

12th Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa

30 Aug. to 02 Sep. 2024, Radisson Blu Airport Hotel, Abidjan

Outcome Statement and Key Messages

The 12th Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa (CCDA-XII) was convened by ClimDev-Africa (AfDB, UNECA, AUC) on the 30 August to 02 September 2024, in partnership with PACJA, AICCRA, SEI, WMO-RoA, CIFOR-ICRAF and a number of other organizations representing civil society organizations, academia, development partners and the private sector. It was hosted by the Government of Cote d'Ivoire as technical input into the Tenth Special Session of AMCEN. The conference was convened on the theme: "Financing Climate Adaptation and Resilience in Africa".

Preamble

1. *Noting* that African countries continue to lead in advancing action on climate change,
2. *Also noting* the African Union Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy and Action Plan (2022 – 2032), a continental framework for climate action.
3. *Further noting* the African Union Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan,
4. *Noting* the importance of the Africa's Early Warning for All initiative in improving and enhancing disaster preparedness and response,
5. *Noting* that developed countries responsible for 75% of historical GHG emissions, whilst Africa accounts for less than 4 percent, but that the average global warming is already 1.45¹ degree Celsius,
6. *Concerned* by low global ambition, reflected in the low levels of implementation of the NDCS as confirmed by the first Global Stocktake (2023)
7. *Recognizing* that Africa's climate actions are more ambitious than other regions, including industrialized countries.
8. *Mindful* of the opportunities that may accrue to Africa in the global fight against climate change, within the context of its sustainable development and poverty eradication priorities.
9. *Recognizing* the need for strengthening local, national and regional adaptation efforts.
10. *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 2% - 5% of GDP and many countries diverting up to 9% of their budgets from investment in critical services such as health, education and other social services in unplanned responses to extreme weather events
11. *Welcoming* the endorsement by the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN) of the African Common Position on Climate Change for COP29
12. *Further recognizing* efforts by African states to develop coherent strategies on carbon trading

¹ Source: WMO Report on 2023, with a margin of error of ± 0.12 degree Celsius above the pre-industrial baseline.

13. *Concerned* that many developed countries have consistently failed to honour their commitment to provide 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.
16. *Noting* that African countries' adaptation needs are estimated to amount to US\$52.7 billion annually by 2030, against annual average flows of US\$11.4 billion, thus leaving an annual financing gap of US\$41.3 billion.
17. *Recognizing* that carbon trading can contribute to global mitigation effort while generating financial co-benefits; *Concerned* about the limited investments in weather and climate observation infrastructure, early warning systems, and climate research in Africa
18. *Noting* that gender, intergenerational equity, and justice are vital to address the inequalities of the climate emergency in Africa
19. *Mindful* of the urgency to invest in youth innovation and entrepreneurship, local communities and indigenous climate solutions
20. *Welcome* regional initiatives, including the Africa Adaptation Initiative, the Africa Adaptation Acceleration Platform, the Africa Climate Resilient Investment Facility, Climate Research for Development (C4RD) for Africa, and the Climate Action Window of the African Development Fund.

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

1. Africa's special needs and special circumstances must be recognized at COP29.
2. We acknowledge the leadership of African leaders in matters of climate change and urge leaders to continue to recognize climate change as a development imperative that requires strong political will and leadership.
3. African leaders should continue to advocate for adequate, predictable, and accessible climate finance for Africa for implementation of national climate strategies, which is not only a matter of climate justice but also a strategic imperative for sustainable development.
4. Africa's NDCs have prioritized adaptation and climate resilient development, we note with concern the inadequate finance and call for scaled up grants and concessional based financing to support implementation.
5. All African countries must be supported to formulate robust NAPs by 2025 and implement them to enhance climate resilience.
6. Africa's NDCs must be responsive to its urgent development priorities, taking into account the socio-economic challenges of vulnerable communities.
7. COP 29 must make substantive progress on the GGA indicators including development of indicators on means of implementation to support implement the thematic and dimensional targets of the goal.
8. Africa requires investments in Climate Information Services, national and regional early warning and early action systems for better adaptation and disaster risk reduction strategies and calls on development partners for investment in this regard.

9. Africa must strengthen its data systems by investing in National Meteorological and Hydrological Services, prioritizing the development of robust climate data and early warning systems to inform adaptive measures in vulnerable regions of Africa. Accordingly, Africa must fund climate research to understand the impacts of climate change and propose site-specific adaptation solutions.
10. Africa must build understanding of the nexus between climate change and health, and the linkages to environmental and socio-economic imperatives, integrating the gender perspective, as well as improve understanding of the link between traditional health systems and the climate change.
11. Climate induced migration is an urgent concern and Africa calls for an improved understanding of the impact of climate on human livelihoods.
12. Developed countries have a responsibility to deliver on their financial commitments under the Convention and the Paris Agreement. Simultaneously, African governments must enhance efforts to mobilize domestic resources.
13. Adaptation finance must be increased to meet the evolving needs of African countries. This calls for a clear, quantified sub-goal on adaptation within the new collective quantified goal (NCQG), based on assessed needs and ensuring that the finance, adequate, doesn't exacerbate debt and easily accessible to both governments and communities.
14. Africa calls for increased investments in adaptation to seize opportunities for job creation, green growth in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication.
15. Carbon markets, green and blue bonds, blended finance, climate risk insurance should be explored to serve the interest of Africa while contributing to global climate goals. Such mechanisms should be gender sensitive, consider the unique challenges faced by women and marginalized groups in climate adaptation efforts.
16. Africa needs to scale up project preparation support for effective implementation, strengthening institutional capacities, enhancing national systems and procedures, and achieving increased national portfolio bankability.
17. African countries should work together with development partners to facilitate the improved finance flows to Africa in a manner that promotes country ownership
18. African countries should encourage Pan-Africa and south-south cooperation to scale up investments, share best practices, mobilize resources, and implement adaptation strategies. Local capacities and governance structures must be strengthened to ensure that funding is effectively mobilized, utilized and addresses adaptation needs.
19. As Africa transitions to low-emission and climate resilient development pathways, the structural imbalances and unfairness inherent in global trade and financial systems should be addressed. International financial architecture should be reformed to fit for purpose to address the global multiple crises. Such a transition must contribute to reducing energy poverty while harnessing its renewable energy potential.
20. Africa considers carbon markets as instruments to leverage low emissions and climate resilient development and delivers meaningful sustainable development impacts beyond emissions reductions. Africa must harness opportunities derived from applying carbon market principles, being mindful of risks, ensuring that its proposals are not motivating more emissions, and enhance its capacity to engage and address accountability.

21. Africa must apply market mechanisms to ensure focus on nature and technology-based approaches that guarantee rights of local communities and do not threaten sustainable land and natural resource rights.
22. African countries require capacity for engaging in the entire value chains of the carbon markets – raising awareness, developing the products, developing inclusive strategies that contribute to sustainable development, monitoring and verifying the credits. Africa needs to build and scale-up capacity, including local private sector to facilitate benefit from value chains from opportunities including from the extraction of and trade in critical minerals.
23. Africa should embed safeguards in national legislations and engage local communities to ensure nature-based solutions provide adequate benefit sharing in the design of carbon markets.
24. Africa should leverage value addition to its natural resources including its critical minerals towards green industrialization.
25. Africa appreciates the important rôle that its Parliamentarians play in applying climate change adaptation by timely ratifying climate agreements, ensuring finance for climate action is adequate and prioritised, providing oversight, ensuring transparency and raising awareness within communities about the impacts of climate change and the need for adaptation.
26. Africa’s Parliamentarians must be facilitated to effectively participate in climate dialogue and discussions.
27. African countries are encouraged to urgently align their national strategies with the African Union African Union Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy and Action Plan.
28. Africa must continue to prioritize the full implementation of the strategy and engage in training, education and public awareness for local communities, including women and local traditional authorities, on issues relating to climate change. Crucially, Africa must mobilize finance to implement the African climate change strategy and action plan and support African flagship programs.