

Climate Challenge Programme Malawi

COP25 Report

Background

Climate change has, over the years, affected various people both the rich and the poor, but the poor are the most vulnerable with limited ability to adapt and become resilient to the impacts of the changing climate. With climate change, there has been various negative impacts including droughts, increased rainfall, floods, and such other extreme weather events. The United Nations Framework convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) has over the years organised yearly conferences where countries that are parties to the UNFCCC discuss Climate Change and its management from a Global perspective since the Atmosphere, which is where it all happens, is a global common.

The United Nations Climate change conference are yearly conferences held within the framework of the UNFCCC, serving as a formal meeting of the UNFCCC parties to assess the progress in dealing with climate change and negotiate some agreements including the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris agreement. These are some solutions that have been developed by the UNFCCC to ensure there is climate justice, specifically considering that the developing countries are not in a capacity to adapt and become resilient to climate change, and would require assistance from the developed countries.

During these UNFCCC meetings, the parties discuss various aspects of Climate Change Management including mitigation and adaptation. Parties also negotiate on climate financing and various compositions of the management climate change. Different groupings also meet and discuss how to handle the climate crisis at their level. Such groups include the Least Developed Countries, African groups, the Caribbean, European Union, etc. some of which Malawi belongs to. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reports and recommendations are also discussed during these conferences, highlighting the roles of the parties in implementation of the recommendations made.

The conferences also give various countries an opportunity for knowledge and experience sharing on the climate change management matters. This is essential since the crisis has fallen on all but there are various different interventions that countries are implementing to manage it. For Malawi, various interventions, including development and implementation of the policies, plans and strategies that assist in management of climate change at national level, have over the years been evident. There is still however need for learning on the successful interventions to reduce or avoid the errors that could happen in the development and or implementation of the same. Malawi is also developing the National Climate Change Management Fund (NCCMF) which will assist in climate change management, specifically on Climate Financing. Rwanda is one of the countries that has developed such a Fund which is up and running, and it is crucial for Malawi as a country to learn from their experience to ensure the NCCMF in Malawi is successful.

COP 25 was convened in Madrid, Spain, from 1st to 13th December, 2019. The Madrid Climate Change conference was meant to address numerous implementation issues under the UNFCCC, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement. The 2019 Climate Change Conference featured the 25th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 25) to the UNFCCC, the 15th session of the COP serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP 15), the second session of the COP serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA 2), and the 51st sessions of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI 51) and the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA 51). It was originally

scheduled to convene from 2nd to 13th December 2019, in Santiago, Chile, as the “Santiago Climate Change Conference,” with a pre-session period from 26th November to 1st December 2019.

The 2019 Climate Change Conference was informed by the outcomes of, among other meetings, the UN Climate Action Summit held in New York, US, in September 2019, as well as three Regional Climate Weeks: Africa Climate Week held in March, Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) Climate Week held in August, and Asia-Pacific Climate Week held in September.

Mandated events that took place during the Madrid Climate Change Conference included the high-level part of the Pre-2020 Stocktake and a Global Climate Action (GCA) High-Level Event, both on 11th December, 2020.

The Presidency convened, *inter alia*:

- A UNFCCC, Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) Roundtable on 7th December, 2020;
- A Ministerial Dialogue on Adaptation on 10th December, 2019;
- A Panel on Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) Ambition on 6th December; and
- A High-Level Event on Forests on 5th December, 2019.

CISONECC participation at the 25th Session of the UNFCCC in Madrid, Spain

CISONECC represented CCPM advocacy partners in participating in strategic events at the Climate Change Conference. CISONECC was represented by Mr. Julius Ng’oma, National Coordinator, Civil Society Network for Climate Change (CISONECC) and Ms. Violet Mfuno, CCPM Project Officer, 1st to 13th December, 2019

Purpose

The purpose of CCPM representatives taking part in the Madrid Climate Change Conference was threefold: (1) to bring the voices and concerns of the CCPM communities about climate change and climate justice to an international stage through engagements in various forums during the Conference, (2) to build knowledge and global networks, and (3) to further the CCPM advocacy objectives.

Expected Outcomes

- Strengthened Government of Malawi’s position through incorporation of issues and needs and priorities of the CCPM communities in relation to climate change and CCPM policy asks as per the CCPM Advocacy Strategy
- Strengthened coordination and collaboration on climate change advocacy between and among CCPM partners and other allies and partners from various parts of the world (South-South and North South)

- Strengthened coordination and cooperation on climate change matters between and among CCPM partners and Government representatives, UNFCCC, and major groups and stakeholders
- Enhanced profiling and visibility of CCPM at key events during the climate change conference

Achievements of the CCPM representatives

- Engaged with Malawian Government Officials to ensure Malawi lobbies the UNFCCC on technical support toward the finalization of the NAP development process, to promote CCPM Policy asks as per the CCPM Advocacy strategy
- Raised the profile and visibility of CCPM at key events, including a side event with the Southern Voices on Adaptation team
- Met with Scottish Government officials to give updates on CCPM programme and represent the issues and needs of the CCPM communities in relation to climate change
- Engaged in formal discussions and side events to build knowledge, understanding and global networks for climate change adaptation and mitigation

Outputs

Event	Main Purpose	Date	Person Involved	Brief comment
Meeting with African Civil Society	Influencing strategy and African position	1 st to 13 th December, 2019	Julius Ng'oma and Violet Mfunze	Representatives of the African CSOs under the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) met each day at the COP25 Conference, IFEMA the exhibition area. The main aim of the meetings was to discuss how to influence decisions being made in the negotiation sessions. This was to ensure the African CSOs position and African Group of Negotiators (AGN) position were aligned and to advance and advocate for the African position during the COP25 negotiations. Through the meeting, CISONNECC ensured that CCPM issues were incorporated in the African CSOs and AGNs positions that were presented at the conference.
Meeting with Malawian Government	Lobbying and Influencing	4 th and 11 th December, 2019	Julius Ng'oma and Violet Mfunze	Twenty-three Malawi Government National Officials, were present during a Malawi delegation meeting that was held at the COP25 venue in meeting room 25. Key officials present included the Chief Director in the Ministry of Natural Resources, Energy and Mining, Bright Kumwembe; Director of Environmental Affairs, Mrs Taonga Mbale Luka; Director of Disaster Management Affairs, Mr. James Chiusiwa; Director of Energy Affairs, Mr Joseph Kalowekamo; Director of Climate Change and Meteorological Services,

				<p>Mr Jolam Nkhokwe; Chief Environmental Officer, Mr. Evans Njewa; and Regional Forestry Office, Central, Ms Stella Gama. The meeting was also attended by five representatives from Civil Society Organisations, including Julius Ng’oma and Violet Mfunne from CISONNECC; Vitumbiko Chinoko from Care Malawi; Joy Munthali from NYNCC and Aston Mulwafu from Malawi Red Cross and also two representatives of the Malawi media which included James Chavula and Sellina Kainja from Nation Publications and Rebecca Chimjeka from Times Group. The focus of the meeting was to engage lead negotiators including all the Directors under the Ministry of Natural Resources, Energy and Mining on the progress of negotiations in line with the Malawi position on COP25, as well as to discuss strategies on strengthening the delegation’s engagement in the COP25 negotiations.</p>
SBSTA/SBI Negotiation meetings on Adaptation	Lobbying and Influencing	2 nd – 13 th December, 2019	Julius Ng’oma and Violet Mfunne	<p>CISONNECC as part of the Malawi delegation joined the various parties and groupings in presenting their position at the COP25 on matters regarding Adaptation. The lead negotiator on Climate Change Adaptation indicated that Malawi’s position was in line with the African group’s position and the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) position. The negotiations were centred around the two reports from the LEG and Adaptation Committee related to Gaps and Needs for NAPs and support towards advancing adaptation in developing countries.</p> <p>On development of the National Adaptation Plan, Malawi was in support of the need for both technical and financial support toward the development and implementation of the National Adaptation Plans by developed countries.</p> <p>Malawi, represented by the LDCs, was not in support of endorsing the Adaption Committee Report. This reason was primarily that due to the fact that some of the recommendations included in the report focused on private sector funding towards adaptation in developing countries a situation that that most of the developing countries feel that the developed countries would want to push their responsibility to private sector. The developing countries also were worried that private sector is business oriented but also their engagement</p>

<p>COP Negotiations on loss and damage</p>	<p>Lobbying and Influencing</p>	<p>2nd – 13th December, 2019</p>	<p>Julius Ng’oma and Violet Mfunne</p>	<p>in adaptation work as has not been fully tested for success.</p> <p>CISONECC as part of the Malawi delegation joined the various parties and groupings in presenting their position at the COP25 on matters regarding Loss and Damage. The negotiations were centred around review of the Warsaw International Mechanisms for Loss and Damage associated with impacts of climate change.</p> <p>Perhaps, the most positive and notable outcome of the talks was on the matter of the WIM, largely due to the strong unity of developing countries under the G77 and China. Developing countries had tabled a much stronger proposal requesting developed countries for “adequate, easily accessible, scaled up, new and additional, predictable finance, technology and capacity building for addressing loss and damage” but due to opposition by developed countries especially from the United States, the final decision is a much watered down version of the original proposal. The United States did not want any “bifurcation” of responsibilities to be attributed to only developed countries.</p> <p>Adopted decisions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Conference adopted a decision that “calls on international entities, including financial institutions, to continue supporting the development and implementation of measures to avert, minimize and address the adverse impacts of climate change. • The Conference agreed to the establishment of “the Santiago network for averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage to catalyse the technical assistance of relevant organizations, bodies, networks and experts, for the implementation of relevant approaches at the local, national and regional level, in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change”. • Another important issue that occupied much attention of the Madrid talks was the decision on the review of the Warsaw International Mechanism on Loss and Damage (WIM), which saw a positive decision that “urges the scaling-up of action and support, as appropriate, including finance, technology and capacity-building, for developing countries that are
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				<p>particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change for averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change”.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The draft decision on WIM and its 2019 review was adopted both under the COP and the CMA, with pending conclusions on the governance of the WIM (on whether it is under the authority of the COP or the CMA or both), which was a contentious issue. The decision in this regard is for the consideration of the governance issue to be taken up at COP 26 in November 2020. • Both the COP decision as well as the CMA decision carries a footnote which reads as follows: “It is noted that discussions related to the governance of the WIM did not produce an outcome; this is without prejudice to further consideration of this matter”. <p>Contentious issues</p> <p>The review of the Warsaw International Mechanism on Loss and Damage was one of the agenda items that revealed the North-South divide among developed and developing countries.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The main divide between developed and developing countries was over the push by most developed countries on all countries, for the raising of the ambition level on emission reductions (or mitigation) only. • While most of the developed countries talked about ambition, (by which they mean ambition in mitigation), the South stressed that their frustration was premised on the fact that the finances they require were not forthcoming – to do mitigation or adaptation, but developing countries were also being pushed to report more mainly on their mitigation obligations under the ‘transparency framework’, with no corresponding ambition on funds to be provided to developing countries. • Developing countries also countered by stating that the principle of ‘common-but-differentiated responsibilities’ (CBDR) must be adhered to, and that the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement should not be just mitigation-centric and that what is most important for developing
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				<p>countries is the required means of implementation, including finance, technology transfer and capacity-building, so that they can fulfil their mitigation and adaptation needs. They also wanted an effective loss and damage mechanism to avert, minimise and address the impacts of climate change. The developing countries felt that developed countries were trying instead to shift more of their obligations to the developing countries through strict reporting obligations and assessment or stocktaking of their mitigation actions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governance of the WIM could not be resolved in Madrid. In the decision adopted, it was noted that “considerations related to the governance of the WIM will continue in Nov 2020.” Hence, this issue remains to be decided next year. • Developed countries wanted the WIM to be under the governance of the CMA only (Parties under the Paris Agreement), while developing countries wanted the WIM to also be under the COP governance. <p>The following were recommendations made by developing country parties to enhance and strengthen the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Standing Committee on Finance to work with the Executive Committee of the WIM to provide guidance to the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism under the Convention to expand their focus areas to cover loss and damage thematic areas; • More progress to be made in the implementation of the work stream on enhancing action and support to address loss and damage; • The Executive Committee of the WIM to work through permanent technical expert groups to assist it better engage with other bodies; • To establish a network on addressing loss and damage to facilitate a technical network of organisations, bodies, partners and relevant stakeholders involved in loss and damage; • Identify ways to support approaches for all components of comprehensive
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				<p>risk management;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support vulnerable countries in implementing identified actions, plans and strategies; and • Have an effective engagement at national and regional level in order to be responsive to needs of countries.
Meeting with Trade Unions in Latin America on GCF	Knowledge, experience sharing and influencing strategy	05/12/2019	Julius Ngoma (CISONECC)	<p>Julius Ng'oma, CISONECC and Tara Daniel, WEDO as representative from the GCF Active Observers supported worked organised by the ITUC International Trade Union Confederation on the sidelines of COP25. The workshop was held in CCOO-Madrid, Sala "Mil Uno", Calle Lope de Vega 38, 28014, Madrid. The aim was to present the GCF Civil Society Toolkit to 30 selected participants from the Trade Union delegation at the COP25. The meeting discussed country readiness to Climate Financing and how the financing mechanisms such as GCF can assist developing countries to manage impacts of climate change and how countries can access the GCF resources. During this meeting, CISONECC shared CCPM's aspirations of ensuring that adaptation efforts by vulnerable communities in Malawi and other least developed countries are supported through international climate finance such as GCF and how Trade Unions can use similar approaches to engage with multilateral financing mechanisms to ensure climate change actions are supported in various developing countries.</p>
Meeting with Roseanna Cunningham to promote CCPM and Climate Justice	Lobbying and influencing – promoting the CCPM and climate justice	12/12/2019	Julius Ngoma (CISONECC)	<p>CCPM representatives together with other leaders of CSOs in different countries met with the Cabinet Secretary of the Scottish Government, Roseanna Cunningham with other representatives from the Scottish Government to speak about the challenges that countries in the global south are facing related to climate change. The meeting was also aimed at putting forward suggestions related to how Scotland can play a leading role in assisting countries in the global south to manage the climate related challenges but also enhance participation and inclusion of southern voices into the preparation and deliberations during COP26 which Government of Scotland will be hosting. The main messages delivered by the CCPM representatives were about the impact of climate change on communities in programme districts in Malawi, how programme such as CCPM build resilience and strengthen livelihoods at community level learning from experiences from events such as</p>

				<p>Cyclone Idai and how Scottish Government can play a role of a champion to ensure there is proper facilitation for countries in the global south to effectively participate and raise their issues during COP26. The CCPM team emphasised the need for more ambitious targets in reducing CO2 emissions by developed countries and greater financial commitments from developed nations particularly supporting adaptation and loss and damage which appeared to be stalling at COP 25.</p>
<p>Meeting with Green Climate Fund (GCF) Active Observers</p>	<p>Lobbying and influencing strategy</p>	<p>13/12/2019</p>	<p>Julius Ngoma (CISONECC)</p>	<p>Six GCF Active Observers (Julius Ng’oma, CISONECC and Helen Magata and Claire Miranda, Philippines representing the Global South, as well as Liane Schalatek of the Heinrich Boll Foundation, Erica Lennon of Centre for International Environmental Law; Daan Robben, Both Ends, Oscar Reyes, USA representing the Global North) had a meeting outside of the NGO offices to strategize on influencing the discussions related to long term climate finance particularly the GCF in order to ensure the fund effectively supports the elements such as loss and damage and adaptation. The meeting also focused on discussing the role of CSOs and other players such as governments in GCF processes and at various levels (national, regional and international levels). In this regard, the meeting emphasised on the fact that CSOs are representatives of the local communities in various countries and regions and that their interventions at various levels of GCF processes should be well informed by issues from the grassroots. CISONECC continued to share how issues from local communities are harnessed through programmes such as CCPM and how the issues are presented to various decision- making bodies in the GCF processes including at GCF Board meetings to ensure decisions and actions reflect the needs and aspirations of local communities affected by the impacts of climate change. The meeting also discussed the plan for continued effective engagements of GCF active observers in the various processes of the GCF at different levels and to plan for a transition in readiness for the change of active observers as the two-year term for the current observers was coming to an end on 31st December, 2019.</p>

Proposed follow up Actions

1. Dissemination exercise of the final outcome of the COP25 with collaboration with the Government through various means including the media
2. Review of the Outcomes of COP25 negotiations in line with the COP25 expectations from the CCPM Programme Participants, Malawi and African CSOs expectations
3. Follow up with Environmental Affairs Department and other government departments on how the COP25 agreements can be distributed among the various sectors and how as a country, the agreements can be reflected in our overall plans for action in the following year.
4. Follow up with Rwanda on the Rwanda Green Fund and learn how their developments have been helpful, their successes and challenges, as well as solutions to the encountered challenges for use within the NCCMF being developed in Malawi
5. Follow up with the Environmental Affairs department to ensure that the National Adaptation Plan is considering the needs and priorities of the most vulnerable, including CCPM Programme Participants

Photos



Some of the participants at the COP in the main plenary room



Some participants at the March on Climate Justice



Part of the Malawian delegation sharing the country position to the group



Part of the Malawian delegation at the conference