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The African Leaders Declaration on Climate Change and Call to Action



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Introduction

Climate Change is contributing to billions of dollars annually in property and infrastructure damage worldwide, causing stress on local and international economies through food and water insecurity, as well as social instability.



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Introduction



“The Africa Climate Summit will shape the future pathway of Africa’s development. The global climate financial architecture must be changed to prioritize the needs of Africa, at the national level we must accelerate actions on climate adaptation.”

Akinwunmi Adesina, President,
African Development Bank



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Introduction



The inaugural Africa Climate Summit (ACS) was held from the 4th to the 6th of September, 2023 in Nairobi, Kenya. After several deliberations, the African Heads of State and Government made and adopted a declaration and some calls to action in the presence of global leaders and high-level representatives.



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Declarations That Were Made

1

Recall, the Assembly Decisions (AU/Dec.723(XXXII), AU/Dec.764 (XXXIII) and AU/Dec.855(XXXVI)) requesting the African Union Commission to organize an African Climate Summit and endorsing the offer by the Republic of Kenya to host the Summit



2. Commend the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC) under the Leadership of H.E. President William Ruto for providing a unified approach and political leadership on an African vision that simultaneously pursues climate change and development agenda

2



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Declarations That Were Made

3

Take Note of the 6th Assessment Report (AR6) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), stating that the world is not on track to keeping within the 1.5°C limit agreed upon in Paris and that global emissions must be cut by 45% in this decade



Underscore the IPCC confirmation that Africa is warming faster than the rest of the world and, if unabated, climate change will continue to have adverse impacts on African economies and societies, and hamper growth and wellbeing

4



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Declarations That Were Made

5

Express concern that many African countries face disproportionate burdens and risks arising from climate change-related, unpredictable weather events and patterns, which cause massive humanitarian crises with detrimental impacts on economies, health, education, peace and security, among other risks



Acknowledge that climate change is the single greatest challenge facing humanity and the single biggest threat to all life on Earth.

6



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Declarations That Were Made

7

Recognise that Africa is not historically responsible for global warming, but bears the brunt of its effect, impacting lives, livelihoods, and economies



Acknowledge the principles set out in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Paris Agreement

8

9

Further recognise that African cities and urban centres are growing rapidly, and by 2050 would be home to over 1.0 billion people



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Declarations That Were Made

10

Recall that only seven years remain to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda, and note with concern that 600 million people in Africa still lack access to electricity, 970 million lack access to clean cooking; and 418 million people still lack a basic level of drinking water service



Emphasise that Africa possesses both the potential and the ambition to be a vital component of the global solution to climate change

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Collective Actions Needed

1 The global community needs urgently reduce emissions, fulfil its obligations, keep past promises, and support the continent in addressing climate change, specifically to:



Accelerate all efforts to reduce emissions to align with goals set forth in the Paris Agreement



Honour the commitment to provide \$100 billion in annual climate finance, as promised 14 years ago at the Copenhagen conference



Uphold commitments to a fair and accelerated process of phasing down coal, and abolishment of all fossil fuel subsidies.



Swiftly operationalize the Loss and Damage facility agreed upon at COP27



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Collective Actions Needed

2

There is a need for climate-positive investments that catalyse a growth trajectory, anchored in the industries poised to transform our planet and enable African countries to achieve stable middle-income status by 2050



Global leaders are urged to join in seizing this opportunity to accelerate global decarbonization while pursuing equality and shared prosperity

3



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Commitments Made



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A. Development of Policies and Regulations

1

Developing and implementing policies, regulations and incentives aimed at attracting local, regional and global investment in green growth and inclusive economies



Identify, prioritize and mainstream adaptation into development policy-making and planning, including in the context of national plans and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)

2





B. Economic Growth and Development

1

Propelling Africa's economic growth and job creation in a manner that not only limits our own emissions but also aids global decarbonization efforts



Focusing our economic development plans on climate-positive growth, including expansion of just energy transitions and renewable energy generation for industrial activity, climate-aware and restorative agricultural practices, and essential protection and enhancement of nature and biodiversity

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B. Economic Growth and Development

3

Strengthening continental collaboration, which is essential to enabling and advancing green growth, including but not limited to regional and continental grid interconnectivity, and further accelerating the operationalization of the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Agreement



Advancing green industrialization across the Continent by prioritizing energy-intensive industries to trigger a virtuous cycle of renewable energy deployment and economic activity, with a special emphasis on adding value to Africa's natural endowments

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B. Economic Growth and Development

5

Redoubling our efforts to boost agricultural yields through sustainable agricultural practices, to enhance food security while minimizing negative environmental impacts



Supporting smallholder farmers, indigenous people, and local communities in the green economic transition given their key role in ecosystem stewardship

6

7

Promoting investments in urban infrastructure including upgrading informal settlements and slum areas to build climate-resilient cities and urban centres



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C. Global Actions

1

Finalising and implementing the draft of the African Union Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, with the view to realizing the 2050 vision of “Living in Harmony with Nature”



Building effective partnerships between Africa and other regions, to meet the needs for financial, technical and technological support, and knowledge sharing for climate change adaptation

2

3

Accelerating implementation of the African Union Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy and Action Plan (2022-2032)



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C. Global Actions

4

Supporting efforts under the Africa Investment Programme (AIP) aimed at closing Africa's Water Investment gap by mobilizing at least US\$30 billion per year by 2030



A collective global action to mobilise the necessary capital for both development and climate action, echoing the statement of the Paris Agenda for People and the Planet that no country should ever have to choose between development aspirations and climate action.

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C. Global Actions

6

Further acceleration of global capital mobilization to simultaneously and more effectively tackle the global crises of climate change and development:



New debt relief interventions and instruments to pre-empt debt default – with the ability to a) extend sovereign debt tenor, and b) include a 10-year grace period



New universal global instruments to collect additional revenue



Decisive action on the Promotion of inclusive and effective international tax cooperation at the United Nations (Resolution A/C.2/77/L.11/REV.1)– with the aim to reduce Africa's loss of \$ 27 billion annual corporate tax revenue through profit shifting, by at least 50% by 2030 and 75% by 2050



Additional measures to crowd in and de-risk private capital, such as blended finance instruments, purchase commitments, industrial policy collaboration, and guarantee mechanisms, should be informed by the risks that drive a lack of private capital deployment at scale



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C. Global Actions

7

Full implementation of the measures included in the Paris Agenda for People and the Planet – including:



Multilateral Development Banks (MDB) capitalization and deployment reform, to **(1) increase available concessional capital with MDBs, (2) channel a greater proportion of this concessional capital to emerging and frontier economies, and (3) incentivize investment in climate-aligned opportunities**



Redesign of the MDB governance, to ensure a “fit for purpose” system with appropriate representation, voice, and agency of all countries



Measures to improve debt management, including:
**a) the inclusion of ‘debt pause clauses’, and
b) the proposed expert review of the Common Framework and the Debt Sustainability Analysis**



Focused innovative solutions to address the high cost of capital in Africa, such as the partial foreign exchange (FX) guarantee for emerging and frontier economies;



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D. International Community

To accomplish this vision of economic transformation in harmony with our climate needs, we call upon the international community to contribute to the following:



Increasing Africa's renewable generation capacity from 56 GW in 2022 to at least 300 GW by 2030, both to address energy poverty and to bolster the global supply of cost-effective clean energy for industry;



Shifting the energy-intensive primary processing of Africa's raw material exports to the continent also serves as an anchor demand for our renewable energy and a means of rapidly reducing global emissions;



Designing global and regional trade mechanisms in a manner that enables products from Africa to compete on fair and equitable terms;



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D. International Community



Accelerating efforts to decarbonize the transport, industrial and electricity sectors through the use of smart, digital and highly efficient technologies and systems.



Reducing the cost of capital for investment in Africa, through a mix of availing credit rating data, smart guarantee instruments and additional concessional finance to attract private capital;



Designing industry policies that incentivize global investment to locations that offer the most substantial climate benefits, while ensuring benefits for local communities;



Implementing a mix of measures that elevate Africa's share of carbon markets.





E. Climate Change Mitigation



Strengthening early warning systems and climate information services, as well as taking early action to protect lives, livelihoods and assets and inform long-term decision-making related to climate change risks

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Call to Action

1

Call upon world leaders to appreciate that decarbonizing the global economy is also an opportunity to contribute to equality and shared prosperity



Invite Development Partners from both the global south and north to align and coordinate their technical and financial resources directed toward Africa to promote sustainable utilization of Africa's natural assets for the continent's progression toward low carbon development, and contributing to global decarbonization

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Call to Action

3

Call acceleration of the ongoing initiatives to reform the multilateral financial system and global financial architecture including the Bridgetown Initiative, the Accra-Marrakech Agenda, the UN Secretary General's SDG Stimulus Proposal and the Paris Agenda for People and the Planet



Urge the efforts to refine the G20 Common Framework for Debt Treatments, but remain concerned that these efforts lack both adequacy and timeliness

4



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Call to Action

5

Call for a comprehensive and systemic response to the incipient debt crisis outside of default frameworks to create the fiscal space that all developing countries need to finance development and climate action



Propose a global tax regime to finance climate action at scale by crowding in and de-risking private capital, including but not limited to financial transactions tax (FTT) and emission levies

6



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Call to Action

7

Propose to establish a new financing architecture that is responsive to Africa's needs including debt restructuring and relief, including the development of a new Global Climate Finance Charter through UNGA and COP processes by 2025



Decide to establish the Africa Climate Summit as a biennial event convened by the African Union and hosted by AU Member States, to set the continent's new vision taking into consideration emerging global climate and development issues

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Call to Action

9

Decide also that this Declaration will serve as a basis for Africa's common position in the global climate change process to COP 28 and beyond



Request the African Union Commission to develop an implementation framework and roadmap for this Declaration and to make Climate Change an AU theme for the Year 2025 or 2026

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Get to know more about the extractive industry, Budgit's advocacy in the Extractive Sector spotlights issues and recommendations on extractive transparency and fiscal governance in Nigeria, including Beneficial Ownership, NNPC Reforms, Industry Legislation and Revenue Accountability.

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