



The Yaounde African Youth Call on More than Doubling Adaptation Finance for a Resilient Africa

Yaounde, 18 November 2023


On 16 to 18 November 2023, more than 150 young African leaders met in Yaounde, Cameroon, for the Inaugural Forum on Adaptation Finance in Africa. The forum aimed to unite young activists to call for urgent action from the international community to prioritise and increase climate adaptation finance flows to Africa by more than double, recognising that this is a moral imperative and strategic investment in Africa's future resilience and prosperity.

The theme of the forum, Empowering Africa: More than Doubling Adaptation Finance for a Resilient Future, acknowledged the undeniable impacts of climate change in Africa, the growing adaptation finance gap, and the risk this poses to climate action in Africa and globally to highlight the urgency of increased ambition.

State of Climate Vulnerability and Impacts in Africa

Climate change poses a growing threat to Africa, with increasing temperatures, sea levels, changing precipitation patterns, droughts and more extreme weather conditions. These impacts are disproportionate on the region, hitting the least responsible for global warming and the most vulnerable hardest.

The latest assessment by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) warns that the risks associated with climate change in Africa are becoming more severe. Unless urgent action is taken to mitigate global warming, Africa faces a temperature increase of 3°C to 6°C by the turn of the century, compared to the pre-industrial level, according to estimates of the IPCC. This will result in more frequent and severe climate extremes, even in the best scenarios, which will have significant impacts on agriculture, water resources, and human health. Both increased warming and inaction could result in a reduction of crop yields by up to 50%, an increase in water stress by up to 60%, an increase in malaria incidence by up to 90% and a loss of biodiversity by up to 40%. According to the African Development Bank (AfDB), climate change could reduce Africa's GDP by 2.8% to 10% by 2050, depending on the severity of the scenario. This could translate into a loss of \$68 billion to \$259 billion per year. The World Bank has also noted that climate change will increase conflicts and displacements in Africa.



Reducing climate vulnerabilities in Africa is, therefore, not only a moral imperative but a strategic investment in the region's future and resilience. According to UNEP, every dollar invested in adaptation could yield four dollars in benefits. Moreover, adaptation could create new opportunities for economic diversification, innovation, job creation, and social inclusion.

Adaptation Finance Gap

Despite the challenges and opportunities, financing for climate change adaptation in Africa remains insufficient and inadequate. In 2019 and 2020, only \$11.4 billion was committed to climate adaptation finance in Africa, compared to the estimation that African countries will need \$52.7 billion annually until 2030.

Key issues hindering adequate adaptation financing in Africa include:

- **Underfunding:** Existing adaptation finance mechanisms are insufficient to meet the demands of adaptation projects and programs across Africa.
- **Access Barriers:** Many African countries face challenges accessing climate finance, including complex application processes and limited project development and implementation capacity and when available, such funds are availed mostly in the form of loans.
- **Uncertainty:** Predictable, long-term funding is essential for effective adaptation, yet many African countries face uncertainty in financial support.

Bad as it is, the current adaptation finance gap is set to widen. This is due to the combined effects of growing adaptation needs and faltering finance flows (UNEP, 2023). The Brookings Institute believes a gap of US\$453 billion will accumulate over this decade (Brookings, 2023).

More than Doubling Adaptation Finance

In Glasgow during COP 26, Industrialised countries pledged to double adaptation finance to developing countries from 2019 levels by 2025 in the context of achieving parity with finance for mitigation. Adaptation finance was roughly USD 20 billion per year in 2019. A doubling of efforts, as agreed in the Glasgow Climate Pact and reiterated by the G7 ministers, would bring adaptation finance into the vicinity of \$40 billion.

Yet, this is far smaller than actual adaptation needs. According to the UNEP Adaptation Gap Report 2023, the current adaptation finance gap is US\$194-366 billion per year until 2030. This means the current adaptation finance flows are 5-10 times below the estimated needs for developing countries. Moreover, the goal of doubling adaptation finance to US\$40 billion by 2025 is far from being met. The report finds that public multilateral and bilateral adaptation finance flows to developing countries declined by 15 per cent to US\$21 billion in 2021. Therefore, the adaptation finance gap is at least 4.6-8.7 times larger than the 2025 goal.

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Mindful of the current gap between actual adaptation financial flows, adaptation finance commitments and real adaptation finance needs; and, given the disproportionate impacts of climate change in Africa and the risk of greater severity of these impacts on critical sectors, we, African youths call on industrialised countries and other big polluters to roll out a blueprint at COP28 to increase annual adaptation finance flows to Africa by more than double by 2025, and move from pledging to start keeping their promises.

We demand that industrialized countries and other big polluters, working with African leaders and other stakeholders, take the following urgent steps to meet these objectives:

- Increase the share of adaptation finance in the overall climate finance portfolio and ensure that it is commensurate with the adaptation needs and costs of African countries, noting that even if they doubled overall adaptation finance to around \$40 billion annually; it would still fall short of the assessed need.
- Enhance the access and delivery of adaptation finance that is grants-based and predictable by simplifying and streamlining the procedures and criteria of multilateral funds and bilateral donors and by strengthening the capacities and readiness of African institutions and stakeholders, notably frontline communities and youth and women-led initiatives.
- Improve the effectiveness and efficiency of adaptation finance by promoting participatory and inclusive planning and decision-making processes and by ensuring transparency, accountability, and learning in the implementation and evaluation of adaptation projects and programs.
- Foster the innovation and scaling-up of adaptation finance by supporting the development and deployment of new and emerging sources and instruments of finance and by leveraging private sector investments and partnerships.
- Enhance the coherence and coordination of adaptation finance by harmonising the policies and standards of different funding sources and channels and by fostering regional and cross-sectoral collaboration and integration of adaptation actions.
- Ensure a robust, ambitious, and solutions-oriented outcome on the Global Goal on Adaptation at COP 28 in Dubai to help accelerate adaptation action globally.

Endorsements

This call is unanimously endorsed by all participants of the Inaugural Youth Forum on Adaptation Finance in Africa that was held in Yaounde, Cameroon, from 16 to 18 November 2023; and by anyone else who agrees with its content and fills out an endorsement form found at: [insert link here].

About YOFAFA 2023

The Youth Forum on Adaptation Finance in Africa (YOFAFA) is a youth-led process convened by the Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) and the African Coalition for Sustainable Energy and Access (ACSEA), in partnership with the African Adaptation Initiative (AAI). It is supported by the African Development Bank, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and several other partners. YOFAFA is part of the Youth for Adaptation Finance in Africa Initiative (YAF). YAF Africa aims to raise awareness, advocate for increased funding, promote participation, and ensure transparency and accountability in the financing of adaptation in Africa.



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