



## THE AFRICAN LEADERS NAIROBI DECLARATION ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND CALL TO ACTION

### PREAMBLE

We, the African Heads of State and Government, gathered for the inaugural Africa Climate Summit (ACS) in Nairobi, Kenya, from 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> September 2023; in the presence of other global leaders, intergovernmental organizations, Regional Economic Communities, United Nations Agencies, private sector, civil society organizations, indigenous peoples, local communities, farmer organizations, children, youth, women and academia, hereby:

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;
3. Commend the Arab Republic of Egypt for the successful COP27 and its historic outcomes, particularly regarding loss and damage, just transition and energy, and call for the full implementation of all COP27 decisions
4. *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 reach the 1.5°C limit agreed in Paris and that global emissions must be cut by 43% in this decade;
5. *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;

6. *Express concern* that many African countries face disproportionate burdens and risks arising from climate change-related, unpredictable weather events and patterns, including prolonged droughts, devastating floods, wildfires, which cause massive humanitarian crisis with detrimental impacts on economies, health, education, peace and security, among other risks;
7. *Acknowledge* that climate change is the single greatest challenge facing humanity and the single biggest threat to all life on Earth. It demands urgent and concerted action from all nations to lower emissions and reduce the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere;
8. *Recognise* that Africa is not historically responsible for global warming, but bears the brunt of its effect, impacting lives, livelihoods, and economies;
9. *Reaffirm* the principles set out in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Paris Agreement, namely equity, common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities,
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 while 970 million lack access to clean cooking;
11. *Concerned* that despite Africa having an estimated 40 percent of the world's renewable energy resources, only \$60 billion or two percent of US\$3 trillion renewable energy investments in the last decade have come to Africa,
12. *Further recognise* that African cities and urban centres are growing rapidly, and by 2050 would be home to over 1.0 billion people. Cognisant of the fact that rapid urbanization, poverty, and inequality limit planning capacities and other urban dynamics which increase people's exposure and vulnerability to hazards and have thus turned cities into disaster hotspots across the continent.
13. *Emphasise* that Africa possesses both the potential and the ambition to be a vital component of the global solution to climate change. As home to the world's youngest and fastest-growing workforce, coupled with massive untapped renewable energy potential, abundant natural assets and entrepreneurial spirit, our continent has the fundamentals to spearhead a climate compatible pathway as a thriving, cost-competitive industrial hub with the capacity to support other regions in achieving their net zero ambitions.
14. *Reiterate* Africa's readiness to create an enabling environment, enact policies and facilitate investments necessary to unlock resources to meet our own climate commitments, and contribute meaningfully to decarbonisation of the global economy.

15. *Recognize* the important role of forests in Africa, in particular the Congo Basin rainforest in regulating global climate change
16. *Further* recognize the critical importance of the oceans in climate action and commitments made on ocean sustainability in multiple fora such as the Second UN Oceans Conference in 2022, and the Moroni Declaration for Ocean and Climate Action in Africa in 2023

**Collective action needed.**

17. We call upon the global community to act with urgency in reducing emissions, fulfilling its obligations, keeping past promises, and supporting the continent in addressing climate change, specifically to:
  - i) Accelerate all efforts to reduce emissions to align with goals set forth in the Paris Agreement
  - ii) Honor the commitment to provide \$100 billion in annual climate finance, as promised 14 years ago at the Copenhagen conference.
  - iii) Uphold commitments to a fair and accelerated process of phasing down coal, and abolishment of all fossil fuel subsidies.
18. We call 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.
19. We urge global leaders to join us in seizing this unprecedented opportunity to accelerate global decarbonization, while pursuing equality and shared prosperity;
20. We call for the operationalization of the Loss & Damage fund as agreed at COP27 and resolve for a measurable Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) with indicators and targets to enable assessment of progress against negative impacts of climate change

**We commit to:**

21. Developing and implementing policies, regulations and incentives aimed at attracting local, regional and global investment in green growth and inclusive economies;
22. Propelling Africa's economic growth and job creation in a manner that limits our own emissions and also aids global decarbonization efforts, by leapfrogging traditional industrial development and fostering green production and supply chains on a global scale;

23. Focusing our economic development plans on climate-positive growth, including expansion of just energy transitions and renewable energy generation for industrial activity, climate smart and restorative agricultural practices, and essential protection and enhancement of nature and biodiversity;
24. Strengthening actions to halt and reverse biodiversity loss, deforestation, desertification, as well to restore degraded lands to achieve land degradation neutrality;
25. 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;
26. Advancing green industrialization across the Continent by prioritizing energy-intense 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;
27. Redoubling our efforts to boost agricultural yields through sustainable agricultural practices, to enhance food security while minimizing negative environmental impacts;
28. Taking the lead in the development of global standards, metrics, and market mechanisms to accurately value and compensate for the protection of nature, biodiversity, socio-economic co-benefits, and the provision of climate services;
29. Finalising and implementing the African Union Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, with the view to realizing the 2050 vision of living in harmony with nature;
30. Providing all the necessary reforms and support required to raise the share of renewable energy financing to at least 20 percent by 2030.
31. Integrating climate, biodiversity and ocean agendas into national plans and processes in order to ensure their contribution to sustainable development, livelihoods and sustainability objectives, and to increase the resilience of local communities, coastal areas and national economies;
32. Supporting smallholder farmers, indigenous peoples, and local communities in the green economic transition given their key role in ecosystems stewardship;
33. Identifying, prioritizing and mainstreaming adaptation into development policy-making and planning, including in the context of national plans and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs);

34. Building effective partnership between Africa and other regions, to meet the needs for financial, technical and technological support, and knowledge sharing for climate change adaptation;
35. Promoting investments in urban infrastructure including through upgrading informal settlements and slum areas to build climate resilient cities and urban centres.
36. 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. We emphasise the importance of embracing indigenous knowledge and citizen science in both adaptation strategies and early warning systems;
37. Enhancing drought resilience systems to shift from crisis management to proactive drought preparedness and adaptation, to significantly reduce drought vulnerability of people, economic activities, and ecosystems
38. Accelerating implementation of the *African Union Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy and Action Plan (2022-2032)*

## CALL TO ACTION

39. *Call* upon world leaders to appreciate that decarbonizing the global economy is also an opportunity to contribute to equality and shared prosperity;
40. 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;
41. To accomplish this vision of economic transformation in harmony with our climate needs, we call upon the international community to contribute to the following:
  - i) 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;
  - ii) Shifting the energy intensive primary processing of Africa's raw material exports to the continent, also to serve as an anchor demand for our renewable energy and a means of rapidly reducing global emissions;
  - iii) Call for access to and transfer of environmentally sound technologies, including technologies that consist of processes and innovation methods to support Africa's green industrialisation and transition.
  - iv) Designing global and regional trade mechanisms in a manner that enables products from Africa to compete on fair and equitable terms;

- v) Request that trade-related environmental tariffs and non-tariff barriers must be subject to multilateral discussions and agreements and not be unilateral, arbitrary or discriminatory measures;
- vi) Accelerating efforts to decarbonize the transport, industrial and electricity sectors through the use of smart, digital and highly efficient technologies and systems.
- vii) Designing industry policies that incentivize global investment to locations that offer the most and substantial climate benefits, while ensuring benefits for local communities;
- viii) Implementing a mix of measures that elevate Africa share of carbon markets.

42. Reiterate the decision 31/ COP27 that a global transformation to a low-carbon economy is expected to require investment of at least USD 4–6 trillion per year and delivering such funding in turn requires a transformation of the financial system and its structures and processes, engaging governments, central banks, commercial banks, institutional investors and other financial actors.

43. We call for collective global action to mobilise the necessary capital for both development and climate action, echoing the statement of the Paris Summit for a New Global Financing Pact that *no country should ever have to choose between development aspirations and climate action*.

44. Call for concrete time bound action on the proposals to reform the multilateral financial system currently under discussion specifically to:

- i. build resilience to climate shocks, including better deployment of the SDR liquidity mechanism and disaster suspension clauses. We propose for consideration a new SDR issue for climate crisis response of at least the same magnitude as the Covid19 issue (\$650b);
- ii. better leveraging of the balance sheets of MDBs to scale up concessional finance to at least \$500b per year;
- iii. 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
- iv. 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
- v. 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

- vi. Additional measures to crowd in and de-risk private capital, such as blended finance instruments, purchase commitments, partial foreign exchange (FX) guarantee industrial policy collaboration, which should be informed by the risks that drive lack of private capital deployment at scale;
  - vii. Redesign of the MDB governance, to ensure a “fit for purpose” system with appropriate representation, voice, and agency of all countries
45. *Note* that multilateral finance reform is necessary but not sufficient to provide the scale of climate financing the world needs to achieve 45 percent emission reduction by 2030 required to meet the Paris Agreement, without which keeping global warming to 1.5% will be in serious jeopardy. Further note that the scale of financing required to unlock Africa’s climate-positive growth is beyond the borrowing capacity of national balance sheets, or at the risk premium that Africa is currently paying for private capital
46. *Draw attention* to the finding that inordinate borrowing costs, typically 5 to 8 times what wealthy countries pay (the “great financial divide”), are a root cause of recurring developing country debt crisis and an impediment to investment in development and climate action. We call for adoption of principles of responsible sovereign lending and accountability encompassing credit rating, risk analysis and debt sustainability assessment frameworks and urge the financial markets to commit to reduce this disparity by at least 50% i.e from 5%-8% to 2.5 – 4.0% by 2025.
47. *Urge* world leaders to rally behind the proposal for a global carbon taxation regime including a carbon tax on fossil fuel trade, maritime transport and aviation, that may also be augmented by a global financial transaction tax (FTT) to provide dedicated, affordable, and accessible finance for climate-positive investments at scale, and ringfencing of these resources and decision-making from undue influence from geopolitical and national interests.
48. *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;
49. That the first Global Stocktake, happening in 2023 at COP28 offers a pivotal opportunity to correct course by including a comprehensive outcome, both backward and forward looking".
50. *Decide* to establish the **Africa Climate Summit** as a **biennial event** convened by African Union and hosted by AU Member States, to set the continent’s new vision taking into consideration emerging global climate and development issues;

51. *Decide also* that this Declaration will serve as a strong contribution from the African continent to the global climate change process, COP 28 and beyond;
52. Welcome the pledges made at the summit by United Arab Emirates (UAE) as COP28 President and other development partners to support Africa in particular for renewable energy and Adaptation
53. Appreciate the efforts of UAE as the COP28 President-Designate in the preparation of COP28, and affirm Africa's full support for a successful and ambitious outcome of COP28
54. *Request* 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.

**ADOPTED** by African Heads of State and Government in the presence of global leaders and high-level representatives on 6 September 2023 in Nairobi Kenya