



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

**OUTCOME OF THE UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE
CONFERENCE HELD IN GLASGOW SCOTLAND**

31ST OCTOBER – 11TH NOVEMBER 2021

PRESS STATEMENT

BY

HON BEATRICE A. ANYWAR

MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER AND ENVIRONMENT

&

HEAD OF THE GOVERNMENT DELEGATION

AT THE

MEDIA CENTRE, KAMPALA

WEDNESDAY, 9TH MARCH 2022

Fellow Ugandans

I salute you all!

In 2021, Uganda participated at the United Nations Climate Change Conference which took place from Monday 31st October to Saturday 13th November 2022 at the Scottish Events Centre in Glasgow, Scotland. The conference included the following sessions:

- I. The Twenty-Sixth Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP26);
- II. The Sixteenth Session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP16);
- III. The Third Session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA3);
- IV. 52nd – 55th Session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice;
- V. 52nd – 55th Session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation.

I led the delegation from Uganda which comprised of Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), Local governments, Parliamentarians, private sector and civil society to the COP26 to deliberate on:

- Securing global net zero by mid-century and keep 1.5 degrees centigrade within reach
- Adapt to protect communities and natural habitats
- Mobilising finance
- Working together to deliver

The Conference also included a World Leaders Summit, led by the UK Prime Minister – Rt. Honourable Boris Johnson. The Statement by His Excellency the President of Uganda was delivered on 1 November 2021. The President underscored that “climate problem” was as consequence of damaging the environment by irresponsible and sometimes, greedy human actions. *(See the statement attached).*

WHY WAS THE 26TH CONFERENCE OF PARTIES (cop 26) IMPORTANT?

It should be noted that the Glasgow Conference was meant to happen in 2020 but due to covid-19 pandemic, the conference took place in 2021.

The Conference brought countries together to accelerate action towards the goal of the Paris Agreement i.e. long-term temperature goal of keeping temperature rise well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 °C.

1.0 STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS- FROM MADRID TO GLASGOW

The negotiations also known as 'Climate Talks' held in Madrid in 2019 did not conclude on some of the key aspects of the Paris Agreement rules. Parties were unable to reach consensus thus pushing the items to the next COP in accordance with "Rule 16" of the United Nations Conferences. The unfinished issues included:

- negotiations on how markets would work for emissions reductions;
- negotiations to agree common time frames for Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for emissions reduction ambitions;
- negotiations to design the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) to track and increase climate ambition over time.

2.0 UGANDA'S EXPECTATIONS IN THE CONCLUDED 2021 CLIMATE NEGOTIATIONS (COP 26)

Uganda expected conclusions on climate finance, adaptation, Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) common time frames, Article 6 (This Article of the **Paris Agreement** recognizes that some Parties may choose to pursue voluntary cooperation in the implementation of their Nationally Determined Contribution) and Transparency. Specifically;

- Development of robust agenda for the climate finance goal for 2025;
- Action on global goal on adaptation in context of enhancing adaptation action and support;
- Settle for specific timeframes for NDCs to ensure consistency and clear tracking of global progress;
- Rules completed to define the new market mechanism to contribute to reducing emissions;
- Universal guidance on reporting of emissions, progress toward their NDCs, climate impacts and adaptation, and Means of Implementation support provided and received.

4.0 THE OUTCOME OF COP26

The COP26 Glasgow Conference came to a close on 13 November with the outcome - **Glasgow Climate Pact**. Important progress was made in a number of areas — but still off track to beat back the climate crisis.

Some of the conclusions key for Uganda were:

4.1 Climate Finance

The Glasgow summit did not manage to secure the USD 100 billion per year in climate finance by 2020 as promised at COP15 (2009) in Copenhagen, but noted with serious concern the gap in relation to the fulfilment of the goal.

The COP26:

- Decided to continue discussions on long-term climate finance by 2027
- Decided to convene biennial high-level ministerial dialogues on climate finance in 2022, 2024 and 2026
- Decided to initiate the deliberations on setting a new collective quantified goal on climate finance and established an ad hoc work programme from 2022 to 2024

4.2 Adaptation

Our effort and emphasis is always on adaptation to the impacts of climate change, which is now deemed to be equally important as reducing emissions.

The COP26

- Decided to establish and launch a comprehensive two-year Glasgow–Sharm el-Sheikh work programme on the global goal on adaptation
- Called for doubling of finance to support developing countries in adapting to impacts of climate change and building resilience

4.3 On Loss and Damage

Uganda put-up efforts to strengthen Santiago Network established at COP25 in Madrid which aims to catalyze the technical assistance for the implementation of relevant approaches for averting, minimizing and addressing Loss and Damage.

The COP26:

- Decided to catalyze the technical assistance developing countries need to address loss and damage in a robust and effective manner
- Created a Glasgow dialogue dedicated to discussing possible arrangements for loss and damage funding

4.4 Reducing emissions (Mitigation)

In October 2021, Uganda submitted to UNFCCC her Interim – National Climate Action Plan, also known as Updated NDC prior to COP26. NDCs will serve as pathways to cut global emissions and keep the goal of limiting temperature rise to 1.5°C within reach.

The COP26:

- Called on countries to “revisit and strengthen” their 2030 targets by the end of 2022
- Invited all countries that have not yet done so to submit Long-Term Strategies to 2050. Parties' long-term low GHG emissions development strategies” or “long-term strategies” are central to achieving the goal of **reaching net-zero global emissions, limiting warming, and preventing some of the worst impacts of climate change.**

5.0 Other Announcements

Uganda joined the rest of the world to sign this declaration on November 2nd 2021 and called for a renewed collective ambition towards halting and reversing forest loss and land degradation by 2030. The Declaration also includes an ambition to halt and reverse forest loss and land degradation by 2030 with its six action areas. That is Reducing Deforestation and Forest Degradation, Sustainable Management of Forests, Conservation of Biodiversity and Enhancement of Carbon Stocks (REDD+)

Uganda is among the pilot countries and others are - Bangladesh, Fiji, Jamaica and Rwanda, for the **Taskforce on Access to Climate Finance** worth £100 million, co-chaired by the UK and Fiji, to provide capital grants to the most climate vulnerable countries to help them deliver ambitious climate plans.

Uganda is set to implement Local Climate Adaptive Living (LoCAL) Facility through Ministry of Water and Environment and Ministry of Local governments in collaboration with UN Capital Development Fund worth 6.5 million Euros. This is climate financing that will go directly to pilot local governments.

6.0 Next steps

The country is un-packing the Glasgow Climate Pact and advancing specific decisions pertaining to Uganda. The following processes have been embarked on:

1. Operationalisation of the Market Mechanisms to reduce emissions
2. Finalisation of the updated NDC and Long-term strategy for Uganda
3. Responding to calls for submissions from UNFCCC Secretariat
4. Developing projects

In conclusion, I would like to reaffirm that with some shortcomings, the Glasgow Climate Conference has paved the way for a new phase, focusing on the implementation of our low-carbon and climate-resilient plans. This ultimately gives us a strong basis for concrete climate actions at the community level while pressing the international community to support this action.

I THANK YOU ALL

FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY

Shs.

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