

DECLARATION ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting at the 8th Ordinary Session of our Assembly in Addis Ababa, from 29 – 30 January 2007;

Recalling our commitment to the principles and objectives, stipulated in the Constitutive Act of the African Union and its NEPAD programme;

Further Recalling the objective and principles of the 1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its commitments;

Welcoming the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol on 16 February 2005 and its full operationalization by the Marrakech Accords adopted in Montreal in December 2005;

Further welcoming the Gleneagles G8 communiqué on Africa, Climate Change, Energy and Sustainable Development and its commitments on:

- Developing fully operational regional climate centers in Africa;
- Improving climate risk management in multilateral and bilateral development organizations;
- Helping developing countries build their resilience to climate change to the Millennium Review Summit in New York;

Recognizing that climate change could endanger future well being of the population, ecosystems and socio-economic progress of Africa;

Cognizant of the vulnerability of African economic and production systems to climate change and climate variability and the continent's low mitigation and response capacities;

Welcoming the outcome of the Ministerial meetings on disaster risk reduction, which approved a programme of action to implement the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Noting that actions for mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions to combat climate change should be reinforced on the principle of differentiation basis and that urgent action is required to advance adaptation measures.

We commit ourselves to:

1. CONTINUE TO URGE countries that have yet to ratify the Kyoto Protocol to do so.

2. BUILD capacity and strengthen the effective participation of African countries in the negotiations on the future of the UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol processes.

~~3. PROMOTE AVAIL~~ and ~~avail~~ sufficient funds to promote and strengthen the application of science and technology to climate data collection, analysis, generation of early warning information and timely communication.

4. INTEGRATE climate change and climate change adaptation strategies into national and sub-regional development policies, programmes and activities.

5. UNDERTAKE targeted awareness raising amongst policy, decision makers and civil society with the view to ensuring that climate change considerations are taken into account in all sustainable development initiatives.

6. URGENTLY call for the streamlining of Global Environment Facility (GEF) funding mechanisms to include the vulnerability index in the Resource Allocation Framework (RAF) formula in order to ease African countries' access to GEF financial resources; and explore other financial resources and mechanisms to support Africa's adaptation programmes.

7. FOSTER and strengthen cooperation between National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs), Regional Climate Centres (RCC), Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and institutions on matters of climate variability and climate change.

8. STRENGTHEN current African Regional and Sub-regional climate centers of excellence to address climate change and variability prediction as well as in the development of climate applications decision tools.

9. DEVELOP and/or strengthen research and development in climate change in Africa, particularly in renewable energy, forestry and agriculture, to increase the continent's resilience and adaptation to climate change.

10. ENCOURAGE the transfer of relevant climate friendly technologies within and among developing countries and address the challenges as regards Intellectual Property Rights (IPR).

11. DEMAND that developed countries undertake and meet their mitigation commitments, including the implementation of the "polluter pays" and "differentiated responsibilities principles" as provided for in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and to institute deeper cuts in Greenhouse Gas emissions and better trade terms on emission entitlement.

~~12. MANDATE REQUEST~~ the ~~Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union~~ to consult with the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMSEN) with the view to ~~E~~establishing the necessary mechanisms to follow up the implementation of this Declaration, in collaboration with the United Nations Economic commission for Africa (UNECA), the African Development Bank (ADB) and evaluate the progress towards the attainment of its objectives and ~~make regular~~ reports bi-annually to the Summit as appropriate.

~~a) Take the lead role in facilitating Africa's participation in climate negotiations.~~

13. SUBMIT a report biennially to the January session of the Assembly, taking into account the achievements, identifying the obstacles and proposing the means to overcome them.