

Africa Partnership Forum (APF) Special Session on Climate Change : 3 September 2009, Addis Ababa

JOINT STATEMENT

1. The APF held in Addis Ababa on 3 September 2009 a Special Session dedicated to climate change, focusing on Africa's concerns and expectations in the current UN negotiations on this matter. The meeting was addressed by H.E. Ato Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, and by distinguished ministers from APF member countries.
2. Participants to this Special Session recognize that climate change is a critical issue globally and for Africa, and see this as a crucial year for taking effective international action. They are committed to reaching an effective and ambitious agreement at Copenhagen.
3. **Mitigation** – *Urgent action needs to be taken by the international community to reduce global emissions. Africa is prepared to make a significant contribution to this effort. The Copenhagen agreement must recognize Africa's legitimate development needs.*
 - **Ambitious global emissions targets are needed** : Action needs to be taken to cut emissions. All countries must act, consistent with our common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. Developed countries among us will take the lead in promptly undertaking robust aggregate and individual reductions.. We recognize the broad scientific view that the increase in global average temperature above pre-industrial levels ought not to exceed 2°C.
 - **Africa's contribution to this global effort needs to be recognized** : Increased funding for reduced emissions from deforestation and forest degradation needs to be an integral part of a Copenhagen agreement;
 - **Africa's legitimate development needs must also be recognized** : Africa needs to meet its sustainable development objectives, including developing its energy resources. Increased support for low-carbon growth must also be an integral part of a Copenhagen agreement.
4. **Adaptation** – *Climate change is already having a substantial impact on Africa. Successfully adapting to these impacts is crucial to achieving its development objectives. This issue needs to be given urgent and increased attention.*
 - **Adapting to the impacts of climate change will impose massive additional costs on Africa** : Africa is the continent least responsible for climate change, but is acutely vulnerable to its effects - on economic growth, poverty reduction, and the prospects for achieving the MDGs. The impacts will spread across all sectors – from agriculture to water, energy and health. The costs will be enormous. Africa has far fewer resources than other regions to meet these;
 - **The issue of adaptation needs to be given increased priority in the UNFCCC negotiations:** now that climate change is already happening, much more attention needs to be given in Copenhagen to tackling the challenges of adaptation, alongside the challenges of mitigation;

- **Adaptation and development are inextricably inter-linked** : adaptation strategies need to be integrated both into national and regional development plans and into sector policies, including gender considerations – as African governments are starting to do, and into the support provided by development partners.

Both adaptation and mitigation will need to be supported by accelerated technology development, diffusion and transfer, and substantial new additional, more predictable and sustainable finance, and capacity building.

5. **Technology** - *it is essential to harness the full potential of technological innovation in order to meet the challenges of mitigation and adaptation in Africa and globally.*

- **More support is needed for the development, diffusion, and transfer of technology:** both adaptation and mitigation efforts need to be supported by accelerated technology development, diffusion and transfer, and by intensified efforts to build the capacity needed both to develop and to use new technologies;
- **Greater focus should be given to areas of particular relevance to Africa,** such as forests, land use, energy efficiency and renewable energy;
- **Trade policy should be mobilized in support of technology diffusion** : the elimination or reduction of tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade in environmental goods and services is essential to promote the dissemination of cleaner low-carbon technologies worldwide.

6. **Finance** - *Existing financial mechanisms need to be reformed and scaled-up.*

- **Existing carbon market mechanisms should be reformed to make them more relevant and accessible to Africa** : This should include action to improve the procedures and modalities, and broaden the coverage of the Clean Development Mechanism in a way that will respond to Africa's initiatives and increase the potential benefits to Africa;
- **New, additional, more predictable and sustainable resources need to be provided - in support of both adaptation and mitigation;** this will require the development of new financing sources and effective mechanisms, including the new climate change funding initiatives currently under discussion, as an integral part of the Copenhagen agreement;
- **Future funding should respond to the long-term sustainable development priorities of Africa** : this should inform discussion of the governance and delivery mechanisms of any new financing mechanisms. Transaction costs should be kept to a minimum.

7. The meeting welcomed the nomination of H.E. Ato Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, as the coordinator of the African common position for the UNFCCC negotiations at Copenhagen.

8. The key political messages from this meeting, which do not represent a negotiating position, will be communicated to the UN High Level event on Climate Change on the 22nd September, the up-coming G20 Summit in Pittsburgh on 24-25th September, relevant African processes, and the on-going negotiations within the UNFCCC.

9. Participants expressed their gratitude to the UNECA for hosting the meeting and for the excellent arrangements.