

RESOLUTIONS OF COP 25 & 26: A CRITICAL LOOK AT THE ECONOMIC IMPLICATION FOR AFRICA

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ABSTRACT

Climate change is a global challenge with far-reaching implications, particularly for developing nations. This paper delves into the impacts of climate change on the overall economy of poor countries, emphasizing its potential to hinder economic growth. The research methodology employed in this study involved a comprehensive analysis of literature and existing data collection. The study provides the analysis of the economic implications of the resolutions of COP 25 and 26 on the African continent. Africa, despite contributing minimally to greenhouse gas emissions, faces extremely severe consequences of climate change. It also draws attention to the profound impacts of climate change on Africa, highlighting its vulnerability and exposure to extreme weather events and agricultural disruptions. The paper examined the key resolutions and outcomes of COP 25 and 26, emphasizing the significance in shaping global climate policy. The findings show the fact that, despite the resolutions of COP 25 and 26 making progress in the global battle against climate change, inequitable resource distribution and knowledge transfer continue to limit Africa's capacity for effective mitigation and adaptation.

Keywords: Climate change, Economic impacts, Resolutions of COP, Africa

INTRODUCTION

Climate change is a global crisis that continues to pose significant challenges to humanity, impacting ecosystems, weather patterns, and economic worldwide. The conference of Parties (COP) meetings which are held every year under the auspices of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), are an integral part of the world's effort to tackle climate change. COP 25 and 26 are particularly important events, where nations convene to discuss and negotiate strategies aimed at mitigating the adverse effects of climate change and transitioning to a low-carbon future.

Africa is particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change due to its heavy reliance of climate sensitive industries including agriculture, fisheries and water resources. Africa's vulnerability is also made worse by a lack of financial resources

and low adaptive capabilities.

COP 25, which took place in 2019, and COP 26, which took place in 2021 were significant occasions that aimed to solve some of the world's climate challenges.

However, a closer look is necessary at the economic impact that these conferences have on African countries.

UNDERSTANDING THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

The term climate refers to long shifts in temperature and weather patterns. It is also defined as the long-term regional or global average of temperature, humidity and rainfall patterns over seasons, years or decades. Aristotle, one of the earliest thinkers on climate, described climate as the typical weather conditions of a region, including temperature and rainfall patterns (Aristotle C.350BC). The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (1990) defined climate as the statistical descriptions in terms of mean and variability of relevant quantities over a period ranging from months to thousands or millions of years. While the weather can change in just a few hours, the climate changes over a period of timeframes. Climate change is the noticeable shift in average weather conditions over several decades or longer, such as a rise in temperature, increased precipitation, or drier circumstances. The difference between climate change and natural weather variability is a longer-term tendency. Although climate change is a natural occurrence that lasts for many thousand years at a time, present-day climatic changes are much more severe than those that occurred two million years ago, and in the past few decades, global warming has reached its maximum extent. These climatic changes pose risks to health, economic activities, food security, water supply and threaten human livelihood particularly vulnerable populations living in developing continents.

Every region of the world is affected by climate change, though Africa seems special because of the continent's inherent sensitivity and reliance on climate-sensitive industries. According to IPEC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) climate change has been described as a statistical variation that persists for an extended period, typically for a decade or longer, it includes shift in the frequency and magnitude of sporadic weather events as slow but sporadic continuous rise in global average temperature.

The main causes of climate change include the emission of greenhouse gases from human activity, deforestation, land use changes, and inherent climate susceptibility. The primary driver of global warming, according to the IPCC, is human activity, which also contributes to changes in temperature and precipitation patterns that have a significant effect on the climate. Climate change is the mother of externalities, larger, more complex and more uncertain than any other environmental problem. Sulphur dioxide

emissions, one of the main causes of acidification, arise from impurities in fossil fuels. Sulphur is a nuisance as well as externality. Green gas emissions are fundamental to food production and our energy system. Every company, household and farm emit some greenhouse gases. The impacts are similarly pervasive. Agriculture, energy use, health and nature are directly affected by the weather, and this in turn affects everything.

According to the National Research Council, there is strong evidence that the climate is changing and that recent changes are largely caused by human activities. There is still a lot to be examined and supported by many independent observations and results that they can be treated as settled facts (NRC,2010). The assertion that there is evidence for human influence on climate change has also been backed by IPCC which in its fourth (AR4) and fifth (AR5) assessment report mentioned that it is very likely that the observed increase in global temperatures from 1951 onwards are caused by anthropogenic increase in greenhouse gas concentrations (IPCC,2014d)

Climate change is a hazard that has already had a significant influence on people and natural ecosystems in both industrialized and developing nations, albeit to various degrees. Due to natural advantages, advanced adaptation strategies, advanced technology, mechanized agriculture systems, and wealth status, the impact of climate change has been viewed as being less severe for the developed continents. These components have made it possible for the developed economies to reduce the negative impacts of climate change. Climate change has a significant impact on developing continents because of its high temperatures, limited capacity for adaptation, and dearth of early warning systems.

Burks et al. (,2016) stated that climate change has long-lasting impacts on the livelihood of agricultural communities across the world. Also, these continents have experienced a discernible increase in temperature over the past century with projections indicating a continuation of this trend. Rising temperature and increased heatwaves have severe implications for agriculture, human health and water resources (Nyong.A, et.al., 2007). Agriculture and food production have always been dependent on climate patterns and variations. Thus, changes in frequency and severity of droughts and floods can pose a great challenge for farmers.

Moreso, rainfall patterns are shifting resulting in more frequent and intense droughts in some regions and increased rainfall in others, these changes disrupt agricultural activities, water availability and exacerbate food insecurity. Agriculture, a cornerstone of human survival, is highly sensitive to climate change and is now threatened by climate change. As a result of climate change, the rising sea levels and coastal erosion threatens Africa's coastal communities, ecosystems and

infrastructures. This phenomenon disproportionately affects populations living in low-lying coastal areas (Nichous et.al., 2010). Climate change, coupled with the anthropogenic activities, leads to the loss of biodiversity and degradation of ecosystems in Africa. This negatively impacts the ecosystem's capacity to provide critical services and undermines biodiversity conservation efforts (Midgley et.al., 2002). According to McMichael et al (2006) changes in climate patterns have far-reaching health impacts, they went further to discuss the increased risks of heat-related illnesses, vector borne diseases and malnutrition experienced due to climate change. UNEP, (2011) also affirmed that Increased temperatures in some regions may contribute to an increase in the incidence of certain illnesses such as dengue fever, yellow fever and malaria, transmitted by vectors that are sensitive to temperature such as mosquitos, with resulting impacts on public health expenditures.

The effects of climate change are not evenly distributed as the burden falls heavily on the developing continents of the world. People in these continents are more exposed to extreme weather events and are less capable both economically and technologically of making the necessary adjustments. Climate change is thus a major obstacle to overcoming poverty and seriously undermines prospects for development (World Bank, 2010). Developing continents are also at a great disadvantage because they are in regions which are already warmer, on average, when compared with developed continents. Thus, they are more likely to suffer from climate variations, and further warming will bring poor continents more cost than benefits. Developing continents rely heavily on agriculture which is the most climate sensitive of all economic sectors. Warmer temperatures will make the low altitudes too hot for the agricultural activities to be profitable thus causing severe harm to their economy (Mendelsohn et al., 2006).

THE MEANING AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE CONFERENCE OF PARTIES (COP)

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) conference of parties (COP) meetings are significant occasions that aim to address climate change and its attendant difficulties, the Conference of Parties (COP) is a cornerstone of international environmental governance. Its significance extends to policy development, accountability mechanisms, public engagement, and scientific integration, all of which contribute to the global efforts to combat environmental challenges. COP meetings exemplify the power of diplomacy, cooperation, and shared responsibility in addressing the complex and interconnected environmental issues facing our planet. The significance of Conference of Parties will be analyzed with a focus on COP 25 and COP 26.

RESOLUTIONS AND OUTCOMES OF COP 25

The goals of COP 25 and COP 26, which were held in 2019 and 2021, respectively,

were to increase global collaboration and commitment in the fight against climate change. As the effects of climate change and the need to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions become more widely understood, the 25th UN climate conference, often known as COP 25, was held in Madrid.

COP 25 was a crucial milestone in operationalizing the Paris Agreement's rulebook, which established guidelines for transparency, emissions reporting, and other key components of the agreement. The conference sought to encourage countries to enhance the ambition of their Nationality Determined Contributions (NDCs) to align with the temperature goals of the Paris Agreement.

The purpose of COP 25 is to advance global action to tackle climate change. COP 25 had an important role to play in bringing the 2015 Paris agreement into force and pave the way for more ambitious carbon reduction commitments from the government at the next conference.

It also aimed to address the financial needs of developing countries for both adaptation and mitigation efforts, recognizing the crucial role of financial support in achieving climate goals. More so, other focus areas were adaptation to climate impacts, loss and damage suffered by developing nation due to climate change. COP 25 concluded with the Madrid Declaration, which acknowledged the urgent need to tackle climate change and emphasized the importance of collective global efforts. While COP 25 made progress on certain aspects of the Paris Agreement's rulebook, unresolved issues, particularly relating to carbon market mechanisms, highlighted the complexity of negotiations. The conference facilitated discussions on raising ambition of NDCs and emphasized the importance of increasing efforts to limit global temperature rise.

It also emphasized the need to address climate impacts through adaptation and highlighted the issue of loss and damage faced by the vulnerable countries and highlighted the importance of gender-responsive climate action. There was an emphasis on integrating gender considerations into climate policies and projects to ensure the active participation of women and the promotion of gender equality in climate change responses. COP 25 played a pivotal role in advancing the global climate agenda, particularly in terms of Paris Agreement. Implementation, ambition enhancement and climate finance. While challenges in negotiations persisted, the outcomes have broader implications for vulnerable regions like Africa.

THE RESOLUTIONS AND OUTCOMES OF COP 26

COP 26 serves as a pivotal gathering to address the global challenge of climate change. It was held in Glasgow in 2021, COP 26 assumed importance considering

escalating climate impacts and the urgency to accelerate collective efforts. The conference was held due to the increasing urgency climate change. The scientific consensus is that global emissions need to be drastically reduced to avoid catastrophic impacts such as more frequent and severe heatwaves, flooding, sea-level rise and ecosystem disruptions. COP 26's primary role is to facilitate international cooperation to achieve the objectives set out in the United Nation Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). This includes limiting global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, pursuing efforts to limit it to 1.5 degree Celsius, and enhancing countries' climate resilience. The COP 26 played a vital role in advancing global climate efforts; one of the primary focuses of the conference was to accelerate the implementation of Paris Agreement. The conference aimed to solidify the guidelines for carbon market mechanisms, transparency, adaptation and climate finance. It also sought to drive higher ambitions among nations by urging them to revise and strengthen their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to align with the more ambitious 1.5 Celsius temperature goal.

Thirdly, the conference emphasized the mobilization of climate finance, aiming to fulfill the long-standing commitment of \$100 Billion annually to support developing countries' climate actions (climate adaptation and mitigation efforts).

The outcome of COP 26 includes:

- **Glasgow Climate Pact:** The Glasgow climate pact emerged as the central outcome encompassing agreements on critical issues, including carbon market, rules, transparency mechanisms and efforts to combat deforestation.
- **NDC Upgrade:** A notable achievement was to enhance their NDCs, reflecting a global commitment to intensify climate action efforts.
- **Coal Phase-out Pledge:** Over 40 countries and several private entities pledged to phase out unabated coal power and transition toward cleaner energy sources, aligning with global efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

ECONOMIC IMPACT AND CHALLENGES OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND IMPLICATIONS FOR AFRICA

Understanding the multifaceted impacts of climate change on Africa with a focus on the economic impact and challenges posed by climate change is essential for formulating effective strategies in addressing the menace caused by climate change.

As regards climate change, the Paris agreement and special report on global warming of 1.5 Celsius by the IPCC have focused on temperature increase to the change in average temperature and precipitation values and excessive volatility in the climate regime affect the number of production factors and their productivity and change the trend of increasing trend of production. (World Bank, 2010).

Climate change has potential to do significant economic harm and poses worrying tail

risks. It is a global externality; one country's emissions affect all countries by adding to the stock of heat-warming gases in the earth's atmosphere from which warming arises. The process of climate change is set to have a significant economic impact on many countries, with many lower income countries being particularly at risk. Explaining how climate change affects the economy through its various pathways is the focus of this section of our study. Through these different impact channels, we assess the economic impacts of climate change: Agricultural productivity, Sea-level rise, Effects on human health, Tourism and Energy need.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY: In terms of social and economic growth, the agricultural sector is extremely significant for Africa. According to the FAO (2003), more than 60% of Africans directly depend on agriculture for their living. From small-scale subsistence farming to massive export businesses, production ranges widely. Africa's overall export value is accounted for by agriculture, which also accounts for around 21% of the continent's total GDP (Mendelsohn et al., 2000). A significant part of the reason why agriculture is particularly vulnerable to climate change because it depends on ecosystems and biodiversity. Continuous agricultural productivity is supported by enough freshwater supplies, fertile soil, the right balance of predators and pollinators, a comfortable air temperature, and typical weather events.

Losses in biodiversity have been caused by human interventions such as over-extraction of natural resources, clearing of forests for grazing or agriculture, widespread monoculture, and the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. The ability of an ecosystem to adjust naturally to climate change may ultimately be harmed by these. According to Ensor (2009), this leads to "losses in fertility and an increased risk of exposure to new pest and disease variants" in agroecosystems. In some parts of Africa's agricultural industry, drought is among the most dangerous risks. In northern, western, central, and southern Africa, agricultural losses are predicted to amount to between 0.4% and 7.0% of GDP by 2100 due to the expansion of arid and semi-arid land areas by 5-8%, or 60-90 million hectares (IPCC, 2007).

Crop yields in Africa could decline by up to 50 percent due to climate change, according to Porter et al. in 2014. The yields from subsistence farms are frequently barely one-tenth of those attained at model farms with the same soil and climate (Muller et al., 2012). Lack of access to irrigation, high-quality seeds, and pesticides are some of the causes of this so-called yield gap, but inadequate roads and unstable land tenure are also major contributors (Dorward et al. 2004; Foley et al. 2011).

Climate patterns and changes have always had an impact on agriculture and food

production. So, farmers may face significant difficulties because of changes in the frequency and intensity of droughts and floods. Increased land productivity, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa and South-East Asia, decreased agricultural yields, primarily in Africa, Asia, and Latin America; higher food prices; and increased food insecurity. Ecosystems are inherently dependent on and supported by biodiversity. Humans depend on biodiverse ecosystems to sustain the production of food, fuel, and Fiber. We depend on them to control the weather, diseases, and flooding, recycle water and nutrients, and offer us opportunity for cultural and educational experiences (FAO, 1999). The biodiversity of Africa's ecosystems is severely threatened by climate change, which has an impact on both the natural and human worlds. In southern and western Africa, the development of deserts has expanded, causing shifting sand dunes and the extinction of plant and animals (IPCC, 2007).

SEA-LEVEL RISE: One of the most significant effects of climate change is sea level rise. The entire world has taken notice of the high expected rates of sea level rise. Particularly low-lying nations and small islands worry that their land areas may shrink as a result of flooding and coastal erosion, and at worst, a sizable section of their populations may be compelled to relocate to other nations. As a result of the growing evidence of climate change, this subject is receiving more global attention. The two main causes of sea-level increase have been glacier melting and ocean thermal expansion. The land stock is diminished by rising sea levels due to erosion, flooding, and salt intrusion along the shoreline. The composition of the shoreline, cliffs and rocky coasts are less subject to erosion than sandy coasts and wetlands the length of the country's coastline, and how much of the coast is being used for productive purposes like agriculture all affect the amount of land that may be lost to rising sea levels and the potential economic damage this may cause.

Climate change makes coastal towns more vulnerable as it exacerbates these dangers. Due to the intense local rainfall and rivers overflowing their banks, these villages are completely devastated by flooding, which causes significant damage to property, homes, and infrastructure. Numerous farmlands as well as important ecosystems like mangroves and beaches have been destroyed. When sea levels rise as quickly as they have, even a slight rise can have devastating impacts on coastal habitats farther inland. It can result in disastrous erosion, wetland flooding, aquifer contamination, agricultural soil contamination, and lost habitat for fish, birds, and plants. Higher sea levels are accompanied by more hazardous storms and typhoons that move more slowly and produce more rainfall, which results in stronger storm surges that can destroy everything in their path. Millions more are vulnerable to flood risk and other effects of climate change, and flooding in low-lying coastal areas is already pushing people to relocate to higher land. Since most of the underlying communications

infrastructure is in the path of rising seas, the likelihood of greater coastal water levels threatens essential amenities like Internet connectivity.

EFFECTS ON HUMAN HEALTH: The greatest threat to human health is climate change, and healthcare professionals are already taking action to mitigate the harms this escalating crisis is causing to people's health. Aside from respiratory and heart conditions, pest-borne illnesses like Lyme disease and West Nile Virus, food- and water-borne illnesses, injuries, and fatalities are among the health implications of climate change. The rise in violent crime and general poor mental health have both been related to climate change. Everyone faces these risks, but those in low-income and underdeveloped nations and communities are those whose health is being harmed by the climate crisis first and worst. These individuals also contribute the least to its causes and are least able to protect their families from it.

According to Balbus J, et. al. (2016), climate change can have an impact on human health by altering the intensity, length, or frequency of existing health issues as well as by posing new, unexpected health risks in areas or populations. Although everyone is exposed to health risks associated to the environment, not everyone is harmed in the same ways. Because of their increased exposure to climate-related risks, increased sensitivity to the effects of climate stressors, current state of health and wellbeing, or lack of resources to cope with or protect themselves from harm, people may be at higher risk of experiencing the negative effects of climate change on their health (Benevolenza MA, et al. 2019).

In addition, many of the social factors that influence health, including access to healthcare, equality in access to opportunities for employment, and social support networks, are being weakened by climate change. The most vulnerable and disadvantaged people, such as women, children, ethnic minorities, poor communities, migrants or displaced persons, elderly populations, and people with underlying health issues, are disproportionately affected by these climate-sensitive health concerns. The influence of climate change on human health is undeniable, yet it is still difficult to determine many of these dangers' magnitude and impact.

TOURISM: In 46 of the 50 Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in the world, tourism accounts for most foreign exchange revenues (Pickering and Owen, 1995). Brown (2001) asserts that because of the job and business opportunities it offers, tourism has the power to help people escape poverty. The importance of tourism in reducing poverty has been recognized, and it is now a key part of the global trade and

development agenda. Also, Tourism has a significant role in both the African and global economies (Uchegbu and Ugwuanyi, 2009). After fuels, chemicals, and automotive products, international tourism was the fourth-largest business in the globe (Uchegbu and Ugwuanyi, 2009). Many developing economies have identified tourism as one of the primary engines of growth, and it is a good source of income particularly for African countries. However, the ecosystems and natural resources required to support the tourism industry are changing as a result of climate change. Beach erosion, saline intrusion, droughts, flash floods, landslides, coral-reef bleaching, less productive fisheries and agricultural systems, rising sea levels, flooding, desertification, erosion, and other health-related issues are just a few of the climate change effects that have an impact on tourism in African nations. All these issues are now prevalent in African nations. These problems are associated with the release of greenhouse gases (GHG). (Stainforth, 2005).

Furthermore, changes in global temperature may result in water shortages, a decline in biodiversity, aesthetic effects on the terrain, and infrastructural damage because of extreme weather events. For instance, indirect effects of climate change on tourism include the inability to maintain resort facilities in desert environments due to water shortages, erosion of tropical atolls from rising sea levels, extinction of valuable wildlife species due to changes in habitat, and increased costs of maintaining infrastructure in the face of environmental change. Finally, in addition to being crucial to a country's economy, the importance of coastal zones to the tourism sector and the necessity to conserve such resources provide an increasing challenge for many localities and areas. Beaches are seriously threatened by erosion throughout the world and have come to be associated with tourism, climate change, and sea level rise predictions.

ENERGY NEED: Energy demand patterns are already beginning to change because of climate change in most African nations. To adapt to the increasingly dramatic temperature swings, daily living processes such as peak hour patterns, air conditioning intensity, and the requirement for water desalination have changed. Several of these modifications can be seen in action right now. However, it's crucial to remember that future impacts of climate change may cause even bigger shifts in demand. The global climate will change, which will have an impact on the energy supply. First, as precipitation decreases and canal evaporation rises, nations are compelled to rely more on energy-intensive techniques to supply adequate water supplies, like desalination and subterranean water pumping. This consequence of climate change is rising energy consumption and higher expenses that African countries must take into consideration. Second, as farmers become more reliant on energy-intensive techniques (e.g., because crops need more fertilizers, different

irrigation methods, and more diverse harvesting patterns) in order to sustain productivity levels, these techniques are impacted by temperature fluctuations.

Furthermore, when temperatures rise, workers' capacity to work productively outside in healthy conditions declines, affecting production habits in the area. As a result, several firms are adjusting their operating hours, either to later or earlier hours. In addition to shifting peak energy demand hours, this shift in productivity hours may result in rising overall energy consumption if hotter weather increases need for air cooling. Moreover, the transportation sector is particularly vulnerable to weather and climate conditions and their effects because of the frequency of extreme weather events, which have an impact on the lifespan of infrastructure and transportation safety. Finally, climate change poses several challenges to various sectors, including the transportation sector. This highlights how important it is to take climate change into consideration in all aspects of routine transportation infrastructure improvements, including the useful lifetime of these assets (Mallick, R.B et.al 2014).

However, the transportation sector is faced with expectations for sustainable infrastructure with limited financial fundings (Achebe, J. et.al 2021). According to Souza Santos, A. 2020, a transportation infrastructure's vulnerability to climate change depends on a range of elements, including its nature, location, architectural features, and construction methods. Given that transportation infrastructure represents a significant national investment, climate change's effects on the network can both cause the loss of infrastructure assets and impede the sector's ability to recover and be resilient.

Infrastructure development is critical for economic growth, but climate change-induced disasters often destroy roads, bridges, and other vital assets. Rebuilding infrastructure diverts resources that could be invested in education, healthcare, and other development initiatives. These are a few of the economic impact and challenges faced by Africa, but after the COP25 and 26 meetings and outcomes, climate change impact can be managed if the resolutions from the meeting can be followed, and these are the implications.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE COP 25 AND 26 RESOLUTIONS FOR AFRICA ADAPTATION AND CLIMATE VULNERABILITY

Africa is a continent vulnerable to climate impacts, has a pressing need for adaptation measures. COP 25's focus on enhancing adaptation strategies could benefit African nations grappling with changing weather patterns and increase extreme events. COP

26's emphasis on the adaptation measures, it focuses on adaptation financing and support aligns with Africa's needs on building resilience to changing climate patterns. For Africa to manage the effects of climate change, adaptation is the most practical alternative available. However, the continent's meager financial resources, low technical and technological capabilities, weak institutions, and little awareness of the catastrophic effects of climate change are the causes of the continent's low adaptability.

Cop 25 highlighted the need for increased adaptation financing for vulnerable countries including African nations. The conference recognized that developing countries require adequate financial resources to implement effective adaptation strategies, recognizing Africa's unique vulnerability.

Also, COP 26, emphasized strengthening Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), carried implications for Africa's adaptation efforts. As African countries revisited their NDCs, there was an opportunity to explicitly outline enhanced adaptation strategies and related financial efforts.

The Glasgow climate pact reinforced the commitment to the Adaptation fund which supports vulnerable countries in building climate resilience. This commitment resonated with Africa's need for accessible funding mechanisms to implement adaptation projects effectively.

Furthermore, COP 25's discussions on loss and damage were critical for Africa as the continent often faces severe climate impacts leading to economic losses. While the conference did not make substantial progress in terms of loss and damage financing, it brought this issue to the forefront, emphasizing the importance of addressing the irreversible impacts of climate change.

COP 26's outcomes stressed the interconnectedness of adaptation and loss and damage. This recognition aligns with Africa's experiences where inadequate adaptation can exacerbate loss and damage from extreme weather events.

COP 25 and 26 provided African nations with an opportunity to advocate for their adaptation needs on a global stage. Africa's presence and active engagement highlighted the continent's concerns and reinforced collective advocacy, leveraging the continent's unique position to influence global climate negotiations.

AMBITION ALIGNMENT AND ENHANCEMENT: The alignment and enhancement of climate ambitions emerged as a critical focal point in global climate negotiations. COP 25 emphasized the need for nations to strengthen their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to meet the temperature goals of the Paris Agreement. For Africa, this called for revisiting existing NDCs and considering more ambitious mitigation targets. The ambition alignment extended beyond mitigation to adaptation, COP 25 provided an opportunity for African countries to outline more ambitious adaptation strategies in their NDCs, recognizing the continent's

vulnerability to climate impacts.

The call for alignment with the Paris Agreement's temperature goals is especially pertinent for Africa, a continent vulnerable to climate impacts. Countries were urged to revise and strengthen their Nationally Determined contributions (NDCs) to achieve deeper emissions cuts.

The drive for ambition enhancement carries implications for Africa's role in bridging the global emissions gap. Despite contributing relatively less to historical emissions, African countries can contribute substantially to global mitigation efforts through enhanced commitments, aiding in bridging the emissions divide. It also allowed African countries to exhibit leadership on a global stage. By setting ambitious targets, these countries not only contribute to global efforts but also encourage others to intensify their actions, amplifying the impacts of climate actions.

CLIMATE FINANCING: COP 25 raised awareness about the urgent need for climate financing in Africa. Discussions emphasized the continent's vulnerability to climate change, which in turn highlighted the importance of financial support. African nations called for increased climate finance to implement adaptation and mitigation projects. The conference underscored the need for developed countries to fulfill their commitment of \$100 billion annually to support developing countries. Also, COP 25 discussions encouraged exploration of innovative financing mechanisms, such as green bonds and climate insurance, to mobilize additional resources for African countries. The conference emphasized the importance of transparent reporting and tracking of climate finance flows. This transparency is crucial for ensuring that funds reach the intended projects in Africa.

Furthermore, COP 26 discussions highlighted the importance of improving access to climate finance for African countries, streamlining processes and reducing administrative barriers can make it easier for these nations to access funds. The conference emphasized the role of the private sector in climate financing. This opens opportunities for African businesses and projects to attract private investments in renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, and other climate-resilient sectors. Finally, COP 26 recognized the need to address loss and damage associated with climate impacts which includes financial support for African countries dealing with severe climate-related events, such as droughts and floods.

CONCLUSION:

The economic implications of the COP 25 and COP 26 decisions for Africa have been extensively studied in this paper, showing the urgent need for international action to

address the continent's vulnerability to climate change. Extreme weather, agricultural disruptions, and a lack of water are just a few of the serious problems that Africa is facing today. These problems require quick attention and all-encompassing solutions. While COP 25 and COP 26 marked significant advancements in global climate governance through pledges to cut emissions and increase funding for the fight against climate change, persistent inequalities in resource distribution make it difficult for African countries to put effective climate adaptation and mitigation plans into action. Limited funding options and technological transfer continue to be major issues. However, the paper has highlighted Africa's ability to start along a path of resilient and sustainable development. In order to address the economic impacts of climate change in Africa, a multifaceted approach is required. Global cooperation and solidarity are essential to bridge resource gaps and ensure equitable distribution of climate finance. Additionally, global collaboration and knowledge sharing can help to strengthen climate resilience.

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