

Ninth Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa

*Towards a just transition that delivers jobs, prosperity and climate resilience
in Africa: Leveraging the green and blue economy*

Santa Maria, Sal Island, Cabo Verde

13-17 September 2021

The Santa Maria Call to Action

The ninth session of the Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa (CCDA-IX) convened under the theme of “A just transition that delivers jobs, prosperity and climate resilience in Africa: leveraging the green and blue economy” was hosted by the Government of Cabo Verde, in partnership with the African Union Commission (AUC), UNECA and the African Development Bank (AfDB), from September 13-17, 2021. It was the first CCDA to be held in an African Small Island State. By hosting CCDA-IX, the Government of Carbo Verde focused attention on the urgent need for concerted global action on climate change as African countries, especially the Small Island Developing States (SIDS), are already being severely impacted by climate change and warming faster than other regions. CCDA-IX also highlighted African perspectives on what a just transition and green recovery for Africa should look like, and proposed appropriate frameworks to support African countries in their efforts to design and implement African-led solutions for a just green recovery that fosters prosperity and builds resilience, while also strengthening the continent’s voice and agency in global climate negotiations ahead of the COP26 of the UNFCCC.

Mindful of the increasing impacts of climate change on African and SIDS economies and societies, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic;

Mindful that Africa, constituting 17 percent of the global population, accounting for less than 4 percent of global emissions, has already warmed by 1.8 degrees and is being severely impacted by climate change impacts;

Noting that Africa and the SIDS continue to show leadership in advancing action on climate change;

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



Concerned about the evident breakdown of trust ahead of COP26 as many developed countries have consistently failed to honour their promise to provide adequate and predictable climate finance;

Welcoming the decision of the COP26 President to host an in-person COP; and mindful of the importance of having a fully in-person COP26;

Concerned about the limited support to facilitate in-person participation at COP26 for developing country Parties;

Mindful of the liquidity challenges African countries now face as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic;

Noting that Africa remains the last frontier for transformative climate mitigation actions and adaptation to build resilience;

Welcoming different African designed solutions -such as the Africa Green Stimulus Plan led by the African Union Commission, the Green Recovery Action Plan, the Liquidity and Sustainability Facility; the Africa Adaptation Accelerator Platform, among others - to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and build resilience to climate change;

Mindful of the opportunities that the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) offers to develop green and resilient value chains across the continent.

Recognising the limited investments in weather and climate observation infrastructure, as well as climate research in Africa;

Noting that the issue of climate and intergenerational justice is vital for Africa's youth, and must address the inequalities of the global climate emergency;

The ninth session of the Climate Change and Development in Africa Conference (CCDA-IX) resolves that:

1. African countries should go to COP26 united in one voice and with credible solutions.
2. COP26 MUST be fully in-person and adequate support must be extended to all delegations to participate equitably in the COP;
3. COP26 MUST deliver on the twice promised provision of USD 100 billion per year of climate finance, as well as other means of implementation as provided for in the Convention and the Paris Agreement.
4. COP26 MUST recognize the special circumstances and needs of Africa, and especially its Small Island Developing States.



5. Africa is committed to a carbon neutral and sustainable world based on equitable distribution of resources and opportunity which leaves no one behind. Given its historical circumstances, Africa's just transition to carbon neutral and resilient economies must be gradual with adequate consideration to three key issues, including access to finance, technology and technology transfer as well as enhanced capacity.
6. The continent's ability to adapt to climate change is constrained by low levels of industrialization. This in turn is characterized by extremely low energy access. To meet its development objectives, the continent **MUST** close the energy gap and also industrialize very quickly, without significantly adding to greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere. The continent therefore **NEEDS** to develop its natural gas resources as a transitional source of energy to fuel industrialization, close the energy gap, and prepare for the transition to clean energy in the near future.
7. African countries and its SIDS should harness opportunities for an African-designed and led green and blue transition.
8. The transition must be inclusive and address issues of women, youth and other vulnerable groups, such as migrants and refugees.
9. African countries should scale up targeted green investments given the evidence that such investments can create greatest multiplier impacts including stronger gross value added, jobs creation and improved quality of a recovery from COVID-19 than traditional fossil fuel-based investments.
10. African innovations such as blue and green bonds and debt swaps for climate adaptation should be supported and promoted.
11. Adaptation is Africa's primary concern, and this should be reflected in the structuring of conditional climate finance. At least 50% of available finance should support climate change adaptation in Africa.
12. COP 26 must establish a clear process to define the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) contained in the Paris Agreement.
13. COP 26 must also prioritize loss and damage, and put in place mechanisms to operationalize the Santiago Network on Loss and Damage.
14. Developed countries must translate their net zero transition pledges into transparent and verifiable actions, and also contribute more towards supporting the climate response of



Africa in accordance with the core principles of common but differentiated responsibility of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

15. As with the COVID-19 response, tackling climate change and strengthening resilience in Africa and globally must be informed by scientific evidence and enabled through multilateral cooperation and solidarity.
16. Transitional justice should also focus on equity and accessibility and should address social transformation and economic development in general.
17. COP26 must valorise Africa's ecosystems (e.g.: The Congo Basin forests and peatlands, SIDS and coastal states coral reefs and mangroves) by putting a fair price on services from these ecosystems;
18. The international community should climate-proof their support to peace implementation, including identifying synergies between peacebuilding and conflict prevention measures.
19. The private sector should play a major role in financing the climate response in its multiple forms beyond the limited focus on mitigation. This is particularly so for Africa's private sector.
20. COP26 should finalise the provisions for the implementation of Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, particularly the measures pertaining to the operationalisation of market mechanisms, including market integrity, transparency and efficiency, ensuring that these mechanisms benefit developing countries.
21. The proceeds from carbon markets should be used to support adaptation actions.
22. Africa should invest in indigenous knowledge and technologies for building resilience, while investing in ICT for climate change response and promoting knowledge-sharing to leverage the technologies required for combating climate change.
23. African countries must increase knowledge sharing, capacity building, and technology transfer/access between island and coastal states to respond to their specific climate change challenges.
24. The revision and updating of the NDCs of African member states should take cognizance of the importance of the blue economy to coastal states and the SIDS, and should leverage the comparative advantage of the continent's considerable ocean and coastline.



25. COP26 should mobilise dedicated support for improved disaster risk reduction and management capacity and strategies for SIDS, including supporting investments in appropriately scaled early warning systems.