



PAN AFRICAN CLIMATE JUSTICE ALLIANCE

Statement by Augustine Njamnshi on Behalf of the African Civil Society during the 7th African Development Forum

Addiss Ababa, Ethopia, October 14th 2010

Excellency The Commissioner of Rural Economy and Agriculture, AUC,

Excellency the AMCEN President

Honorable Ministers,

Distinguished guests

Ladies and gentlemen

We would like first and foremost to thank The Economic Commission For Africa, The African Union Commission and The African Development Bank for organizing this important forum and for this opportunity that has been presented to us the civil society share our views and contribute in the deliberations.

Your Excellency, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, we recognize the unity that Africa as a whole has exhibited in this process especially the harmony and trust that has been built between civil society and our national governments for the past years. Against the general misconception that Africa hardly ever agrees on issues, we worked out a common position that we pushed right to COP 15.

Africa was united on her position before and during Copenhagen despite the multiple pressures and temptations that came from all directions. We stood our ground. Let me take this opportunity to congratulate our negotiators, ministers and leaders who day and night in spite of the difficult conditions succeeded to make the African voice heard in the current dialogue.

This said, however, we have to reflect back and interrogate ourselves to find out whether Africa's position and unity is still a reality and feasible following the experience we had in Copenhagen. Here opinions are diverse; and we must be respected, but from our perspective we saw that Africa's negotiating process in Copenhagen witnessed some gaps which we have been reliably informed are being addressed at the highest level. May we therefore suggest that in the effort to harmonize the coordination between African Group, AMCEN and CAHOSOCC, other stakeholders, such as civil society, private sector and regional economic blocks be utilized to compliment existing human expertise and resources to enrich Africa's negotiating process.

In view of the rapidly evolving scientific evidence, we call for the African science-based position to be updated and strengthened to include a global goal of keeping temperature increases below 1°C and carbon dioxide concentrations below 300ppm.

Drawing on this, Africa should insist on actions based on the following points:

1. Mitigation: “Implement the Kyoto Protocol”

The Kyoto Protocol should continue post-2012 as legally mandated, with Annex I countries reducing their emissions by at least 50% from 1990 levels by 2017. We should continue to put pressure on the United States to join the Kyoto Protocol or at least to make comparable efforts under the Convention.

2. Adaptation: “Compensate for climate harms”

We note that developed countries’ historical emissions are the single main contributor to climate change and its adverse effects and its development implications for Africa. We therefore support the Africa Group’s position that initial financing of 2.5% of Annex I GNP is required to fund full costs of adapting to climate change. We oppose any effort to establish adaptation as an obligation not a right, or to use adaptation as a means to divide or differentiate between developing countries.

3 Finance: “Polluter not poor pays”

We note that developed countries have prospered through “cheap carbon” growth while externalizing their costs to the atmosphere and to developing countries. The costs are now born by Africa, as we mitigate and adapt to a crisis we played little role in causing.

To avert a climate catastrophe and enable mitigation, adaptation and technology transfer to African countries, we are united with you in calling on developed countries to, at a minimum, honor the African Group’s demand for:

- \$150 billion immediately in “special drawing rights”
- \$400 billion in fast-track financing
- 5% of Annex I GNP in longer-term financing

We call for a Multilateral Climate Fund to be established including: 1) an Executive Board; 2) funds/windows for adaptation, mitigation, technology and capacity building; and 3) a trustee, technical panels, and monitoring/verification mechanism.

4. Technology transfer: “Transfer the tools to adapt and develop”

We note that curbing global emissions within a decade requires technology transfers on a scale never before considered. We need a Marshall Plan for Africa and for the Earth. Developed countries must remove intellectual property rights and pay “full incremental costs” of technology transfer to prevent further human rights violations in Africa, protect developing countries and to peak and decline global emissions.

In conclusion, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, We believe the way forward is to honor the existing two tracks of negotiations under the transparent, democratic and multilateral process of the UNFCCC. Climate change affects all countries; all countries must be involved in its solution, and thereby protect the human rights of their people and the right to development through international cooperation. Significant progress was made before, during and after Copenhagen. This progress was undermined by the un-transparent effort to keep some people out of the discussions – we all know the results today. **As it is usually said, if you to go fast, move alone but if you want to go far, move with others.** I think Africa has come a long way to choose the second option and should never be forced by circumstances to abandon the path of justice and equity

Consequently the African civil society under the umbrella platform Pan African Climate Justice Alliance reiterate and reaffirm our commitment to work together with you to improve our peoples’ lives and livelihoods impacted by climate change. **Thank you for your kind attention.**