

Eighth Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa Conference (CCDA-VIII)

Stepping up climate action for a resilient Africa: a race we can and must win

African Union Commission, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

28-30 August 2019



CCDA VIII Outcome Statement

The Africa Union Commission (AUC), United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and African Development Bank (AfDB), in collaboration with the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) and the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA), convened the eighth Climate Change and Development in Africa Conference (CCDA-8) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from the 28 to 31 August 2019.

The 8th CCDA Conference was convened ahead of the United Nations Secretary General's Climate Action Summit to be held on 23 September 2019 during the General Assembly. The three days of intensive deliberations provided a platform for representatives of African countries and non-state actors to define key messages, focusing on concrete actions being implemented or needed to tackle climate change. The inputs followed the six thematic and three focus areas of the UNSG's Climate Action Summit.

The eighth Climate Change and Development in Africa Conference (CCDA-8) was held under the theme **"Stepping Up Climate Action for a Resilient Africa: A Race We Can and Must Win"**, in line with that of the 2019 UN Climate Action Summit. The 8th CCDA Conference was attended by more than 600 participants comprising of the African UNFCCC Focal Points, and respective national delegations, including the civil society, private sector, youth, and women constituencies,

who agreed as follows,

Recognizing the findings of the IPCC Special Report on the impact of 1.5 degrees of global warming, in particular that human interference with the climate system has reached critical levels and that extreme events linked to climate change are taking place much sooner than expected, *cognizant* therefore that urgent action must be taken to avert irreversible human interference with the climate system, *express our support* for the IPCC findings, and the call by the UN Secretary General on the need to reduce global GHG emissions by 45% by 2030 and to net zero by 2050. *Noting* that, for Africa, the contribution to the global effort is avoiding emission intensive production, distribution and consumption in pursuit of sustainable development pathways.

Recognizing that global average surface temperatures have already increased on average by 1°C above pre-industrial levels, and that greenhouse gas emissions continue on an upward trend, and the ambition of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) submitted in 2015 commit the world to increases in excess of 2°C by the end of the century, *we urge* all Parties to the Paris Agreement to ensure an effective and appropriate international response to climate change, and to increase financial support in the form of grants for adaptation and mitigation actions in Africa. *We call* on parties to the Paris agreement to ensure its comprehensive implementation.

Conscious of the major step forward taken by the global community in reaching the Paris Agreement in 2015, *recognizing* further the challenges faced by all countries in achieving the targets of the Paris Agreement, *call* on the parties to the Paris Agreement to ensure that the Nationally Determined Commitments are legally binding commitments, and that African countries be assisted with the necessary conditional funding for their implementation.

Noting that, climate change impacts are felt at local scales, with massive seasonal impacts on Africa in the form of droughts, flooding and incidence of extreme temperatures that significantly impact on the continent's economic development and social wellbeing including through Loss and Damage. *Further noting*, that 80% of all disasters in Africa are climate related, which threatens the ability of African countries to achieve SDGs goals by 2030. *We therefore call* on the UN to immediately declare a global climate emergency.



Aware that adaptation to climate change impacts in Africa are costing African economies increasing amounts of their GDP, and recognizing that this severely constrains the capacity of African countries to attain any of their Sustainable Development Goals, *call* on the UN to ensure that adequate financing is made available for adaptation in Africa. *Further call* on the parties to the UNFCCC to conclude, at COP 25, the Warsaw Mechanism on loss and damage to ensure that African countries are adequately compensated for losses emanating from climate related events.

Emphasising the priority of adaptation for Africa, we *call* on the UN Secretary General to encourage all countries to expedite the development of guidelines for Adaptation Communications under the Paris Agreement, so as to ensure the ability to track progress in reducing vulnerability, understanding of needs, and planning for climate change adaptation and resilience. *Further call* on the UN Secretary General to encourage Multilateral Development Banks and the UNFCCC Finance Mechanism to develop modalities for budgetary support for adaptation in developing countries, as it has been shown to be more effective for adaptation interventions, whereas project-based financing is more appropriate for mitigation initiatives.

Concerned about the potential risk of the required drastic energy transition at an unprecedented scale and speed of contributing to the deepening of global and national inequalities, we *call* for the global energy transition to embed a Just Transition in Low Emission Development Strategies, including a global regime for localization of renewable energy value chains in Africa to support sustainable development in Africa. *Further call* upon the African member states to recalibrate their NDCs based on National Development Goals - Low Emission Development Strategies - Just Transition considerations.

Recognizing the relationship between energy and development, we *support* scaled-up deployment of renewable energy and sustainable use of natural resources, and a progressive reduction of the dependence on fossil fuels-based sources of energy, and destruction of natural carbon sinks, informed by a just transition and economic diversification. We *call* for increased support for African countries in contribution to protection and enhancement of sinks.

Call for urgent action by all Parties, especially by those who bear greater responsibility for cumulative carbon dioxide concentrations in the atmosphere, particularly through the production, distribution and consumption of goods and services. *Emphasise* the importance of mechanisms to ensure that developed countries deliver on their commitments to provide adequate and additional climate finance to developing countries based on developing countries needs in the replenishment of the Green Climate Fund as envisaged in the Paris Agreement. *Further call* on the UNSG to explore avenues for funding implementation of the Global Framework for Climate Services, and hydro-meteorological infrastructure in Africa to support the development of sector-specific projections of seasonal climate impacts.

Note that the Paris Agreement seeks to mobilize resources for mitigation and adaptation from multiple sources, particularly the Green Climate Fund, and *call* for the GCF to intensify programmes to build capacities for African countries, *recognise* that private sector contributions to climate finance in Africa are low, *call* upon African member states to put in place incentives and mechanisms to catalyse private sector investments in climate actions, and *further call* upon the Africa private sector to contribute to domestic financing for climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Urge the UN General Assembly and development partners to provide adequate resources to the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa to urgently enhance operational capacity of the African Climate Policy Centre in accordance with the structure and mandate approved by the African Heads of State and the Conference of Ministers of Finance and Economic Planning (COM), to competently provide analytical backstopping to the African Union and African member states on integrating all aspects of climate change into development policy, planning and practice.

Further call on African leaders,



To acknowledge that the IPCC assessment identifies carbon removal as a key component of strategies to achieve the 1.5 degrees target, whilst *noting* such technologies pose scientific, technical, economic and political challenges and moral dilemmas. *Call* on the African Union to immediately initiate a process of developing appropriate policy frameworks for member states to ensure that the adoption and application of such technologies, including carbon capture activities does not in any way prejudice African states.

Note the demand among countries and communities for integrated approaches and frameworks to climate change adaptation and loss and damage, disaster risk reduction and sustainable development. *Noting* further that a bottom-up approach engaging the most vulnerable people and communities can drive policy coherence solutions. *Call* upon member states to ensure integrated implementation of the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework, Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063 to build resilience and address inequality.

Noting that climate change adaptation and mitigation actions are carried out at sub-national and local levels, *call* for the full involvement of local governments, cities, municipalities, and other urban and rural authorities in the formulation and implementation of national climate strategies and policies, with capacities to mobilise the requisite resources to implement climate actions.

Recognizing that deforestation is primarily driven by illegal logging of valuable species across the continent, *recognizing* also that this illegal offtake of valuable species is contributing to ecosystem degradation and increasing land use based emissions, *noting* that the exploitation of African forests is not necessarily contributing to local livelihoods, *call* on member states to implement existing forest laws and policies to regulate forest resource use, and to ensure that any use of forests contributes to the multiple objectives of ecosystem resilience, livelihood enhancement and carbon sequestration.

Recognizing that 2019 and 2020 offer a key opportunity to promote alignment and integration between disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and sustainable development strategies, plans, and their related frameworks and *noting* that a bottom-up approach engaging the most vulnerable people and communities can drive policy coherence solutions, *call upon* AU Member States to ensure integrated implementation of the Paris Agreement, the Sendai framework, Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063 to build resilience and address inequality

Noting that nature-based solutions are the best-suited and cheapest solutions available to us, *noting* also the comparative advantage of Africa in the agriculture, land use and forest sectors, *encourage* the international community to further catalyse the mobilisation of funds, including the GCF in the context of Article 5 of the Paris Agreement on REDD+, and *call* on African member states to enhance their capacities to access available resources to support REDD+ and other land-based initiatives.

Convinced that the climate crisis calls for the establishment of appropriate institutional mechanisms at all levels to guide the response, *call on* the African Union to urgently establish a Climate Change Commission to coordinate the development and implementation of African frameworks to guide the continent's climate response, including institutionalization of the African Group of Negotiators, to ensure proper accountability to member states as well as to strengthen the African voice in all UNFCCC processes.

Further call upon the African Union, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, and the African Development Bank and development partners to urgently mobilize resources for the implementation of the second phase of the Climate Change and Development in Africa (ClimDev-Africa) programme and *urge* African member states to enhance the mobilization of resources to support the integration of climate information and services into national and regional policy and decision-making process.

Call upon AU Member States to enhance the mobilization of resources to support the AMCOMET African Integrated African Strategy on Climate and Weather Services to support the mainstreaming of climate information and services into national policy and decision-making process. *Urge* the UNSG to call upon development partners to support the implementation of the Global Framework for Climate Services, and



hydro-meteorological infrastructure in Africa to support the development of sector-specific projection of seasonal climate impacts.

Recognizing the centrality of sustainable land management to climate change adaptation in Africa, *call upon* UN to support AU member states in their efforts to develop policy incentives for the adoption of SLM initiatives in all land use regimes.

Call upon African Member States to embrace the blue economy and to enhance their preparedness to implement the African Package for Climate-Resilient Ocean Economies.

On Energy Transition

Recognizing the distortions created by incentives for fossil fuels, such as subsidies, *call* for the reform of the global financial system to support investment in clean energy, and ensure adequate access to clean energy for all.

Aware of best practices for energy transition in Africa, and *recognizing* the existence of exemplary pilot initiatives, *urge* the AU, AfDB, UN and development partners to mobilize funds to scale-up successful cases of energy transition such as those observed in Guinea, Morocco and Kenya.

Further urge the AU, AfDB and UN agencies to help countries build the required capacity to assess the possible environmental impacts associated with their large-scale deployment. *Further call upon* the relevant sectoral authorities at national and sub national levels to integrate energy planning in economic and social development planning.

On Industry Transition:

Recognizing the weak regulatory frameworks for emissions in hard to abate sectors, we *call upon* the UN member countries to create a framework to encourage countries to integrate strong commitments for emissions reduction in hard-to-abate sectors including shipping, trucking, cement, chemicals, and aluminium refining.

On Infrastructure, cities and local action

Recognizing that climate change policies and preparedness strategies are most effective, and draw the most support from residents and community groups, if they are designed through inclusive processes and address the intersecting problems of racial, income, and environmental inequalities.

Recognizing further that climate change solutions are the most successful when city leaders partner with community groups to set priorities and shape those solutions.

We urge African countries to design and implement renewable energy legislation to mitigate emissions from urban buildings, transport and other infrastructure.

We further call upon the UN, AU, and AfDB to mobilize funding to scale up successful initiatives such as climate smart urban planning pilot projects currently being implemented in Cabo Verde to accelerated urban communities' transition to greener futures

On Nature Based Solutions

Recognizing the limitations placed by inadequate funding on African countries' ability to implement nature based solutions, recognizing also the low levels of access to climate funds by African states, *call upon* the



UN, AU and AfDB and development partners to devise capacity building programmes to help countries design bankable project proposals to enhance access to existing funds.

Recognizing the significant contribution of the Agriculture, Forestry and Land Use sectors to Africa's economies, *call* on African countries to prioritize these sectors in development planning.

Noting the importance of subnational authorities in the planning and implementation of climate actions, *call upon* all national authorities to consider devolving their Nationally Determined Commitments into Locally Determined Commitments to enhance the participation of sub national authorities in the climate response.

Noting the importance of reforming land policies to address gender imbalances and to facilitate access and ownership of land by women, *call upon* African countries to urgently formulate policies which ensure equitable access to land by women and girls and youth in order to facilitate their engagement in climate change adaptation actions

On Resilience and adaptation

We call upon African member states to ensure adequate, predictable and sustainable financial resources and support for adaptation and DRR efforts, as well as for addressing loss and damage to strengthen resilience.

Further urge the AfDB, UN and AU to support countries integrate Climate Change and DRR risks in infrastructure development planning.

Also call on African countries to incorporate disaster and climate risk into their development planning and investment decision making to ensure integrated and coherent implementation of climate change, disaster risk reduction and sustainable development actions

We note the inadequacy of early warning systems in Africa and *urge* the AU, UN, countries and development partners to establish operational institutional frameworks to facilitate efficient coordination of early warning systems at continental and country levels.

We further urge the AU, UNECA, AfDB and development partners to strengthen the meteorological data service providers, including the African Centre for Meteorological Applications for Development and other Regional Climate Centres, and to build their capacity to produce data that is customized to the needs of various user groups and communities. We also *urge* the AU, UNECA and AfDB to scale-up the contingency planning models such as the African Risk Capacity (ARC), which helps countries develop contingency plans, access insurance.

Concerned by the implications of climate change for food security on the continent, and *recognizing* the absence of strategic food reserves in most countries, *cognizant* of the existential threat that this poses especially for poor rural communities, *we call upon* the AU, AfDB, UN and development partners to urgently establish a continental grain reserve to regulate potential inflation in the agricultural commodity markets.

On Climate finance and carbon pricing

Recognizing the challenges encountered in the implementation of carbon pricing approaches in the past, and *cognizant* of the uncertainties of carbon markets, *urge* the international community to invest in properly regulated carbon markets to ensure that carbon is properly priced to provide appropriate incentives for reducing carbon emissions. *Further recommend* the application of the "polluter-pays" principle in the implementation of the Paris Agreement and in NDCs, and *urge* member countries to use the proceeds of



carbon trading to protecting the environment, drive investments in clean technologies, and raise revenue for mitigation and adaptation.

On Youth and public mobilization

Recognizing the enormous advantage presented by Africa's youth demographic dividend, *further recognizing* the challenges experienced by African countries in harnessing this dividend, *call upon* African member states to creatively engage the youth in policy and institutional development, provide training and capacity development for youths in climate informed enterprises, and provide training in climate information and services to empower youths to further disseminate climate information to marginalized communities and constituencies. *We further call* on member states to put in place incentives for youths to engage in climate smart agriculture, including giving youth secure access to productive land. *We also call* on African member states to provide incentives, including access to affordable finance, to youths to invest in clean energy initiatives.

On Mitigation

Cognizant of the primacy of adaptation for most African countries, *recognizing also* the imperative to avoid emissions in the continent's development trajectory, *call upon* member states to integrate mitigation actions in their NDCs, paying due regard to the determinants and principles of just transitions.

We further call upon Member States to redouble their reforestation initiatives, accelerate investment in renewable energy for domestic uses, and support the AU Great Green Wall initiative so to provide food and jobs for those that are living on the edge of the Sahel region.

On Social and political drivers

Recognizing that climate change represents the latest in a series of environmental drivers of human conflicts, drought, desertification, land degradation and so on. *Recognizing also* that climate change threatens water and food security, the allocation of resources, and coastal populations, threats which in turn could increase forced migration, raise tensions and trigger conflicts, *we call upon* UN, AU and development partners to support the implementation of NDCs in Africa to ensure just transitions, green job generation, and managed migration of populations displaced by climate change.

Cognizant of the impacts of already occurring climate induced events on food security, settlement and employment, *call upon* the international community to *consider* creation of a Climate Emergency fund to assist African countries to respond to climate crises in more coherent, predictable and planned ways.



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Minister

