As drought grips South Africa, a fair and ambitious global climate deal is critical to limit the future impacts of climate change on vulnerable people

- Civil society gives South African Government negotiators non-negotiable climate red lines for COP21 negotiations. These include securing finance to adapt and showing greater national ambition to cut greenhouse gas emissions
- Situation urgent as climate change and El Nino combine to cause worst drought in thirty years, driving up temperatures, food prices and increasing water scarcity

JOHANNESBURG: With parts of South Africa in the grip of one of the worst droughts in thirty years, civil society organisations today called on Government to stand for climate justice at the upcoming climate negotiations by securing finance for adaptation and increasing ambition to cut emissions at home.

With KwaZulu-Natal and Mpumalanga facing severe water shortages and maize production falling to its lowest level for eight years, water shortages and food price rises threaten to hit the poorest South Africans hard and affect food exports to neighbouring countries.

'This drought is just a taste of things to come in the future' says Happy Khambule of Project 90 by 2030. 'Globally governments, including our own, must act now to cut their greenhouse gas emissions by stopping fossil fuel burning and changing agricultural methods. Otherwise we could see devastating 4-6 degree Celsius increases in temperature in some parts of South Africa in the next 50 years. The most vulnerable people are already hit. Drought makes it harder to grow your own food, falling crop yields raises food prices, and water is becoming scarcer.'

The current droughts are caused by a combination of the impacts of human created climate change and the natural, global El Nino weather cycle. El Nino occurs every two to seven years and is affecting large parts of the world causing higher temperatures and changing rainfall patterns. NASA data shows that October this year is the hottest month ever on record, continuing the upward trend in global temperatures of the last ten years.

The next round of climate negotiations, COP21 (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change 21st Conferences of the Parties), begins in Paris on 30th November, and as Chair of the G77+China group made up of developing countries, South Africa has a critical role to play. Finance is one of the key battlegrounds with calls for USD100bn a year to be made available by 2020, but debate is still ongoing about how this should be divided between projects that cut emissions and the adaptation projects that help vulnerable communities and economic sectors adapt to climate change. What is not up for debate is the need for global responsibility to drastically cut greenhouse gas emissions that cause climate change.

Central to the negotiations will be the adequacy of commitments to date made by countries to cut emissions (mitigation plans) and the financing that must be made available for countries affected by the worst climate impacts to adapt (adaptation

plans). Countries are to obligated submit their domestically determined "commitments" for mitigation and many developing countries have included their adaptation needs as well, in the form of Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC). South Africa submitted its own INDC in October 2015 and Government's delegation has now also communicated its intended negotiating position going in COP21.

In response to both, a group of South African environmental campaign groups, faith based organisations and community campaigners have set out non-negotiable 'climate red lines' providing the delegation with its mandate for COP21 and calling for a greater ambition to cut emissions. The 'climate red lines' include:

- GREATER AMBITION AT HOME - South Africa's position must preserve the principle of national sovereignty, but too much emphasis is placed on mitigation and adaptation plans being conditional on international funding. There must be a more ambitious, raised baseline for emission reduction, regardless of international funding.
- EQUAL FINANCING TO MITIGATE AND ADAPT - Annual climate finance should be dedicated equally to adaptation and mitigation for developing countries including South Africa, and the initial target of USD100bn a year by 2020 should be met, and then increased.
- INCLUSION OF SOUTH AFRICA and other emerging economies for eligibility for climate finance for both adaptation and mitigation.

The full list of organisations that have come together is, the Adaptation Network, Birdlife South Africa, Earthlife Africa JHB, Ekurhuleni Environmental Organisation (EEO), Khoelife Cooperative, Gauteng Climate Group, Greenpeace Africa, One Million Climate Jobs Campaign (OMCJC), Oxfam, Project 90 by 2030, SAIIA youth, South South North (SSN), Southern African Faith Communities Environmental Institute (SAFCEI), Vaal Environmental Justice Network, World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and YouLead-Collective (YLC).

ENDS

Notes to Editors

Red Lines for COP21

Civil Society's non-negotiables for the South African delegation

1. Preamble

This submission does not serve an indicative position statement of the South African civil society coalition. This submission is intended to be an indication and the communication of a common set of South African civil society non-negotiables (also referred to as red lines for COP21), and the members of the civil society caucus that endorse its content.

The following civil society members contributed to the development of this document:

Adaptation Network

Birdlife South Africa

Earthlife Africa JHB

Ekurhuleni Environmental Organisation (EEO)

Gauteng Climate Group

Greenpeace Africa

One Million Climate Jobs Campaign (OMCJC)

Oxfam

Project 90 by 2030

SAIIA youth

South South North (SSN)

Southern African Faith Communities Environmental Institute (SAFCEI)

Vaal Environmental Justice Network

World Wildlife Fund (WWF)

YouLead-Collective (YLC)

2. Background

These non-negotiables are a set of key criteria that have been determined by South African civil society - who are engaged in and have a special interest in the COP21 process, and the resultant official South African negotiating position. The non-negotiables were defined on 3rd November 2015 at a civil society meeting succeeding the Ministers Breakfast Briefing on COP21 on 2nd November 2015 in Centurion. As South Africa holds a unique position within the COP negotiations and has a vested interest in the remedying of historical inequalities, it is imperative that COP21 yields fair and ambitious results. This can only be achieved by stabilizing the global temperature average increase to 1.5 °C. The UNFCCC objective which Parties have agreed to uphold needs to be solidified in the Paris Agreement and Decision, as the Convention states "Such a level [greenhouse gas emissions] should be achieved within a time frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not threatened…".

South Africa's negotiating position as communicated by the South African delegation. Civil society has taken upon itself to develop what are called redlines or non-negotiables - these are in relation to the South African official position on COP21. Civil society will use the red lines as the premise for providing the official South African delegation a mandate for COP21.

3. Redlines

'Climate Red Lines'

- There should be adequate ambition for national commitments to cutting emissions and helping communities respond to climate change.
    - South Africa must maintain and champion the Cairo Ministerial declaration
- CONDITIONALITY of INDCS - South Africa's position must preserve the principle of national sovereignty. The determination of whether INDCs nature is conditional or un-conditional is primarily a national function, should it be a condition of the international community to provide support of Means of Implementation (also known as MOI) on unconditional contributions. Then the international community will have to clarify the type, source and scale of support of the Means of Implementation for the said unconditional contributions for the post 2020 regime.
    - Should this be the case, South Africa's INDC would not be completely conditional on climate finance. The country would commit to a baseline (bare minimum effort) of unconditional contributions versus contributions that require further conditional support.
- FINANCING - Based on historical emissions and capability to adapt there should be an equitable distribution of climate finance (between adaptation and mitigation) and the remaining carbon budget (between developed countries with a high historical responsibility and developing countries with a high emissions reduction capability, as well as including vulnerable parties ability to respond to climate change and to contribute to the long term mitigation goal).
- LOSS & DAMAGE MECHANISM - There should be clarity on the integration and progress of the International Loss and Damage mechanism without prejudice to developments of Adaptation-Mitigation parity discourse in order to foreground climate justice and people suffering the impacts of climate change on water, food and energy.
- INTEGRATION OF PLANS - We mandate government to press for an integrated adaptation and mitigation plan (support for adaptation).
- REVIEW MECHANISM - An external expert structure/mechanism (which includes civil society input and integration) should be established that is enabled to review and hold governments to account regarding their commitments to UNFCCC.
- PRESIDENT TO ATTEND - South Africa should ensure that the highest political and executive member of South Africa (President Jacob Zuma) attends the COP21 negotiations and commits to contributing the achievement of a fair, ambitious and binding agreement.
- NO NUCLEAR - Nuclear power is to be rejected as part of the trajectory to low carbon development.

- South Africa should not use the UNFCCC process to seek further funding support for mitigation measures that involve the use and preparation of nuclear energy.

3.2 At UNFCCC COP21

- There should be no backsliding allowed internationally.
- Equity underlies the climate negotiations and is operationalised through MOI and the support thereof. Developed countries should assume responsibility for historical emissions and provide the necessary remedies such as ambitious emission reductions and support for developing country adaptation interventions etc.
- There must be commitment to deliver adequate finance for adaptation pre 2020. It should be established how and when industrialised countries will meet their commitment to deliver USD100 bn by 2020.
- Agreement should be reached on a specific goal for adaptation finance that is substantially higher than current commitments and based on needs articulated by developing countries. The agreement should also encompass provisions that stipulate that at least 50% of public climate finance must be dedicated to adaptation from 2020 onwards. There should be no agreement without specific information about post 2020 finance particularly with regards to the type, scale and time frames. There should be no agreement without specific information about post 2020 finance particularly with regards to the type, scale and time frames. Governments must agree strong provisions in the new agreement on climate finance post 2020, including:
    - commitment to scale up financial support from developed to developing countries from a baseline of $100bn/year from 2020;
    - establishing a system for providing climate finance that includes global targets for adaptation and mitigation every five years starting in 2025 or at the soonest after 2020.
- dedicated collective adaptation finance target that will see at least 50% of public climate finance dedicated to adaptation from 2020 onwards, and quantified targets for 2025 and 2030 in line with the mitigation ambition of the agreement;
- Any agreement on climate finance recipients must not exclude South Africa as a recipient of such finance. The language of considering South Africa as an emerging nation is currently not part of the UNFCCC agreement and hence should not be used as the basis for exclusion.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

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