



Seventh African Development Forum

Acting on Climate Change for Sustainable Development in Africa

Consensus Statement

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African Union



African Development
Bank



Economic Commission
for Africa

Preamble

We, the participants in the Seventh African Development Forum (ADF-VII):

Representing stakeholders from across the African continent, including governments, civil society, and the private sector met in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 10 to 15 October 2010, on the theme 'Acting on Climate Change for Sustainable Development in Africa' at the invitation of the African Union Commission (AUC), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the African Development Bank (AfDB), supported by the United Nations family and development partners as observers;

Aware that climate change is a serious, urgent and compelling issue and that Africa, which contributes a negligible amount of greenhouse gas emissions (less than four per cent), is particularly vulnerable to climate variability and change;

Noting that the impacts of climate change have far-reaching implications for Africa's growth, social, human and economic development, environmental sustainability, governance, peace and security and on sustainable development as a whole and that the negative impacts are particularly high for Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Small Island Developing States (SIDs) and the poor, mostly women and children, who tend to live in environments that are most susceptible to droughts, floods, desertification and other extreme climatic events;

Recognizing that, depending on policy choices, climate change can severely undermine progress towards achieving sustainable development, including the targets set out in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Yet, climate change provides the opportunity to pursue an equitable and sustainable development path;

Expressing appreciation to the African Union Summit for its endorsement of climate-related continental programmes and initiatives, such as the Climate for Development in Africa (ClimDev-Africa) Programme, the Great Green Wall of the Sahel and Sahara and the African Monitoring of the Environment for Sustainable Development (AMESD) Programme;

Welcoming the endorsement of the common African negotiating position on climate change by the African Union Heads of State and Government Summit to enable the continent to effectively engage with the international community and to clearly articulate, speaking with one voice on agreed upon issues, its concerns, and priorities. This is in order to ensure that Africa's concerns are adequately reflected in a post 2012 international climate change regime;

Further welcoming the launch at this Forum, of the Clim-Dev Africa Programme by AUC, ECA and AfDB; *and requesting African Governments and their development partners, to provide adequate support* for its effective implementation and the full operationalization of its Special Fund, Africa Climate Policy Centre (ACPC), and the Climate Change and Desertification Unit;

Commending the decision by the Management of the African Development Bank to establish the Africa Green Fund to receive and manage Africa's allocation of climate change resources as pledged in the Copenhagen Accord and requested by Africa's leadership at COP 15 in Copenhagen, Denmark;

Noting with appreciation the establishment by the United Nations Secretary General, of a High-Level Advisory Group on Climate Change Financing, co-chaired by H.E. Prime Minister Meles Zenawi of Ethio-

pia and H.E. Mr. Jens Stoltenberg of Norway to deliberate on sources of funding and the delivery of the financial pledges contained in the Copenhagen Accord;

Mindful that the magnitude of the climate change challenge calls for concerted efforts by all concerned, within and outside the continent, to effectively mainstream climate change concerns into development policies, strategies and programmes in Africa, and recognizing the important roles of all stakeholders, including the public and private sectors, civil society, women, children, and the youth to effectively tackle this challenge.

Adopt this consensus statement as follows:

I. Key Challenges and Opportunities

A Challenges

1. Economic: Climate change poses serious challenges to Africa's growth prospects, social and economic development, because of its geographical location, high incidence of poverty, reliance on ecological resources, exacerbated by existing stresses on health and limited technical and financial resources, as well as inadequate institutional and human capacities. Climate change also poses serious threats to rural livelihoods, which depend on environmental resources that are highly susceptible to extreme climatic events, including droughts and floods. This underscores the need to strike a balance between efforts on climate action and meeting immediate development imperatives.

2. Financing climate change: Allocating new, additional, adequate, predictable, accessible and reliable resources to Africa to enable it undertake adequate climate change adaptation and nationally appropriate mitigation actions remains a challenge. Furthermore, the little funding available is not well-targeted. This points to the need for resource provisions in line with relevant United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) principles underpinned by a simple and efficient delivery mechanism. There is also a need to devise innovative financing mechanisms, including appropriate carbon pricing in order to enhance resource mobilization.

3. Governance and leadership: Ensuring the necessary coordination and coherence in support of the African Common Position on Climate Change in the ongoing international climate change negotiations is an important challenge. Additionally, leadership challenges to effectively deal with the effects of climate change, not only in the developing south, but also in the developed north, need to be overcome.

4. Participation: Presently, the participation and representation of parliamentarians, the private sector, and marginalized groups such as women, indigenous peoples, and local communities in the ongoing climate change negotiations is inadequate. There is need to support the participation of all relevant stakeholders in order to strengthen the African Common Position on Climate Change, and to undertake effective climate change actions.

5. Peace and Security: Most African conflicts, including climate-related ones are aggravated by heavy dependence on natural resources (forest, mineral, agro-pastoral and water resources). Therefore, there is need for rational and judicious use of environmental resources, including the maintenance of ecosystems integrity, to avoid ecological destruction, which aggravates the impacts of climate change, thereby threatening peace and security.

B. Opportunities

6. Policy integration: Adapting to the adverse impacts of climate change provides opportunities for capacity-building to integrate climate-resilient strategies into development planning, and for accessing adequate financing and appropriate technology to undertake necessary actions.

7. Green Economy: Addressing climate change presents opportunities for low-carbon growth and job-creating green economy through the pursuit of an informed, sustainable development trajectory that simultaneously improves growth and leads to sustainable social and economic development.

8. Funding: The existing UNFCCC Process, which embraces multilateralism, provides an important opportunity for leveraging financial resources, as it provides the framework for mobilizing resources needed for adaptation and mitigation actions in a transparent and inclusive setting. The ongoing work of the High-Level Advisory Group on Climate Change Financing, co-chaired by Prime Ministers Meles Zenawi of Ethiopia and Jens Stoltenberg of Norway to deliberate on sources and the delivery mechanism of financial commitments contained in the Copenhagen Accord is also recognized as a possible important opportunity for Africa.

9. Solving Africa's energy problems: Addressing the climate change challenge provides an opportunity for African countries to adopt energy efficient and clean energy development paths, while solving the continent's lingering energy deficits. This includes ensuring that the region is effectively integrated into the existing Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and voluntary carbon markets.

10. International cooperation: Climate change provides an opportunity for improving international cooperation among African countries, and between them and other regions of the world, to help steer the continent towards the path of sustainable development.

II. Harnessing means of response to climate change

A. Global Actions

11. Governance and leadership

- a) African leaders should strengthen institutional governance for climate change. In this regard, efforts should be made to increase institutional linkages and coordination across ministries and sectors at all levels of government in order to foster holistic and integrated approaches to planning; in addressing the climate change challenge; and
- b) Leaders of developed countries should make more effort in educating their public on the impacts of climate change in Africa with the view of enhancing understanding, as well as garnering the support necessary to meet commitments related to climate change, and to address the misconception that the obligation of developed countries to finance climate change actions in developing countries, is aid.

African governments and their development partners should:

- c) Strongly support the Conference of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC) to enable it to effectively mobilize political commitment and provide political leadership in regional and international climate change processes; and
- d) Demonstrate leadership by taking bold decisions on the issue of innovative climate change funding mechanisms, including proper carbon pricing to complement funding that should be provided under the UNFCCC process.

12. Africa and the international climate change negotiations

African countries should:

- a) Engage all relevant stakeholders, including parliamentarians, local communities, indigenous people, the private sector, CSOs and in particular, women and youth, in the ongoing international climate change negotiations and relevant decision-making processes;
- b) Support the implementation of the decisions and resolutions of the African Union, the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) and relevant continental bodies on the international climate change negotiations to ensure that the continent advances its climate change and development agenda;
- c) Ensure adequate coordination, coherence and effectiveness of the representation of the continent in the negotiations at all levels under the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol, in order for Africa to speak with one voice and improve its bargaining strength; and
- d) Strengthen the continent's capacity to improve its negotiating effectiveness and position in the ongoing international climate change negotiations in order to adequately reflect its concerns and priorities in a post-2012 international climate change regime.

13. Private sector response to climate change

African governments should:

- a) Create an enabling policy environment to encourage the private sector to harness its expertise, resources and creativity and work in partnership with the public sector and civil society organizations to accelerate the pace of addressing the climate change challenge on the continent. In this regard, policies that help overcome key risks and thereby provide incentives to undertake climate-friendly investments should be developed;
- b) Establish minimum standards for local and Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) that promote climate-sensitive investments and business decisions in the region;
- c) Develop a Pan African risk pool by aggregating small markets to bigger ones in order to spread risks and lower costs. In this regard, countries should develop policies informed by, for example, the Japanese experience in supporting the informal sector and that of the Caribbean in pooling risks related to climate change;
- d) Encourage the private sector to work with key public organizations and institutions to share and disseminate knowledge, experiences and expertise to promote awareness of the significant role of the private sector in investment and business opportunities that address climate change mitigation and adaptation; and
- e) Work with the private sector to encourage research and development that will create Africa-specific technological solutions to climate change challenges in the continent, as well

as support low carbon technologies, taking into account Africa's rich indigenous knowledge systems.

14. Financing climate change adaptation and mitigation actions

- a) African countries, while rightly demanding developed countries to meet their financial obligations under the UNFCCC, should use available funds, including those generated domestically in an efficient and transparent manner to finance pressing climate change adaptation actions;

African countries and their development partners should:

- b) Support ongoing efforts to reform the current governance system for climate change financing, including existing arrangements for CDM in order to ensure ready access to much needed funds;
- c) Identify immediately a clear pathway for raising and disbursing the fast-track financing resources to benefit Africa;
- d) Work closely with the private sector, including through Public-Private Partnerships, to scale up resources and develop policies that reduce transaction costs for climate-friendly investments, as well as strengthen capacity for carbon finance mechanisms, along with access to other available policy and finance instruments; and
- e) Strongly support the establishment of the Africa Green Fund hosted by AfDB, and anchored on the UNFCCC that is aligned with the continent's needs and priorities and has a governing structure that is simple and flexible to provide direct access to African countries.

15. Capacity-Building

African countries with the support of their development partners should:

- a) Strengthen the capacity of relevant institutions to undertake research and development activities, including the establishment of regional and national climate change observatories and centres of excellence;
- b) Strengthen public institutions to adequately manage climate-related funds to boost the confidence level of development partners, who are increasingly linking finance to results;
- c) Strengthen existing climate-related regional and sub-regional institutions, including centers of excellence and make them accessible to all stakeholders;
- d) Strengthen the capacity of policy makers and institutions on climate risk management processes, particularly in relation to investing in adaptation; and on the concept of the green economy;
- e) Strengthen the capacity of the youth by investing more in education systems, accelerating the introduction of education for sustainable development and implementing programmes that enhance intergenerational partnerships;
- f) Strengthen the capacity of vulnerable groups, especially women, children, and youth by equipping them with the tools and skills necessary to withstand climate change impacts; and
- g) Foster South-South cooperation to address Africa's priorities in relation to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

16. Climate risk management: Monitoring, Assessment, Early warning and Disaster: Risk Reduction

African countries should:

- a) Promote collaboration between early warning systems and disaster risk and relief organizations in planning logistics and formulating contingency plans ahead of time, to cope effectively with natural disasters. To enhance this, there is a need to obtain information from the end users to improve future prediction, forecasting and warning;
- b) Strongly support the strengthening of regional and sub-regional ecological surveillance and monitoring systems and take into account Africa's special needs in the shaping and the implementation of the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS);
- c) Disseminate best practices and demonstrate the viability of index insurance in different settings and scales under conditions of varying aridity;
- d) Include climate risk management in education curricula at all levels in order to effectively engage children and youth in addressing the impacts of climate change; and
- e) Mainstream climate risk management into planning processes.

17. Climate Data and Information

African governments should:

- a) With the support of the international community, *strengthen* relevant national institutions and agencies involved in the generation and use of climate data, relevant official statistics, and geographic information to ensure their timely availability and accessibility to all end-users at all levels of government and society to make informed decisions regarding climate change and related issues;
- b) Coordinate activities to avoid overlapping or ambiguous responsibilities, as well as duplication of data collection activities, gaps in information, conflicting information, deficiencies in data quality, and ensure the ability to integrate relevant information. To this end, national climate information plans should be developed as an integral part of National Strategies for the Development of Statistics; and
- c) Facilitate the exchange of data and information across research institutions and centers of excellence in Africa, as well as between sectors and across metrological communities.

18. Science, technology and innovation

African countries should:

- a) With the support of their partners, build a climate change knowledge repository, based on reliable data and scientific evidence;
- b) Support the development and implementation of regional and national climate change science plans;
- c) Support the intelligent management of climate risks and the development of policies and systems at sub-regional and national levels that accord top priority to disaster risk management and the development of safety nets for vulnerable communities, including the wider use of index insurance;

- d) Work with national and regional development institutions, including banks to promote early warning hazard advisory climate services, and to increase investment needed to improve preventive capacities at sub-regional, national and local levels;
- e) Adequately invest in climate and development science and research in Africa – from global modeling to supporting poor rural communities with actions needed at continental, regional, national and local levels;
- f) Pursue within the context of the international climate change negotiations, technology development, transfer and diffusion, including in relation to low-carbon technologies, particularly renewable sources of energy, and advocating for a global partnership in that regard; and
- g) Strengthen universities, research and technology development institutions to play a key role in increasing the competitiveness of the continent in the global market by carrying out research, taking into account realities on the African continent.

B. Sector-Specific Actions

19. Climate change, governance, peace and security

African countries should:

- a) Use preventive diplomacy to address issues of climate change for peace and security by identifying potential flashpoints and best practices for reducing tensions before conflicts break out;
- b) With the support of ECA, AUC, AfDB and other partners, through the ClimDev-Africa Programme, effectively address the nexus between climate change and peace and security;
- c) Examine programmes to expand and extend African peacekeeping and conflict reduction capacity in light of present and future climate insecurity, and urgently fully implement the African Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction paying attention to enhanced regional preparedness and a more efficient response system supported by properly resourced national systems and norms for allocating Government budgets for risk mitigation; and
- d) Amend the AU Peace and Security Council protocol to take into account security issues related to climate change and expand the early warning system to include issues of peace and security arising from climate change, such as migration through forced displacement.

20. Climate change and ecosystem sustainability

African governments should:

- a) Prioritize and promote green economy as a vehicle for addressing the challenges of climate change impacts on ecosystem sustainability and harnessing the opportunities provided by its vast and diverse ecosystems and natural resources including water bodies, biodiversity, forests and other land resources, for employment creation, poverty eradication and sustainable development. In this regard, payment for ecosystem services (PES) should be promoted and proportionate attention paid to countries with poor endowment of ecosystem, including those with low forest cover;
- b) Adopt and promote a human-centred ecosystem based management as a key approach to enhancing ecosystem goods and services to provide a foundation for improving livelihoods of local communities, and helping to mitigate and adapt to climate change. In this regard,

national governments should create the necessary enabling environment including policy, institutional and governance mechanisms, and monitoring systems, as well as enhance co-ordination to achieve effective and sustainable ecosystem management;

- c) Encourage the development and implementation of Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation Plus (REDD+) initiatives that take into consideration the goal of poverty eradication and the needs of local communities, particularly the vulnerable. In this regard, an independent international auditing system to monitor and evaluate REDD+ programmes and funding based on established safeguards should be put in place;
- d) Adopt a holistic and integrated approach to ecosystem management across sectors and landscape. The Guinea Current Project and the Great Green Wall for the Sahel are sound initiatives to build upon; and
- e) Implement the three Rio Conventions on biodiversity, climate change and desertification in a synergistic manner to promote the coherent management of the environment and to enhance the role of ecosystems in addressing climate change, while upholding the rights of local communities, ensuring that financing mechanisms create the right incentives, and enhancing the capacity of countries to deal with climate change.

21. Climate change, social and human development

African governments should:

- a) Mainstream social and human development considerations by employing a Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) in climate change mitigation and adaptation policies, strategies and programmes to ensure that the needs of the most vulnerable groups are prioritized;
- b) Strengthen the incorporation of population dynamics in Africa's response to climate change, ensuring that population programming is not limited to sexual and reproductive health, but also includes intersectoral investments to take advantage of the youthful age structure of the population;
- c) Evaluate existing infrastructure, interventions and human resource capacity of the health sector, particularly in the areas of surveillance, monitoring, data collection for use in environmental risk assessments and response systems, and ensure that equity-based health care financing is included in climate change funding mechanisms and internal resource mobilization;
- d) Mainstream gender perspectives in national development processes, strategies, programmes and practices in climate change and in this regard, strengthen alliances, coalition building and networking efforts to implement gender and sustainable development commitments in mitigation and adaptation measures at all levels;
- e) Ensure public-private partnerships through education policy reforms that enable the local production of eco-friendly pedagogical materials and dissemination of eco-friendly knowledge, skills and attitudes to children from an early age to tertiary-level education; and
- f) Promote youth-led solution-oriented adaptation and mitigation in climate change issues and processes and accelerate the implementation of existing legal instruments and policies, such as the African Youth Charter of the AU and the African Charter on the Rights and the Welfare of the Child, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

22. Climate change, agriculture and food security

African governments should:

- a) Call for a holistic approach in addressing agriculture, food security, nutrition, and climate change issues, including access to land, extension services, markets, technologies, finance, social protection mechanisms and natural resources;
- b) Create an enabling common policy environment at regional, sub-regional, and national levels for agriculture, food, security and climate change, including upscaling existing best practices and technologies;
- c) Through their climate change negotiators, seek to obtain a strong agreement with comprehensive and fair payment systems in the agriculture sector, including capacity-building, technology, knowledge and information, while paying attention to creating synergies between adaptation and mitigation;
- d) Upscale weather index-based insurance schemes and productive safety nets, as well as promote innovative financing mechanisms for agriculture and food security, including carbon markets; and
- e) Accelerate the implementation of the Africa Fertilizer Financing Mechanism, Water Business Plan and Agriculture Sector Strategy in order to reduce the continent's dependence on rain-fed farming, while enhancing agricultural productivity.

The AUC, NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA), and partners should:

- f) Climate proof the Comprehensive Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), particularly in water and sustainable land management and elaborate ways to integrate agriculture into the green economy. Further, work with Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to develop regional agricultural strategies in support of climate change mitigation and adaptation, and food security.

23. Climate Change, trade and industrial development

The international community should:

- a) Elaborate and communicate widely new trade and industrial opportunities in the green economy in order to guide future investment strategies;

The AU, RECs and African governments should:

- b) Work together to incorporate climate change considerations into the AU Programme for Acceleration of Africa's Industrialization, and other industrial development frameworks;
- c) Modify as feasible, national and regional power plans to meet the rising demand for a low-carbon development path, especially in the face of greater hydro-meteorological extremes; and
- d) Take advantage of the trade opportunities presented by organic production and the development of efficient energy sources to gain increased access to international markets. In this context, it is important to integrate climate change efficiently into trade, industry and agriculture strategies.

24. Climate change and infrastructure development

RECs should:

- a) Lead subregional and national reviews of current and future energy supply and demand; and the promotion of appropriate energy-sector reforms, with the view to ensuring that long-term plans contain strategies to broaden access to sustainable sources of energy, while mitigating emissions; and
- b) Work with national governments and other stakeholders to review sectoral infrastructure and equipment-renewal plans, focusing on low-carbon transport modes and land-use patterns, and incorporating priorities identified according to local circumstances.

African countries should:

- c) Climate-proof their water infrastructure and re-shape demand patterns in response to climate change; and integrate their actions, including in the following areas: climate-proofing existing and new water supply and sanitation infrastructure; implementing new water supply solutions that save energy; increasing water-harnessing infrastructure; improving national water management capacities; and improving cooperation among Riparian States;
- d) Adopt a holistic approach and develop appropriate policy tools that promote the diversification of energy sources and use of energy mix that mainly focus on low-carbon technology; and
- e) Support the Program for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA), jointly implemented by the AUC, the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA) and the AfDB, with the support of ECA and other UN agencies for the development of priority regional and continental infrastructure in the transport, energy, trans-boundary water and ICT sectors.

III. Call for Action

25. **Within the framework of global climate change governance, we call upon African governments and all stakeholders supported by their development partners to ensure the effective implementation of all global and sector-specific actions contained in this consensus statement.**

26. **Furthermore, we call for:**

- a) The *upscaling of support* to the ClimDev-Africa Programme by Africa's development partners and in this context, acknowledge the assistance provided so far by the governments of United Kingdom, Sweden and Norway;
- b) *The channeling* of development partners' allocation of climate change funds to the continent through the Africa Green Fund;
- c) *The mainstreaming* of climate change concerns into development policies, strategies, programmes and activities on the continent, and in this respect, *urge* the joint annual meeting of the African Union Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to spearhead specific actions to ensure this;
- d) *The development and implementation* of climate change adaptation and mitigation programmes that embody a gender and child-focused, ecosystem-based approach and pre-

pare plans of action that cover immediate, short, medium and long term needs, integrating the developmental dimensions of climate change adaptation and mitigation and the need for effective coordination and cooperation for adaptation actions, especially where trans-boundary effects occur;

- e) *The operationalization* of the regional initiative on the green economy in Africa by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), in collaboration with the AUC, ECA and AfDB and other regional bodies, to support national initiatives on green economy and the regional preparatory process towards the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 2010; and
- f) *The strengthening* of the Joint Secretariat of the AUC, ECA and AfDB to enable it to effectively support Africa's participation in the international climate change negotiations, as well as address the challenges posed by this phenomenon, and through regional integration, enhance Africa's capacity and capability to meet the continent's developmental challenges arising from climate change.

Finally:

27. ***We agree*** that this Consensus Statement should feed into relevant international processes towards Cancun and beyond and further inform Africa's common negotiating position on climate change. It should also form the basis for the preparation of an Action Plan on Climate Change that will be jointly prepared and implemented by AUC, ECA and AfDB, with UNEP as a strategic partner, and in collaboration with all stakeholders and other partners at regional, sub-regional, national and local levels.

IV. Vote of thanks

28. We commend the African Union Commission, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank for successfully convening the Forum, and all partners for effectively contributing to this resounding success.

29. We are truly grateful to H.E. Ato Girma Wolde Giorgis, President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, H.E. Ato Meles Zenawi Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, and H.E. Jens Stoltenberg, Prime Minister of Norway, for their excellent leadership during our deliberations.

30. We are also grateful to HRH The Prince Charles of the United Kingdom, H.E. Dr. Goodluck Jonathan, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and President Barack Obama of the United States of America for their goodwill messages.

31. Finally, we express our profound gratitude to the people of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia for their generosity and warm hospitality during our stay in Addis Ababa.

