately calculating the level of rise in water and food prices, grain prices have increased threefold to fivefold from the usual levels in many markets, along with declining livestock. The amount of cereal that can be bought by selling goats in some cases has also decreased by up to 40% below the five-year average.[[2]](#footnote-2)

Climate change also affects wild animals in the region. It exacerbates human-wildlife conflict and habitat destruction, with nomadic herders losing their livestock and settling in what was once home to wildlife. It is an escalation of poaching, where locals and refugees kill animals to eliminate competition for scarce resources, feed themselves and their families, or sell their meat for little income. It also affects wildlife directly, with animals falling dead from extreme and inexhaustible heat and lack of food and water.

At least 100 giraffes have been killed in the past two months in Kenya's northeastern Wajir province. Giraffes die of hunger and thirst, or they die after being caught in the mud. It can be said that this wealth is weakened by hunger, and simply do not have the strength to lift up. In total, 4,000 giraffes risked being eliminated due to drought[[3]](#footnote-3). Dead animals on the roadside have become a familiar sight -- not hit by passing vehicles, but died in large numbers of thirst and starvation.

Rising temperatures also affect more incidents of new pests and diseases. Changes in rainfall patterns also disrupt flowering cycles and irregular rains hinder coffee beans' maturity, affecting quality and quantity.[[4]](#footnote-4)

1. **Somalia**

As global warming grows, with Somalia's rain delayed, drought spreading and waves of desertification creeping up on planted land, about 6 million people (40% of the population) face severe food insecurity. Alarmingly, there is a real risk of famine in the coming months if rains and humanitarian aid do not arrive. With a funding gap in relief needs of US $192 million over the next six months; This means that priority must be given to nutrition (where treatment takes precedence over prevention) and food assistance.[[5]](#footnote-5)

The situation has deteriorated, with the current drought eradicating crops and livestock deaths due to lack of water and pasture, depriving many pastoral communities of their sole source of income. The country has experienced three consecutive failed rainy seasons. The fourth begins in April and lasts until June, and if it ends in the same vein, that will be the worst drought in 40 years to hit Somalia. Somalia is thus the worst affected by drought in the Horn of Africa.[[6]](#footnote-6)

745,000 people have been displaced by drought in Somalia since the beginning of 2021, including 500,000 in the first quarter of 2022. Of this year's displaced persons, nearly two thirds have fled to urban areas, including Mogadishu, putting further pressure on already limited services and overcrowded displacement camps. Arguably, more than 1 in 10 of Somalia's 12 million people are now internally displaced as a result of conflict and humanitarian crises.[[7]](#footnote-7) On May 10, 2022, some 4,416 people were secondarily displaced through 18 IDP camps in Galkayo (Mudug) after storms destroyed their shelters. This corresponds to more than 10% of all displaced people living in camps around Galkayo. The majority of these IDPs were already living in very poor temporary shelters with poor sanitation and limited access to hygiene facilities making them more vulnerable to such disasters.

**Second: The necessary actions to enhance the measures taken by countries to ensure the limitation of climate change**

Africa's current energy demand is estimated at 700 TWh, which is 4,000 times the wind and solar capacity added by the entire world in 175 GWh in 2020. Africa cannot manufacture using wind and solar power alone. Nearly 600 million Africans still lack electricity.

However, Africa plays a key role in solving the global climate crisis. The Congo Basin is the second-largest rainforest in the world and is vital for stabilizing the world's climate, absorbing 1.2 billion tons of CO2 annually.

The global shift to renewable energy means a massive increase in the production of batteries, electric vehicles and other renewable energy systems requiring Africa's mineral resources. For example, the DRC accounts for 70% of the world's cobalt, the vital metal for battery production. Demand for cobalt is expected to double by 2030. Conversely, 84 million people 80% in the DRC still lack electricity.

Taking advantage of economic opportunities is green. Increasing demand for electric vehicles, critical metals and renewable energy systems is an opportunity for Africa to capture larger parts of supply chains in the new green economy.[[8]](#footnote-8)

Investments in resilience and adaptation can boost green industries, and when combined with investments in health, education, digital economy, innovation and sustainable infrastructure, they also have tremendous potential to create environmentally smart jobs and boost economic growth.

The scale and trajectory of climate change migration across Africa will also require bold and transformative actions:

**Net-zero targets**: the global community has the responsibility to cut greenhouse gas emissions to reduce the scale and reach of climate impacts.

**Locality and context matter**: countries will need to embed internal climate migration in far-sighted green, resilient, and inclusive development planning across Africa.

**Data**: investing in research and diagnostic tools is key to better understand the drivers of internal climate migration for well-targeted policies.

**Focus on people**: invest in human capital to engage people in productive and sustainable climate smart jobs.[[9]](#footnote-9)

African Governments themselves must take a full-fledged government approach to addressing climate change. Many leave it to the Ministry of the Environment and fail to mobilize all ministries -- finance, defense, transport, energy and industry -- to take action. Lack of resources does not exempt them from policy inconsistencies, the money itself must be invested in the right things: a fair transition of energy, education to develop the skills needed to respond to the climate, and work to preserve biodiversity, forests and the natural environment by making it economically viable for people living there.[[10]](#footnote-10)

**Third: The necessary actions to enhance the measures taken by states and commercial institutions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to limit human rights impacts.**

 Accelerating governance and anti-corruption reforms will enhance the stakeholder’s confidence and contribute to improving the planning and implementation of climate transformation. Furthermore, the effective use of resources to support affected communities and areas will be necessary to ensure social cohesion.[[11]](#footnote-11)

Africa is experiencing an increase in weather and climate disturbance, leading to disasters and disrupting economic, environmental and social systems. By 2030, it is estimated that up to 118 million people living in extreme poverty will be exposed to drought, floods and extreme heat in Africa if adequate response measures are not taken. This will place additional burdens on poverty alleviation efforts and significantly impede growth and prosperity.

Adaptation: pursuing the common priorities identified by the African Union Green Recovery Action Plan would facilitate the achievement of the continent’s sustainable and green recovery from the pandemic while also enabling effective climate action[[12]](#footnote-12).

**Africa should focus on developing local industries by placing processing and manufacturing at the center of sustainable circular economies**. This would eliminate shipments of Africa's minerals and other emissions-emitting goods to Asia for manufacturing and processing, to be shipped back as finished goods to consumer markets.

**Rebuild**: Africa is the most exposed region to the ravages of global warming largely because its infrastructure is ill equipped to withstand climate shocks. Without intervention, the cost of structural damage caused by natural disasters in Africa will increase to US$415 billion a year by 2030 from between US$250 billion to US$300 billion now[[13]](#footnote-13)

Although Africa contributes about 3 .6% of global CO2 emissions, the impacts of climate change on Africa are even more acute, bearing in mind that access to clean energy at affordable prices remains one of the continent's biggest challenges. Addressing persistent barriers to the continent's energy development through the technical, financial, market, political and regulatory framework is therefore essential.[[14]](#footnote-14)

In order to reduce gas emissions, Africa must follow two tracks:

1. **Local**

Africa has abundant reserves of many major natural resources, including iron ore and copper, as well as agricultural goods, such as cocoa, coffee and cotton. However, at present, these raw materials are overwhelmingly shipped abroad, especially to Asia, for processing. 74% of African cocoa and 86% of African crude oil are exported untreated, with some of the resulting processed goods recharged to Africa. Creating circular domestic economies will reduce ship

This will require more abundant and reliable electricity supply for Africa's industrialization, which in turn will enhance local living standards and prevent the erosion of carbon basins in forests to provide firewood and coal.

1. **Rebuild**

Africa is the region most exposed to the devastation of global warming, largely because its infrastructure is ill-equipped to withstand climate shocks. Without intervention, the cost of structural damage caused by natural disasters in Africa will rise from $250-300 billion now to $415 billion annually by 2030.

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The continent needs strong and resilient building — to re-build ocean and river defenses, and infrastructure in transport, construction, electricity grids and off-grid energy, which will in turn help the development of sustainable mining and the circular economies that drive growth and job creation.[[15]](#footnote-15)

**Recommendations**

Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights makes the following recommendations to African States through the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change

1. African States must strengthen their cooperation and enact an African climate change strategy and reduce its impacts.
2. Africa's continent needs to build ocean and river defenses, transport and construction infrastructure and off-grid electricity and power systems, which in turn will help develop sustainable mining and circular economies that drive growth and job creation.
3. Maat recommends that African countries focus on industry's internal identity, avoid exporting as raw materials where they do not earn economically, and increase gas emissions.
4. We call on the United Nations mechanisms to assist developed industrialized countries to work on the formulation of a strategy for developing countries to adapt to climate change and to commit each State to the extent of its emissions to contribute to their reduction.
1. Pbs, Kenya's worst drought in decades creates humanitarian crisis, <https://to.pbs.org/3xi1RXQ> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. WFP, Horn of Africa drought: Late rains in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia are inflaming hunger, warns WFP, <https://bit.ly/3mctmf6> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. National Geographic, As drought worsens, can Kenyan communities coexist with native wildlife?, <https://on.natgeo.com/3xCGqQo> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. AA, Kenya's world-famous java faces potential climate disaster, <https://144.76.99.125/en/africa/kenyas-world-famous-java-faces-potential-climate-disaster/2378674?__cpo=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuYWEuY29tLnRy> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. WFP, Horn of Africa drought: Late rains in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia are inflaming hunger, warns WFP, <https://bit.ly/3mctmf6> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. UN News, Growing risk of Somalia famine, as drought impact worsens, <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/03/1114902> [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Gov,UK, security and humanitarian situation in Mogadishu, Somalia, <https://bit.ly/3GQFVq7> [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Brookings, Enlightened climate policy for Africa <https://brook.gs/3Qyz2hC> [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Worldbank, Climate Change Could Further Impact Africa’s Recovery, Pushing 86 Million Africans to Migrate Within Their Own Countries by 2050 <https://bit.ly/3tMKdtb> [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. Theconversation, Five climate change messages from the African continent <https://bit.ly/3N5Z7S6> [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. IMF, How South Africa Can Advance Reforms to Achieve its Climate Goals <https://bit.ly/3OqUnaF> [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. WMO, Climate change triggers mounting food insecurity, poverty and displacement in Africa <https://bit.ly/3bf8cLa> [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. Ahram, Three steps for Africa to combat climate change: Africa Finance Corporation <https://bit.ly/3tNSrkK> [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. AU, What will it take for Africa to reach net-zero emissions? [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. African. Business, AFC proposes pragmatic path to net zero in Africa <https://bit.ly/3y5LGNP> [↑](#footnote-ref-15)