Grantham Research Institute on
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the Environment

Possibilities for Africa in global action on climate change

THE CASE FOR A STRONG GLOBAL AGREEMENT ON CLIMATE CHANGE – THE AFRICAN PERSPECTIVE

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Why the climate negotiations are crucial for Africa

1. Climate change is a critical issue for Africa. Africa is likely to experience above average impact from climate change due to its proximity to the equator - higher temperature increases, rising sea levels that affect much of the population, changing rainfall patterns, and increased climate variability. The effects on individual countries will depend on their location and attributes, but all countries will be exposed and have reason for common cause. Africa's ability to adapt to these additional stresses is lower than that of the rest of the world, which further increases its vulnerability and heightens the risk of agricultural decline, chronic hunger, water shortage, massive population migration and social unrest.

2. A strong global deal on climate change is in Africa's interests (see Exhibit below). Because climate change poses such a threat to African development and growth, Africa has a vital interest, more than other world regions, in the strongest possible global deal. A strong global deal must include emission cuts by developed countries of 25-40% by 2020 relative to 1990. It must also include commitments by all developing countries to take action now, while recognising that they will need support from developed countries and that achieving growth and fighting poverty must remain key objectives.

Financing and fostering low-carbon growth

3. Achieving low-carbon growth is possible and in fact an opportunity for Africa's development, but it requires an 'investment strategy'. African countries must continue to grow, but it is important that this growth does not lock Africa into a 'high-carbon' path. The world as a whole must recognise that low-carbon growth is the only sustainable option for growth: high-carbon growth kills itself, first on hydrocarbon prices and second on the very hostile physical environment it creates. Adopting low-carbon trajectories implies investment in energy efficiency and low-carbon assets as well as access to demonstrated technologies that increase carbon productivity. In doing so, Africa can leverage its unique asset base in power, forests, agriculture and water. Developing a convincing strategy to attract foreign investment will require appropriate policies, the right incentives and a stable business environment. This is a domestic challenge requiring African leadership. But the global deal can support this agenda through finance, technology sharing and support for capacity building.

4. Low-carbon growth strategies should be embodied in holistic national action plans that integrate adaptation, mitigation and development. These plans will

guide implementation and facilitate access to the necessary funding. Integrating the adaptation and low-carbon growth objectives into the national action plans (NAPA[1] / NAMA[2]) will reinforce the coherence and the effectiveness of the different measures. Proposing coherent national action plans as a means to implement adaptation, mitigation and development measures will also help to secure the required additional funding in both the short and long term.

5. Africa will need not only additional funding but also timely delivery on existing ODA commitments. The analysis in the accompanying papers suggest that **t**he extra funding needed to finance actions on climate change in Africa is in the order of $20-30 billion in the short-term (2015), rising to around $50-70 billion by 2030. These funding resources, incremental to current ODA commitments, will primarily finance measures to reduce deforestation and power related emission mitigation investments and adaptation efforts across water, agriculture and infrastructure. It is crucial that developed countries honour their commitments on development and see climate change support as an additional funding and any shortfalls on ODA and the additional funding would likely hit Africa hard (Africa currently receives approximately a third of committed ODA.)

6. Accessibility criteria to the financial mechanisms should acknowledge the need to be 'performance' based but should suit Africa's specific needs. Access to carbon markets should be designed with a phased approach allowing the building right away of the capabilities to access financing from global carbon markets , and the inclusion of opportunities most relevant to Africa such as REDD. In addition, the institutional structures in Africa should continue the responsibility to deliver proven results with financial pledges which are stable over time. Mechanisms to provide adaptation funds should be simple and accessible to all, including the most vulnerable countries. A number of financing proposals have been put forward. Although, the Norwegian proposal for allocation of revenue from auction of permits and ear-marking international transport levies seem to be the most widely accepted, a more reliable strategy would consist in tapping into multiple source of funding.

7. The institutional structures from a global deal should promote equity, efficiency and mutual trust. The administration of funds should be simple and efficient; limiting the number of new institutions and using existing development channels where possible. The African Development Bank with the support of the World Bank can play a leading role in administering the funds and assisting Africa in the implementation of its low-carbon growth strategies. At the national level,

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[1] National Adaptation Programmes of Action

[2] Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions

efficient and transparent institutions will help build mutual trust and increase the effectiveness of mitigation and adaptation funds.

How to make it happen

8. Climate change requires the attention of Heads of State. Climate change is one of the biggest threats to Africa's growth and development and for this reason alone deserves the attention of all African Heads of State. Their leadership is essential to tackle climate change. Heads of State are best positioned to integrate the diversity of African interests in the UNFCCC negotiations and generate sufficient support for the low-carbon economic growth pathway and adaptation needs across Africa. Moreover, the impacts and responses to climate change are interlinked with other Head of State issues (e.g. trade and security) that require long-term planning and consistent cross-government co-ordination. Leadership at the Head of State level is required in particular to ensure a swift and efficient implementation of adaptation and low-carbon development plans.

9. The current economic crisis is not an excuse, on the contrary it is an opportunity. Action on climate change needs to start now. Putting on hold actions on the climate crisis until we sort out the financial one is muddled and short sighted. These two crises can, and must be dealt with together, using the period of lower demand to invest to secure a new wave of growth based on the technologies for a low-carbon economy and to capture the low-carbon growth business opportunities. Both crises tell us that postponing action on risk is dangerous.

10. Africa must ensure its voice is heard over the next four to six months in the most important local and international fora. A number of climate change related meetings (G8, G20, EU Summit, Major Economies Forum) will be held involving developed and developing countries in the period between now and Copenhagen, and all too often the only Africa nations at the table is South Africa. Africa should insist on its presence at these meetings to share its position and press its proposal.

EXHIBIT: POTENTIAL AFRICA ASKS FOR A GLOBAL DEAL

Africa requirements from global climate change negotiations

Africa requirement	Description
450 ppm pathway	▪ Relatively stringent emission reduction pathway that has likelihood (40-60% probability) of limiting global temperature increase to <2 degrees and thereby limit the impacts on Africa
Forestry at centre of deal	▪ Include forestry in mitigation efforts and ensure sufficient funding for forestry based mitigation through market based mechanisms (sufficient depth of market) which will help give value to preserving Africa's forest assets
Adequate adaptation funding	▪ Funding for additional adaptation costs that is additional to ODA commitments in order to lessen the impacts of climate change
Reformed CDM suitable for Africa needs	▪ Mechanism that allows African countries to access private carbon market based funding
Immediate action	▪ Funding currently committed in allocated and disbursed in timely manner ▪ Immediate needs such as adaptation priorities, capability building and further research are met before 2012
Seat at the table	▪ African representation and participation in global discussions concerning climate change and in governance of institutions related to climate change

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Implications of Africa's requirements

Africa requirements	Implications: World	Implications: Africa
450 ppm pathway	▪ Developed country reductions by 25-40% by 2020 and 80-95% by 2050 ▪ Developing country reductions contributions led by middle income countries	▪ Commitment to limit per capita emissions to 2 tCO_2e by 2050
Forestry at centre of deal	▪ Provide global REDD mechanism able to fund 5 Gt (0.7 Gt for Africa) of abatement by 2020	▪ Build MRV capabilities for forestry ▪ Address internal drivers of deforestation as part of low carbon growth plan (LCGP)
Adequate adaptation funding	▪ Commit to deliver incremental funding in addition to ODA commitments of up to $86 bn by 2015 (up to $19 bn for Africa) ▪ Include non-discretionary international funding sources (e.g. global transport levies which could provide $13-26 bn by 2015)	▪ Prepare and commit to LCGP as basis to allocate internal, ODA and climate change resources
Reformed CDM suitable for Africa needs	▪ Develop simplified programmatic and project based mechanisms suitable for land-use and small scale projects	▪ Support domestic business environment conducive to low-carbon investment ▪ Build MRV capabilities
Immediate action	▪ Timely disbursement of pre-2012 for priority adaptation and capability building (including $1-2 bn for global adaptation priorities and $15-90 million per forestry country to develop capabilities and pilot programmes for REDD	▪ Expand current research, capability building, and plans (NAPAs) to feed into LCGP pilots
Seat at the table	▪ Ensure equitable governance for international climate change institutions	**Climate change is an important head of state issue which requires strong leadership**

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The Case for a Strong Agreement on Climate Change– The African Perspective

This paper is the third and final chapter in the series entitled 'Possibilities for Africa in Global Action on Climate Change'. Their purpose is to support the African position in the upcoming Copenhagen negotiations. The first paper in the series describes possible climate change adaptation strategies and growth opportunities for Africa across sectors. The second paper presents the potential elements of a global climate change agreement. This note attempts to draw some possible implications and high-level conclusions for African leaders as they prepare for the negotiations.

WHY THE CLIMATE NEGOTIATIONS ARE CRUCIAL FOR AFRICA

1. CLIMATE CHANGE IS A CRITICAL ISSUE FOR AFRICA

The two great challenges of the 21st century are poverty and climate change, and Africa is at the forefront of this battle. We succeed or fail together in addressing these challenges: unmanaged climate change will destroy development and attempts to manage climate change which block or undermine development in the next two decades will not secure a coalition for action Therefore we must act strongly now and expect to continue strong action over the next decades. The current financial crisis (a third challenge in the short term) is no reason to delay action on poverty and climate change; on the contrary it provides opportunities to recover in a way that lays the foundations for strong and sustainable growth whilst making use of resources when they are less scarce.

Climate change is affecting Africa today and already creating major challenges for individual countries. The severity of its impact will increase as temperatures rise. Africa stands to be strongly affected and its people are particularly vulnerable to the effects.

Climate change will have major economic impacts. Climate change impacts threaten Africa's aspirations for growth and poverty reduction, through changing water availability, declining or volatile agricultural yields, climate-related disasters

(including floods and droughts), and pressure on the movement of people. Achieving development goals in a more hostile climate will be much more costly than if the climate were unchanged.

2. A STRONG GLOBAL AGREEMENT ON CLIMATE CHANGE IS IN AFRICA'S INTERESTS

Africa has contributed relatively little to global greenhouse gas emissions but is one of the continents most vulnerable to its impacts. More than any other continent, Africa therefore has a vital interest in a strong global deal on climate change, including strong targets to limit global warming to 2°C or less (above the 19th century) and adequate support to developing countries from the developed world.

Developed countries must agree to cut emissions by 25-40% by 2020 relative to 1990 levels, in line with IPCC recommendations. This would provide the best possible chance of avoiding dangerous climate change - containing adaptation needs - but also generating sufficient flows of finance from carbon markets to support low-carbon growth in developing countries. Even under this best-case scenario, Africa will require significant adaptation support due to the climate change the world is already committed to over the coming decades. Given that many rich countries have failed to cut emissions 1990-2010, these targets may be difficult to achieve for some rich countries. They should be pressed hard (the difficult position of high emissions in 2010 is in large measure their responsibility) but they could be offered two margins of flexibility: (i) strong contributions to the reductions of other countries (towards forestry for example) (ii) stronger emission reduction pathways in the period 2020-2030.

Developing countries also need to take action now. They should to recognise the scientifically-based long-term target of around 2 tCO2e per capita by 2050, develop credible action plans on this basis, commit to work towards corresponding binding national targets by 2020 for middle-income countries, and meanwhile participate actively in the carbon markets and in their further development. Even Africa, one of the lowest carbon emitters in the world, emits around 3 tCO2e per capita when emissions from land use change and deforestation are included. African nations are well positioned to recommend strongly that the richer developing countries commit to strong and urgent action. Failure of the developed countries and the major emerging economy emitters to reduce their emissions will have a significant impact on Africa.

Achieving growth and fighting poverty must remain key objectives for developing countries. The world must recognise that the poorer countries of the world, many of which are in Africa, will see emissions grow for some time (though

only a small contribution to global emissions). But the richer amongst them will need to see emissions start to fall within ten years and the majority will need to see emissions falling before 2030. But it will not be slower growth that will allow developing countries to achieve this fall in emissions. It will be low-carbon growth, the only sustainable long-term alternative for the world, using technologies demonstrated and shared by the rich countries as well as their own technological advances and drives for energy efficiency.

FINANCING AND FOSTERING LOW-CARBON GROWTH

3. ACHIEVING LOW-CARBON GROWTH IS POSSIBLE AND IN FACT AN OPPORTUNITY FOR AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT, BUT IT REQUIRES AN 'INVESTMENT STRATEGY'

It is important that Africa's growth does not lock it into a 'high carbon' path. African countries must continue to grow, but the pathway adopted should favour low-carbon power production, energy efficient industry and city planning as well as its unique asset base in forests, agriculture, sun and water to develop high carbon productivity growth vectors in fields such as power, biofuels or food.

With adequate planning and support, international finance for global mitigation efforts can enhance development prospects for Africa. African countries should integrate Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs) and National Adaptation Plans of Action (NAPAs) into their development strategies. This will help to guide low-carbon growth and obtain developed country funding for additional costs of implementation. Offset markets are an opportunity for Africa to attract financial flows for sustainable development while helping developed countries meet their abatement targets.

The Global Deal can support technology sharing through funds and capability building. Access and support for potential leap-frogging technologies such as off-grid renewable generation should be provided. Funds are required to support research spending on developing country-specific technologies that promote low-carbon growth and foster adaptive capacity. Access to experts and training should support national capability-building efforts.

Appropriate policies to attract foreign investment are required in National Plans, or Low Carbon Development Strategies. The majority of technologies needed for adaptation and low-carbon growth in Africa (e.g. most renewables, water irrigation technology, malaria medicines, etc) are commercially available and rarely proprietary. To ensure a convincing investment environment is created around the

National Plans on adaptation and mitigation, policies providing stability or appropriate incentive schemes should be set up, and relevant investments in infrastructure and local capabilities need to be made.

4. LOW-CARBON GROWTH STRATEGIES SHOULD BE EMBODIED IN HOLISTIC NATIONAL ACTION PLANS THAT INTEGRATE ADAPTATION, MITIGATION, AND DEVELOPMENT; THEY CAN GUIDE IMPLEMENTATION AND FACILITATE ACCESS TO NECESSARY FUNDING

African leaders should seek support for their own adaptation strategies. The African position will be stronger if it is proactive. It is widely accepted that the effect of climate change in Africa will be disproportionate to the continent's past emissions, which raises questions about historical responsibility, equity, and fairness for the negotiations. However, trying to quantify compensation could undermine Africa's position and could result in unproductive philosophical posturing from rich countries on the meaning of historical responsibility for unanticipated consequences or for the action of earlier generations. Instead, more productive discussions could flow from using action-based national plans to quantify what Africa will need for development in a more hostile climate.

African countries should integrate mitigation and adaptation into their development strategies. Africa may even play a leadership role in developing such national climate resilient low-carbon development strategies. To have impact and attract the necessary support, national policies should be consistent with adaptation needs, low-carbon growth plans as well as current development objectives. These plans should include policies and incentives to create a favourable investment climate (e.g., removal of market distortions such as predatory behaviour by government officials, fossil fuel subsidies and trade barriers to low-carbon goods together with, increased policy stability, and investments in infrastructure).

5. AFRICA WILL NEED ADDITIONAL FUNDING BUT ALSO TIMELY DELIVERY ON EXISTING ODA COMMITMENTS

Disbursement of current development assistance commitments is essential, since adaptation is so intimately intertwined with development: with or without climate change African leaders should press for ODA commitments to be met, estimated at $185 billion per year for Africa in 2015, compared with $55 billion provided in 2005 (roughly this compared to total ODA of around 0.7% of rich country GDP with around half for Africa)

Additional funding, incremental to current ODA commitments, will be crucial. The scale of the adaptation challenge for Africa and the cost of the transition to a low-carbon economy imply that substantial financial assistance will be required for Africa. There is an immediate need for significant funding for climate-related research, pilot programmes, planning and preparation as well as urgent adaptation requirements. These investments are required to better understand the impacts and costs of climate change in Africa, help determine required actions, and prepare to ramp-up measures and access to further public and private funding. As scientific evidence is beginning to indicate that climate change may already be further underway than previously believed, the associated costs may be higher than current estimates.

In the short term, immediate action for adaptation, knowledge building and capability building could cost an incremental $13-19 billion per year in Africa (about 25% of the overall developing country requirement) **and an incremental $9-12 billion per year would be needed for low-carbon growth by 2015**, (assuming no ODA is allocated to climate change) incremental to ODA commitments and relative to baseline growth costs. These last estimates include only the technical cost of lowering CO_2e emissions compared to growth assumed in the baseline, whereas further low-carbon growth would imply higher additional costs. These investments could particularly support the creation of global public goods (i.e. research on climate change impacts in Africa and their influence on different sectors such as health), technical capabilities (especially in forestry and agriculture), and planning capabilities (such as to improve access to carbon finance mechanisms).

In the long-term (~2030), Africa could require at least $21-27 billion per year for adaptation and $31-41 billion per year for low-carbon growth, both incremental to ODA commitments.

- **Long-term adaptation funding is needed to make use of climate resilient growth opportunities (proactive adaptation) and to support climate-resilient poverty reduction (social adaptation).** It is certain that adaptation will be required to deal with the impacts of climate change on African infrastructure and livelihoods. What remains uncertain is the extent of the adaptation that will be required, and further research and pilot programmes are needed to fill these knowledge gaps. Proactive adaptation, which complements broader development objectives, may include structural measures such building water storage infrastructure to buffer higher rainfall variability, or developing irrigation schemes to reduce crop vulnerability to higher temperatures as well as behavioural, legal and regulatory changes. Social adaptation may include cash transfers, employment programmes, and crisis payments and insurance to prevent temporary shocks from leading to long-term poverty.

Continued mitigation funding is required to support low-carbon growth opportunities in the long term, especially in forestry, energy and urban infrastructure. For example, Africa can broaden access to sustainable, reliable and secure electricity through large on-grid renewable sources (e.g., hydro in Ethiopia or the Congo river) and off-grid renewables (e.g., small-scale wind and solar in rural southern Africa). An increasing part of the finance support required for the transition to a low-carbon economy could come from the private sector if an adequate regulatory framework is put in place**. It must be emphasised first that the numbers here are likely to be on the low side as the problems look more intense as more research comes in and second the necessary actions must be integral to and not separate from development programmes**

6. ACCESSIBILITY CRITERIA TO THE FINANCIAL MECHANISMS SHOULD ACKNOWLEDGE THE NEED TO BE 'PERFORMANCE' BASED BUT SHOULD SUIT AFRICA'S SPECIFIC NEEDS

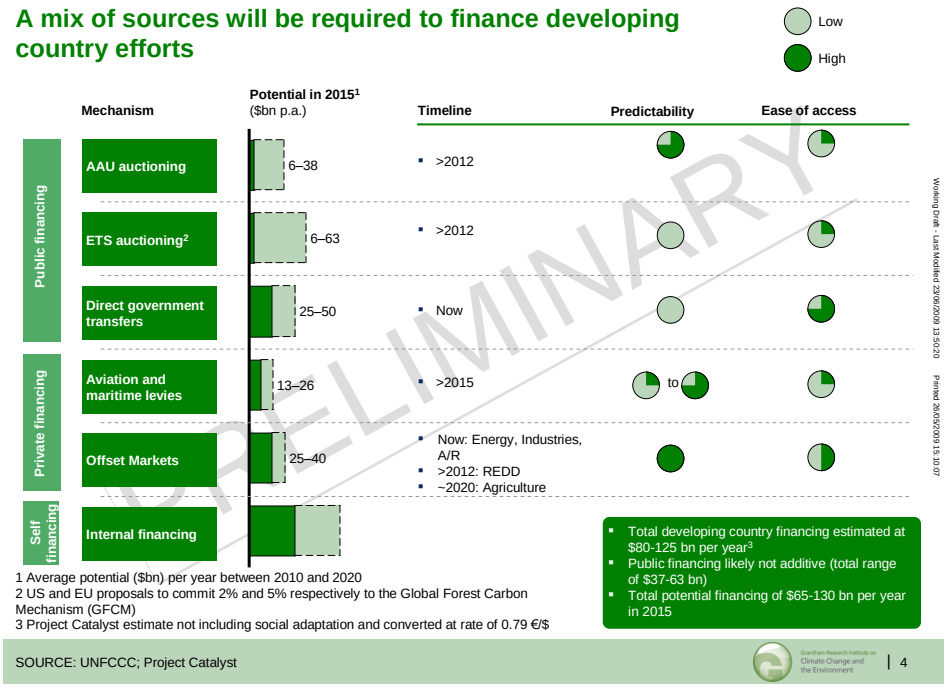
A phased approach is needed to build the capabilities to access financing from global carbon markets. Africa will need to develop specific capabilities required to attract carbon market finance Achieving this will require public funding to support knowledge development and pilot programmes in the short term, continuing through to a medium-term transition period to private funding through carbon markets.

Carbon markets must be reformed to include opportunities relevant to Africa. For example, REDD and afforestation/reforestation could save up to 2 Gt CO_2e in Africa if financial flows are secured. Over 60% of Africa's mitigation potential lies in this sector. Therefore it is crucial for the world and for Africa that all elements of Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD) are included in the market in order for the continent to benefit from significant flows of finance and provide developed country access to this source of low cost mitigation. Reforms may involve new specific methodologies (e.g. REDD) and sectoral/ programmatic approaches (e.g. transport emission mitigation, small scale off-grid power projects).Taking proactive actions to monitor and report in key sectors for Africa, such as forestry and agriculture, could be instrumental to strong support and action in these sectors which should play a significant role in the reformed carbon markets.

Mechanisms to provide adaptation funds should be simple and accessible to all, including the most vulnerable countries: lowest possible transaction costs, direct government access where applicable, and integration with existing development funding at point of delivery will help ensure that countries with limited capabilities to manage planning and application processes get sufficient access to *financing*. The current clean development mechanism (CDM) administrative arrangements are slow, bureaucratic and unacceptable. It is important that adaptation funding is additional, but this does not mean that adaptation funds should be programmed separately from

development assistance as a whole. Since adaptation is basically development in a hostile climate, there is no sense in separating out funds and thereby distorting our efforts. Some aspects of the ways in which the funds should be allocated will differ from our usual methods for development assistance, for example, where 'compensation' for direct climate effects such as rising sea levels are involved, but even this does not imply that we need new development agencies to manage them. One option would be a new window alongside, and managed closely with the African Development Fund in the African Development Bank and IDA at the World Bank. Such new windows could also provide models for more equitable governance for the World Bank and IMF as a whole.

The table below sets out the relative merits of different possible methods for raising funds against the criteria of revenue potential, predictability and ease of access. These are the key issues that Africa must insist on. But Africa must also take account of the political variability of different methods in rich countries.



The Norwegian proposal and the ear-marking international transport levies are likely to be the most political acceptable sources of funding for developed countries. The Norwegian proposal consists of allocating a restricted number of AAU to developed countries and auctioning of the remainder. The proceeds from the auction will then be used to finance an adaptation/mitigation fund. The international transport levies consist of a tax on aircraft and shipping fuel. Although, the

Norwegian proposal and ear-marking international transport levies seem to be widely accepted, a more reliable strategy would consist in tapping into multiple sources of funding, combining complementary strengths in terms of availability, accessibility and stability. The Mexican proposal for an overall climate fund would allow different countries to contribute in their own preferred way.

Funding should be performance-based. This will not only be more efficient for Africa but also promote political acceptability in rich countries. Africa should consider integrating the responsibility to deliver proven results against financial pledges stable over time in its funding institutions. Brazil has, for example, set up a performance-based private fund to cope with the funding requirement to avoid deforesting the Rainforest. This fund is managed by the Brazilian Development Bank (BNDES), and steered by representatives from federal and state governments, NGOs, social movements, indigenous people, scientists, and industries. This fund is performance-based: payments to the Fund in a particular year will depend on the difference between emissions from deforestation in the previous year and the reference level.

7. THE INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURES FROM A GLOBAL DEAL SHOULD PROMOTE EQUITY, EFFICIENCY AND MUTUAL TRUST

The administration of funds should be simple and efficient; limiting the number of new institutions and using existing development channels where possible. This will control transaction costs and support access to finance for countries with limited capabilities to manage extensive planning and application processes.

Achieving these objectives for fund administration could be done through new windows at existing institutions, such as the AfDB and World Bank. The management of such windows should include a stronger African voice, less conditionality, and be integrated with development funding. They could be a model for future reform of the World Bank.

At the national level, ensuring efficient and transparent institutions will help build mutual trust and increase the effectiveness of mitigation and adaptation funds. For mitigation, this could include the development of robust monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) for forestry, supported by "trust based" grant funding, with the declared intention to transition to performance-based mechanisms in the long term. For adaptation, governments should ensure they spend adaptation funds in a transparent and effective way to the benefit of their people with clear systems of accountability to build trust with funders and recipients alike.

HOW TO MAKE IT HAPPEN

8. CLIMATE CHANGE REQUIRES THE ATTENTION OF HEADS OF STATE

Impacts and responses to climate change, both adaptation and mitigation, are interdependent with other Head-of-State issues that require long term planning and cross-government co-ordination. In particular they affect overall development strategy across the whole of the economy and the provision and use of ODA in the areas of water, health, agriculture, energy access, and urban and rural infrastructure.

Heads of State are best placed to articulate the diversity of African interests and their unity of purpose in the UNFCCC negotiations. And further to generate sufficient support for the different economic growth pathways and needs across North Africa, Southern Africa, and the rest of sub-Saharan Africa.

Leadership at the Head-of-State level is required to define and implement long-term adaptation and low-carbon development plans for African countries, capitalising on Africa's comparative advantages, including natural assets such as forests, hydro and solar power potential, , and land.

African leaders should consider the interactions of climate change with other international issues, in particular development aid, trade agreements, security, and regional collaboration. First, delivery on current development assistance commitments is essential, since adaptation is so intimately intertwined with development. Second, regional and international collaboration can foster the deployment of clean technologies: for example, adjustments to remove trade barriers to environmentally sound goods could, if combined with funding for technology support and sharing, promote low-carbon development. Such development could allow Africa to leapfrog straight to the technology frontier. Third, climate change is likely to accelerate expected migration patterns and could cause regional security issues, with potentially global implications. Africa has already experienced major population movements as a result of, in part, a changing climate (e.g., Darfur). Finally, effective action on issues such as water supply and broadening energy access often requires transnational collaboration to manage shared resources and enlarge market demand so allowing for economies of scale. African leaders have a clear role to play in fostering these regional dialogues and agreements.

9. THE CURRENT ECONOMIC CRISIS IS NO EXCUSE, ON THE CONTRARY IT IS AN OPPORTUNITY

The current economic crisis must not distract from the long-term challenges of climate change and poverty reduction. In fact it is an opportunity to lay the foundation for a new wave of growth based on the technologies for a low-carbon economy. It is a chance to manage the risk of climate change and meet the aspirations of growth of both the developed and developing world. Developed countries should not use the crisis as an excuse to delay action. On the contrary we must learn the lesson that risk ignored is risk magnified and take the opportunity to invest when there is less pressure on resources.

Managing the current slowdown together with the still bigger challenges of climate change and poverty requires urgent and decisive action. All three crises can be overcome together through determined and concerted efforts across the world. Developed countries have recently demonstrated how they have both the capacity and the tools to finance and cooperate in response (however imperfectly) to a global crisis. This response included significant green stimulus measures that demonstrate how growth, development and the environment are complementary objectives. As developed economies and public finances start to recover, this example of cooperation can provide a starting point, which must now be extended to included developing countries, to address the urgent challenges of development and avoiding dangerous climate change.

We have to move quickly to get an agreement on this vision this year. There is both a fierce urgency, and a big opportunity for not just developed countries but also the developing world to show leadership. The developed world must face up to its responsibilities on both development and climate change. It will require radical change and real resources. But the prize is immense. We can not only manage the profound risks of climate change we can also find a much more attractive and stronger form of growth: more energy secure, cleaner, safer, quieter and more bio-diverse. This is a growth that can last and help us overcome world poverty. The developing world, if the rich world plays its part, will accelerate its actions and we can together create an international collaboration which can transform the way the world works together.

Africa can play a crucial role in leading global efforts to address climate change. It has a special position and moral authority due to its vulnerability and small historical responsibility. And Africa is not associated with the arm-wrestling between the rich and emerging economies. Furthermore, Africa's broad resources and changes in technology could set Africa on a new path of sustainable growth and development.

10. AFRICA MUST GET ITS VOICE HEARD OVER THE NEXT FOUR TO SIX MONTHS IN THE MOST IMPORTANT LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL FORA

Africa should use upcoming meetings, both international and Africa-specific, to fine-tune its united Africa position, share it with leaders of other continents, and discuss its proposal through a team of well informed influencers. The major upcoming meetings are:

- 1-3 July: AU Summit in Libya
- 8-10 July: G8 Summit in Italy
- 9/10 July: MEF Summit in Italy
- 10-14 Aug: UNFCCC AWG-LCA and AWG-KP meetings in Bonn
- 31 Aug – 4 Sept: World Climate Conference in Geneva
- September: Opening of UN General Assembly and UN Climate Change Summit in New York
- 29 Sept – 9 Oct: UNFCCC AWG-LCA and AWG-KP meetings in Bangkok
- September/October: Likely further MEF meetings
- October: AMCEN pre-COP meetings
- 2-6 Nov: UNFCCC AWG-LCA and AWG-KP meetings in location to be confirmed
- 7-18 Dec: UNFCCC COP15 in Copenhagen