Draft technical outcome statement on priority issues to take climate action forward in Africa

1. The CCDA-XI was convened by ClimDev-Africa Partners (AfDB, UNECA, AUC) and hosted by the Government of Kenya as technical input into the Africa Climate Summit, convened on the theme: “Driving Green Growth and Climate Finance Solutions for Africa and the World: Africa in solidarity for Global Climate Action” in collaboration with Africa’s civil society organisations, academia, development partners and the private sector.

Preamble

2. Noting that African countries continue to show leadership in advancing action on climate change,

3. Welcoming the African Union Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy and Action Plan (2022 – 2032), a continental framework for climate action,

4. Also welcoming the African Union Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan,

5. Further welcoming the United Nation Secretary General’s Early Warning for All initiative,

6. Noting that developed countries responsible for 75% of historical carbon emission, whilst Africa accounts for less than 4 percent, but has already warmed by more than 1 degree,

7. Concerned by low global ambition, particularly by developed countries not doing their fair share to address the urgency of climate action

8. Mindful of the opportunities that Africa can provide in the global fight against climate change, within the context of its sustainable development and poverty eradication priorities,

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1 To limit global temperature rise to below 2°C aiming for 1.5°C, as promised in the Paris Agreement, countries must cut 30 gigatonnes of GHG emissions annually by 2030.

2 Developed Countries Are Responsible for 79 Percent of Historical Carbon Emissions | Center For Global Development |
9. Concerned about the increasing frequency and severity of climate change impacts resulting in disproportionate effects on African economies and societies, with countries estimated to be losing on average 5% of GDP and many countries diverting up to 9% of their budgets in unplanned responses to extreme weather events,

10. Noting the need for just transitions that caters to Africa’s special needs and special circumstances, preserving the need to meet its development aspirations,

11. Noting the Kigali Communique on a Just and Equitable Energy Transition in Africa and the African Union Common Position on Energy Access and Just Transition,

12. Welcoming the endorsement by the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN) of the African Common Position on Climate Change for COP28,

13. Concerned that many developed countries have consistently failed to honour their commitment on providing adequate and predictable climate finance,

14. Further concerned about the inadequacy of the current global financial architecture to deliver meaningful climate and development,

15. Noting that Africa’s priority remains adaptation and building resilience, and also acknowledging Africa’s potential to contribute to mitigation through investments in renewable energy and green technologies,

16. Concerned at the high cost of capital to invest in green growth options and noting that less than 2% of global investments in clean energy flow to Africa,

17. Mindful that Africa needs to industrialize, capitalizing on its abundant clean energy resources, to close its substantial development gaps,

18. Noting that by leveraging the AfCFTA, African countries can produce electric battery and battery precursors by up to 30% cheaper cost lower emissions,

19. Welcoming the initiative by the Democratic Republic of Congo, Zambia, ECA, Afreximbank, African Development Bank, BADEA, and Africa Finance Corporation to establish a special economic zone between DRC and Zambia

20. Noting that this will position Africa in the global and regional electric batteries value chain to transform its green mineral resources by leveraging
AfCFTA and placing the continent at the heart of the worldwide electrification agenda,

21. Noting the vast investment needed to drive green growth on the continent, including investment needs of at least USD 2 trillion by 2050 in the power sector alone,

22. Recognizing the potential of high integrity and inclusive carbon markets as an additional source of climate finance, whilst acknowledging that carbon markets are supplementary to domestic mitigation efforts,

23. Concerned about the limited investments in weather and climate observation infrastructure, early warning systems, and climate research in Africa,

24. Noting that gender, intergenerational equity and justice are vital to address the inequalities of the climate emergency in Africa,

25. Mindful of the urgency to invest in youth innovation and entrepreneurship, local communities and indigenous climate solutions,

26. Welcoming regional initiatives, including the Africa Adaptation Initiative, the Africa Adaptation Acceleration Platform, the Africa Climate Resilient Investment Facility, and the Climate Action Window of the African Development Fund,

**The eleventh Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa resolves as follows.**

27. Africa’s special needs and special circumstances must be recognized at COP28 to contextualize the Continent’s just transition pathways.

28. Africa must be at the forefront of defining, leading, and owning people-centred just transitions in the context of the principle of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capacities.

29. Africa must optimally use its abundant resources to build people-centred and resilient economies to close development gaps and unlock socioeconomic benefits, create green and decent job opportunities, attain sustainable industrialization, and empower women, youth, local communities, and indigenous people most vulnerable to climate change.

30. Developed countries must take the lead by raising ambition to reduce emissions.
31. Africa must strengthen regional integration and leverage the AfCFTA to drive its transition pathways towards energy and food security.
32. Africa must lead the use of its natural assets to address its development priorities and ensure its participation in carbon markets are inclusive, of high integrity and supplementary to domestic mitigation efforts.
   Africa must consider appropriate carbon tax mechanisms, including levies, for raising domestic revenues for local climate action.
33. The African Union Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy and Action Plan, should be domesticated at national and sub-regional levels to accelerate climate action and strengthen collaboration and partnerships.
34. Africa, development partners, MDBs and the private sector must work together to invest in Climate Information Services national and regional early warning and early action systems, for better adaptation and disaster risk reduction strategies.
35. Africa needs to leverage support to upscale project financing to attain bankable projects that address adaptation and mitigation, thereby achieving financial, environmental, social, and governance criteria.
36. Africa and development partners are urged to work together to find innovative ways of leveraging limited public resources to mobilize the investments needed for climate action.
37. Africa must track climate finance flows earmarked for adaptation and mitigation to determine the impact of integrating adaptation and mitigation, recognizing that Africa’s priorities are in adaptation.
38. Africa must also recognise that a binary approach to adaptation and mitigation is a barrier to implementing enhanced climate actions.
39. Africa must track the impact of climate finance and the degree to which their adaptative capacity is reinforced, focusing on vulnerable communities.
40. Africa should prioritize leveraging of grant-based interventions to build capacities to address adaptation needs and finance youth initiatives to catalyze effective adaptation.
41. Africa must enhance capacity-building efforts and technical assistance, such as project preparation facilities, to bring multiple feasible projects to financial, environmental, social and governance bankability.
42. Africa, development partners and the private sector should work together to develop support and finance risk transfer and de-risking instruments for large-scale projects that need to get off the ground.

43. Africa needs to aggregate small projects to make them more appealing to investors and increase their viability at scale.

44. Africa and development partners must invest in communication systems to facilitate interaction between users, including small farmers, to improve productivity and implement climate change education programs in local communities using local languages to ensure access to early warning systems for agricultural challenges.

45. Africa must explore debt-for-nature/debt-for-climate swaps to bridge the financial gap and accelerate the implementation of initiatives like the Great Blue Wall, promoting sustainability and job creation.

46. Africa must enhance the science-policy-practice interface to promote data and information gathering, product development, and advice on climate change.

47. The African Union must lead efforts to establish an African funded research council.

48. Africa must ensure that its education and training systems are responsive to climate change.

49. Africa’s energy transition must be defined and owned by Africa, following differentiated pathways and timelines according to national circumstances.

50. Africa must domesticate the African Common Position on Energy Access and Just Transition.

51. Africa and development partners should prioritise investments for the enabling infrastructure for the energy transition, including accelerated investments in the Africa Single Electricity Market (ASEM) and the Africa Continental Master Plan.