

European and African NGO recommendations for an EU-Africa Summit that puts climate action at the forefront

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Introduction

The adoption of three intergovernmental agreements in 2015 - Agenda 2030 and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement - illustrate the world's determination to act together to address the multiple and interrelated challenges we face today. Central to the achievement of these three landmark agreements were the partnerships and solidarity forged between countries and regions, including the EU and Africa.

Strengthened joint collaboration between the EU and Africa on climate change will be essential to ensure that the aspirations of international goals and objectives are realised, particularly for the people and communities who are at the forefront of the climate crisis.

In light of the upcoming EU-Africa summit, European and African NGOs working on climate change, energy and sustainable development wish to express our support for enhanced cooperation between Africa and the EU on the ambitious climate action. We **emphasise the urgency and seriousness of the climate change challenge**, and **call upon the two continents to work constructively together for the benefit of all people in particular and the planet in general**.

We also stress that **full respect for human rights, gender equality, local context, CSO participation, transparency and accountability** need to be at the heart of the EU-African cooperation for climate action and sustainable development.

Ahead of the next EU-Africa summit, we wish to highlight a number of key outcomes that we regard as necessary to bolster cooperation, action and implementation so that the most vulnerable can overcome climate impacts and enjoy equal pursuit of sustainable development:

1. Predictable, accountable and scaled up support from the EU to support climate action in African countries

The EU demonstrates how it is delivering its fair share of public **financial support towards USD 100 billion a year by 2020 and including leveraging additional private finance**, and scale up financial support beyond USD 100 billion per year after 2020.

In particular, the **EU, its member states and African governments work together to both improve the transparency of climate finance** and to ensure that financial support for ambitious mitigation and adaptation actions reaches people, communities and countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change and which will benefit most from actions that bolster sustainable development.

In context of the growing emphasis on mechanisms such as blending, public-private partnerships and the establishment of financial guarantees and trust funds, the EU-Africa summit outcome agrees to **safeguard public finance support for bottom-up and local-led solutions and projects that reach people and communities most vulnerable to climate change**.

2. Strengthening adaptation and resilience to climate change impacts

EU member states and African governments commit to **operationalise the Paris Agreement's Global Goal on Adaptation**. European and African governments specifically commit to review their respective National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) with a view to and strengthening them, therefore guaranteeing that they are fit for purpose to protect communities and economies from the impacts of climate change.

In recognition that current financial flows are skewed inordinately towards mitigation only, **the EU and its Member States commit to address this imbalance in order to significantly increase adaptation finance from public sources.**

3. The Africa Renewable Energy Initiative – effective, democratic and people driven

There is great potential for AREI to support a greater energy shift and improved energy access across Africa. In particular, it can serve the needs of millions of people, in particular poor households and smallholder farmers who currently do not have any access to centralised electricity.

At the EU-Africa Summit, governments **commit to jointly strengthen policy, regulatory, support and incentives frameworks** for programmes in countries where individual projects will be implemented.

The EU-Africa summit facilitates the identification of efficient and decentralised energy options that result in enhanced community-driven renewable energy.

European donors and African implementing governments commit to work with local and national civil society organisations to ensure the environmentally and socially sound implementation of AREI projects.¹

They also commit to scaling up investment in energy access and particularly in distributed renewable electricity and clean cooking solutions, which are the fastest and most cost-effective way to connect the majority of Africans without modern energy.

4. Transformational and accessible multilateral and bilateral funds that deliver optimal benefits to those who need them most

EU and African governments commit to work together to ensure strong and effective multilateral funds, including the Green Climate Fund, the Global Environment Facility and the Adaptation Fund which all **seek to enhance mitigation, adaptation and longer term resilience**. Greater effectiveness includes the principle of accessibility for concrete action at all levels in countries and regions that are in most need of support.

The EU and its member states commit to end public funding for fossil fuels by 2020, and call for the same phase-out in all international public finance institutions such as the AfDB. Together, the EU and Africa can help to guarantee that support from international funds reaches people that are most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

5. Loss and Damage

In the wake of countless weather-related tragedies this year, the EU-Africa summit can be a vehicle to constructively address the issue of loss and damage due to climate change impacts. Recognises that the EU's current climate targets will result in an emissions reduction gap thereby creating greater climate risk and further loss and damage in communities, economies and ecosystems in Africa.

To this end, **the EU shall demonstrate fair burden sharing and scaling up technical and innovative financial support for the African Countries.** The EU and Africa commits to establish a Comprehensive Climate Risk Management Mechanism in order to provide practical action to loss and damage on the African continent.

¹ See our recommendations paper on AREI: <http://germanwatch.org/en/13822>

6. Support for CSO engagement and participation in climate and energy projects

The EU-Africa summit explicitly recognises the contribution of **regional and local solutions and community led actions to climate change mitigation and adaptation**. Emphasises that financial support and capacity-building will be provided to ensure that such solutions are fairly considered and implemented where possible. The summit outcome **also guarantees CSO engagement and consultation** – including indigenous communities and women – in national development plans, and related climate and energy projects. This is of utmost importance to address energy poverty in an integral way, a pro-poor enabling environment with transparent and socially inclusive governance of the energy sectors must be fully promoted. This includes stakeholders' participation in the design and delivery of energy services that are tailored to the different needs of communities and are appropriate to the local contexts.

Emphasis should be put on **specific policies that can support the workers and communities** negatively impacted by the decarbonisation of the energy sector, so that there is a just transition that does not result in increases in poverty and inequality among certain groups.

7. Scaled-up and strengthened NDCs in the EU and Africa

As part of its commitment to meet the long term goals of the Paris Agreement, the EU agrees to scale up and commit to **update its Nationally Determined Contributions for 2030 by 2020 at the latest**, in light of updated real economy trends and the early progress it has achieved in bringing down its respective emissions.

African countries, with the support of the EU, also commit to strengthen and potentially broaden the scope of their NDCs, and the NDC Partnership in particular. To this end, the EU and Africa jointly identify areas and sectors that are net yet covered in current African NDCs, including efficient use of renewable sources that can help to transition away from fossil fuels and meet national development and climate goals. Other areas for coverage may include to addressing adaptation and financial support needs identified in African NDCs.

8. Strengthened integration of climate action into national development plans in the EU and Africa

The EU and Africa commit to increased capacity-building, information sharing and technology transfer to ensure that national development plans scale up the level of climate mitigation and adaptation action taken across relevant sectors, including climate resilience measures which safeguard vital services such as healthcare, water and sanitation, transport, electricity and food security. Both the EU and Africa collectively commit to strengthen monitoring and transparency of actions to properly integrate climate change mitigation and adaptation across national development plans and other relevant policy measures.

9. The European External Investment Plan – making it work for climate action and sustainable development

The European External Investment Plan will put people and planet at the heart of its activities. To this end, the EIP will **comprehensively integrate the EU's objectives on sustainable development and climate action through a human rights based approach**. The Plan will support the EU's partner countries to build resilient economies that effectively address the causes and impacts of climate change, and fulfil transparency and accountability obligations of EU support.

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