



Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, February 13, 2024

Multistakeholder Consultative Forum Recommendations to the 37th AU Heads of States Summit on Strengthening Governance of Climate Action in Africa

After two days of reflections and strategy building, participants representing leading pan-Africa and other stakeholder institutions produced this statement for consideration by the Summit.

Preamble

- Noting that the climate crisis continues to pose daunting challenges to the development of Africa and its people.
- Underscoring that the transition to low-carbon economies must not compromise Africa's development.
- Welcoming the operationalization of the Loss and Damage fund and the financial pledges made at COP28 in Dubai and noting that the low amount of pledges to the fund is regrettably grossly insufficient to make a difference.
- Concerned that at COP28, parties failed to agree on funding targets for Loss and Damage.
- Underscoring the fact that the COP28 outcome calling for 'transitioning away from fossil fuels in the energy systems in a just, orderly, and equitable manner' is devoid of parameters for the process.
- Noting that the litany of sectoral-thematic declarations made in COP28 covering critical issues such as health, water, food and agriculture and biodiversity remain unfunded.
- Further noting the lack of urgency in addressing critical issues relevant to Africa adaptation finance and Global Goal on Adaptation.
- Reiterating that the African Group of Negotiators (AGN), Africa Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN) and The Committee of the Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC) should redouble their efforts to fulfil their mandates in a mutually reinforcing manner.

- Recognizing that Africa has gained the gravitas to lead in global climate discourse, ensuring worldwide commitments are steadfastly maintained towards achieving the 1.5°C goal.
- Recognizing that the global clean energy transition presents a strategic opportunity for Africa to harness its immense energy resources, including minerals that are crucial in the manufacturing of green energy technologies, to develop and leverage regional and global clean energy value chains, to pursue green industrialization and to create millions of green jobs to cater for the continent's growing population of young people.
- Recognizing also that significant investments are needed to address the African energy access deficit, and concerned that less than 2 per cent of global clean energy investments over the past decade have been made in Africa.
- Mindful that the continent faces significant challenges in unlocking the full potential of critical minerals resources for its sustainable development, economic transformation and green industrialization.
- Worried about the scramble for critical minerals in Africa and the potential for conflicts and human rights violations.
- Noting with concern the growing propagation of carbon markets as a panacea for the paucity of climate finance.
- Adopting a precautionary approach to Africa mortgaging its natural assets to the north in exchange of carbon credits from emitters who have no demonstrated roadmap for cutting their emissions.
- Drawing from IPCC AR6 and the Global Stocktake (GST) reports showing that global temperatures continue to soar and that carbon markets are barely contributing towards envisaged mitigation outcomes.

Recommendations

The participants collectively call upon the Heads of State to:

A. Making our climate change governance effective for global negotiations and influence

1. Play a more central role in the governance of climate change in the continent for more progressive outcomes and further caution against implementing positions that are not effectively deliberated among Member States.
2. Institute measures to strengthen technical, political, financial and evidence-generation capacity to support the African Group of Negotiators to make it effective in discharging its mandate and advancing continental issues.
3. Adopt a holistic approach to addressing climate change, poverty and sustainable development as interrelated issues while addressing the debt burden of developing countries and reforming international financial architecture.
4. Strengthen the role of ClimDev-Africa to generate climate data, information, and climate policies relevant to the African context to support climate response measures and diplomacy in global spaces.

B. African Leaders Catalyzing Climate Action to galvanize efforts as we gear up to COP29

Making adaptation and adaptation finance a priority for COP29

5. Ensure developed countries are committed to the decision made at COP26 on doubling of adaptation climate finance to scale up implementation of measures that enhance adaptation and resilience building in Africa.
6. Collectively marshal resources to ensure the necessary momentum is in place for addressing impediments to the framing of the Global Goal on Adaptation including developing necessary matrices.
7. Prioritize scaling up climate finance investments in agriculture and related sectors directed to food producers, especially smallholder farmers to help enhance their adaptive capacity to combat the impact of climate change.

Operationalizing the Loss and Damage Fund

8. Call upon the World Bank to urgently fulfill the conditions set out by parties to urgently deliver loss and damage funds directly and urgently to the communities in need.
9. Hold the UNFCCC to account to ensure the soon-to-be-constituted Board of the Loss and Damage Fund urgently convenes its first meeting and institutes policies that are fit for purpose, responsive to needs, and support mobilization of new and additional financial resources at scale.

Unlocking the impasse on climate finance

10. Jointly pursue accountability for different streams of climate funds and pursue urgent reforms that are needed in the governance of these different streams of climate funds to reach communities most affected by the climate crisis.

Realizing the potential presented by transition to a fossil fuel free world

11. Recognize the transition away from fossil fuels as a global imperative that offers unprecedented opportunities for African countries to achieve sustainable development, poverty eradication, climate resilience and social justice.
12. Ensure that the energy transition in Africa involves a substantial increase in energy access beyond what is needed for basic energy needs, and that such a transition in Africa goes beyond decarbonization and addresses development imperatives.
13. Foster regional integration and cooperation to harness the potential of cross-border renewable energy projects, power pools, trade corridors, infrastructure networks and knowledge platforms.
14. Engage with all relevant stakeholders, including civil society, private sector, youth, women, indigenous peoples and local communities, to ensure that the transition away from fossil fuels is participatory, transparent, accountable and responsive to the needs and aspirations of all Africans.
15. Invest in building capacity and institutions to design, implement, monitor, and evaluate policies, programmes and projects that support the transition away from fossil fuels.
16. Request that the transition should be guided by human rights, gender equality, social inclusion, and environmental justice principles, and respect the diversity of cultures, values, and knowledge systems in Africa.
17. Prioritize energy efficiency and access and climate-resilient housing.

C. Catalyzing action on climate change and education

18. Promote the voices and agency of children and youth in climate diplomacy at all levels.
19. Transform education curricula at all levels to enhance their responsiveness to emerging climate realities, position the continent to tap into the opportunities presented by the transition to low-carbon economies and scale up climate change education at all levels.
20. Scale up action in addressing climate-triggered insecurities in traditionally insecure regions and in regions with transitional minerals to enable young citizens of the continent to access education, enjoy their rights and grow in a peaceful environment.

D. Addressing carbon markets based on natural assets

21. Exercise caution against promoting carbon markets either as a panacea for climate finance or a means to meet mitigation targets as captured under the pillar on 'Delivering high-integrity carbon markets' of the UAE Leaders' Declaration on a Global Climate Finance Framework.
22. Apply a people-centred and rights-based approach to carbon trade.
23. Institute urgent measures to expeditiously investigate all claims of dispossession of communities of their land by carbon investors and implement immediate remediation measures.

E. Making transitional minerals work for Africa (Overcoming the mineral curse)

24. Expeditiously draw a road map for enhanced regional economic integration to benefit from the prospects presented by regional commercial hubs focusing on value chains of transitional minerals.
25. Develop comprehensive and coherent national strategies for critical minerals. These strategies should align with broader development visions and priorities and consider the entire value chain from exploration to end-use.
26. Strengthen legal and regulatory frameworks for critical minerals. This should ensure consistency with international best practices and standards and provide a conducive environment for investment, innovation, and competition.
27. Enhance institutional and human capacity to manage critical minerals effectively and efficiently, and to monitor and enforce compliance with laws and regulations.
28. Foster multi-stakeholder partnerships and dialogue among governments, the private sector, civil society, academia, and development partners, with the aim of building trust, accountability, and collaboration in the critical minerals sector.
29. Proactively convene regional and global platforms and initiatives on critical minerals to share experiences, learn from best practices, advocate for Africa's interests, and influence the agenda.
30. Emphasize the duty of governments in protecting human rights and holding all corporates to account.

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