

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STATEMENT BY AMB ALI MOHAMED, CHAIR OF THE AFRICAN GROUP OF NEGOTIATORS AND KENYA'S SPECIAL ENVOY FOR CLIMATE CHANGE, AHEAD OF THE INAUGURATION OF HIS EXCELLENCY DONALD J TRUMP AS PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Nairobi, Kenya. January 19, 2025

As the United States prepares to usher in a new administration, the African Group of Negotiators on Climate Change (AGN) extends its congratulations to the incoming President, His Excellency Donald J Trump. This inauguration marks a critical moment for global climate leadership, and we are hopeful that the new administration will seize the opportunity to prioritise climate action, uphold multilateralism, and foster unity in addressing the shared challenges of our planet.

Climate change is a defining issue of our time; one that transcends borders and spares no region or country. The devastating wildfires that have ravaged California in recent years are a stark reminder that even the most developed nations are not immune to the vagaries of a changing climate. Across Africa, the impacts of climate change are severe and immediate—droughts, floods, and rising temperatures threaten livelihoods, food security, and entire ecosystems. The message is clear: we face a global challenge that requires global solutions.

The African Group of Negotiators calls on the new administration to lead by example in reinvigorating the fight against climate change. This includes reaffirming the United States' commitment to the Paris Agreement, championing bold emissions reductions, and providing support for adaptation and resilience, particularly in vulnerable regions like Africa. The leadership of the United States is critical in mobilising climate finance, advancing clean energy transitions, and ensuring the equitable implementation of global climate goals.

Equally important is the need to promote multilateralism as the foundation for addressing climate change and other global challenges. The African Group underscores its belief that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and other international platforms remain the most effective avenues for fostering collaboration and accountability. We urge the United States to work constructively within these frameworks, recognising that no single nation can tackle climate change alone.

Africa stands ready to work with the United States in advancing a more sustainable, inclusive, and resilient global agenda. We share a vision of a future where the promise of climate action translates into tangible benefits for people everywhere—a future that leaves no one behind.

We look forward to engaging with the United States under its new leadership, confident that together we can build a world that is not only prosperous but also equitable and sustainable for generations to come.

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About the African Group of Negotiators on Climate Change

The African Group of Negotiators on Climate Change (AGN) is a technical body of the three-tier African negotiating structure that engages in the technical negotiations during the Conferences of the Parties (COPs) and the intersessional negotiations on Climate Change. It was established in 1995 with the objective of representing the interests of Africa in international climate change negotiations, with a common and unified voice. The AGN prepares and drafts negotiating text and common positions at COPs, guided by decisions and key messages from the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC), the highest decision-making tier, and the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN), the second highest decision-making tier. Its structure comprises Lead Coordinators and Strategic Advisors, thematic coordinators, former AGN Chairs, and UNFCCC focal points of the 54 African Member countries and the Secretariat. The Group is currently chaired by the Republic of Kenya through Amb Ali Mohamed, who is President William Ruto's Special Envoy for Climate.
