

Decision 18/4: Climate change

We, the African ministers for the environment,

Having met in Dakar on 15 and 16 September 2022 at the resumed eighteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Highlighting the importance of the forthcoming twenty-seventh session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to focus on the effective implementation of the Paris Agreement,

Having considered substantive and other matters affecting the environment on the continent that required in-depth deliberation at this resumed second part of the eighteenth session of the Conference,

Decide:

1. To welcome the progress made in implementation of the outcomes of the first part of the eighteenth session of the Conference that took place virtually from 13 to 16 September 2021.
2. To congratulate the Arab Republic of Egypt as the in-coming president of twenty-seventh session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and pledge our full support for a successful Conference.
3. To appreciate the work of the African group of negotiators on climate change who have continued to advocate for the interests of Africa and agree to the Africa common position and key policy messages twenty-seventh session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change as contained in annex 1 to this decision.
4. To express our full support and commitment to the Arab Republic of Egypt in hosting the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and request all African institutions to provide any needed support.
5. To welcome the African Union Climate Change Strategy and Resilient Development Strategy and Action plan as the overarching framework to foster coherence in addressing climate change on the continent.
6. To call on twenty-seventh session of the Conference of Parties to enhance action on adaptation by making substantive progress on the Global Goal on Adaptation and scaling up action and support in meeting the needs of developing countries as communicated through their adaptation plans and strategies. In addition, the Conference of Parties should agree on the institutional arrangements to catalyze technical assistance and make progress on funding arrangements for loss and damage including through new and additional resources.
7. To emphasize that the work programme for urgently scaling up mitigation ambition and implementation must consider equity and historical responsibility; developed countries should not renege on their ambition in light of new energy challenges; not push developing countries into accelerating their emissions reductions and shifting the burden. Developed countries should honor their commitments, respect and enable just transitions pathways of developing countries. We call on twenty-seventh session of the Conference of Parties to secure meaningful financial commitments and investments for renewable energy and low carbon programmes and projects at scale for Africa to enhance energy access and support the social and equity dimensions of the just transitions' pathways.

Annex: Key policy messages on Climate Change

We, the African Ministers of the Environment, having met in Dakar, Senegal, on 15 and 16 September 2022 at the resumed eighteenth ordinary session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, express appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Senegal for its achievements as President of the Conference in providing political direction and maintaining the unity of Africa in pursuit of its priority interest in combatting climate change, in the context of Sustainable Development, Just Transitions and the Right to Development and eradicate of poverty, leaving no one left behind.

Expressing our appreciation to the African Group of Negotiators for its their outstanding efforts in representing the region in the climate negotiations and currently in the preparation for the United Nations Climate Change Conference, Sharm El -Sheikh, Egypt, from 6th to 18th November 2022.

Recalling decision Assembly/AU/Dec.819 (XXXV) of the 35th Ordinary Session of Assembly of the African Union held in February 2022 on the report of the Committee of Heads of States and Government on Climate Change, we the ministers of environment of Africa:

1. The climate change conference, taking place on African soil, needs to deliver substantive progress on the priority issues for Africa and other developing countries – specifically Adaptation, Loss and Damage and Finance, which are currently trapped in open-ended process-related discussions. The twenty-seventh session of the Conference of Parties needs to be a watershed moment for implementation, by securing the Means of Implementation, in the form of climate finance, technology transfer and capacity building, for African and other developing countries.
2. We welcome the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change that shows that Africa historically contributed least and has the lowest per capita greenhouse gas emissions of all regions. Yet Africa has already experienced widespread impacts from climate change, including 34% decrease in agricultural productivity growth, the largest reduction of any region, in addition to biodiversity loss, water shortages, reduced economic output and growth, and already experiencing loss and damage, and every fraction of a degree of global warming increases risks.
3. We note that as one of the least contributors and the most adversely impacted region by climate change that is facing an increasing number of devastating extreme weather and slow-onset events, Africa recognizes that a global crisis of this magnitude can only be addressed by all Parties and non-Party stakeholders working together. We, therefore, uphold the centrality of multilateralism and stress Africa's firm commitment to the full, effective and sustained implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol and Paris Agreement. This commitment is demonstrated by African countries' highly ambitious, Nationally Determined Contributions which will enable African countries deliver their climate change commitments in a broader and more comprehensive manner.
4. We are deeply concerned at the backtracking on commitments by developed countries and the failure of some countries to honour their commitments on emission reductions and provision of support to developing countries. Call upon developed countries to show leadership by undertaking ambitious mitigation actions and provide scaled up support in this critical decade consistent with the science.
5. Re-affirm our multilateral commitment to addressing climate change and implementing actions under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Paris Agreement to be guided by prescribed principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.
6. Urge Parties to the Paris Agreement to recognize the “Special Needs and Special Circumstances” of Africa, in line with the Convention and previous decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties and the best available science and request the presidency of twenty-seventh session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to intensify the consultations, with a view to reaching a decision in this regard by the 4th meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement
7. Stress the importance of grant-based resources for African countries, particularly for adaptation, and emphasize that climate action must not lead to an increase in the already unsustainable levels of debt of African countries.
8. Underscore the need for developed country Parties to honour their commitment made recently in Glasgow to double their adaptation finance from the current very low base line and to demonstrate a further progression of effort to support African and other developing countries in the context of the IPCC finding that states that Africa needs up to 86 billion USD annually by 2030 for adaptation.
9. Calls upon twenty-seventh session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to expedite the implementation of the two-year Glasgow-Sharm el-Sheikh work programme on the Global Goal on Adaptation. We envisage clear and substantive outcomes on enhancing ambition by scaling up actions and support, meeting the needs of developing countries as communicated and achieving adequate adaptation response in the context of the temperature goal referred to in Article 2 of the Paris Agreement. The work programme on the GGA should provide guidance to inform the global stock take on the assessment of progress on mandates contained in Article 7.14 of the Paris Agreement and decision 11/CMA1.
10. With regards to developed countries Glasgow adaptation finance doubling commitment, further underscore the need for developed countries to undertake the following: (a) An annual progress report with the objectives to increase (i) accountability (report individually and collectively - all developed countries) (ii) transparency (amount, instruments, channels, regions, etc.) (iii) country-ownership (responds to urgent needs and priorities as

articulated by developing countries) and (iv) leadership (extent to which developing countries institutions, initiatives and capacities are mobilized and strengthened); (b) A clear expected and projected adaptation finance supports on mid and long term basis in order to secure predictability and better adaptation planning and activities' implementation, based on ex-ante information and taking into account ex-post adaptation needs by all developing country parties to UNFCCC and PA, in particular reaching the Global Goal on Adaptation.

11. Further welcome the commitment by developed countries to at least double their collective provision of climate finance for adaptation to developing country Parties from 2019 levels by 2025. Ministers urge the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of Parties to have a standing agenda item on adaptation finance on this matter, and urges developed countries to present a delivery plan clarifying: a) the burden sharing arrangements among developed countries; b) the contribution timeframes and c) the support to be received by the operating entities and the specialized funds in accordance with previous conference decisions. The Minister further note that the adaptation finance undertaking is to double adaptation is not part of the USD100 mobilization goal.
12. Furthermore, call on future Presidencies starting with COP27 Presidency to organize: (a) biannual consultation sessions, on the ex-ante and ex post information provided by developed countries on the delivery of their Glasgow adaptation finance doubling commitment, with the objective to increase its clarity and understanding by developing countries and all stakeholders; (b) a high level ministerial dialogue (HLMD) at COP, to reflect on both qualitative and quantitative elements of the delivery of their Glasgow adaptation finance doubling commitment, to allow for high level political guidance and recommendations from developing countries, to enhance overall quality of the provided support.
13. Further emphasize that the adaptation work programme should provide a key set of adaptation finance goals as part of the GGA, focusing on core adaptation support in a range of sectors, and also as part of the deliberations on a new collective quantified goal on finance; and present a clear roadmap to deliver on the Glasgow decision to double adaptation finance by 2025. This roadmap should include projected annual contributions, the timing of such contributions, and the multilateral institutions that will channel these resources to developing countries.
14. Recognize the fundamental priority of the agriculture sector to food security (ending hunger), poverty eradication and rural development on the continent. Considering the extreme vulnerability of the agricultural sector in Africa as described in the recent scientific findings of the IPCC AR6. We urge the COP27 under the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture to establish an implementing mechanism with a committee to facilitate the implementation of concrete actions with a focus on adaptation and adaptation co-benefits of climate actions in the agriculture sector.
15. Note with grave concern the projected loss and damage costs associated with Climate Change for Africa that range between USD 289 and USD 440 billion between 2020 and 2030. In this regard, we call upon COP27 to finalize agreement on the governance of the loss and damage under the Convention, including the Santiago Network for Loss and Damage. We further call for constructive discussion on financial arrangements for Loss and Damage. COP27 should agree on the scale of support, as well as programming options and ex-post direct budget support to governments. As the quantum/scale of loss and damage support is so high, we would envisage this type of support to come from the developed countries public finance, the Multilateral Development Banks and bilateral partnerships. The form of access to such finance is via direct budget support to governments and bilateral budget support must also be encouraged.
16. Encourage COP27 to expedite the mitigation work program on ambition and implementation established at Glasgow, with particular focus on equity and enhancing the implementation. We further agree that the mitigation work program should focus on the necessary enabling elements, including the climate finance and technology transfer required for the implementation of the Nationally Determined Contributions communicated by Parties.
17. Welcome the recognition of multiple forms and stages of Just Transitions by Glasgow Climate Pact and related COP26/CMA decisions. We highlight that African countries also require significant support for just transitions for pathways to low emissions and climate-resilient development. It is thus imperative that the Mitigation work programme must include consideration of financing the transitions of all African countries. It should further present long term sustainable finance solutions that will support developing countries to make just transitions.
18. Recognize the importance of technology in climate action and in particular the role of the Technology Framework through the Technology mechanism in accelerating our low carbon climate resilient development and facilitating enhanced action on technology development and transfer in order to achieve the objectives of the Convention and its Paris Agreement. Call for enhanced joint innovation and international cooperation on climate-related

technology in enhancing global actions and further call for technical support for the implementation of climate action.

19. Highlight the importance of capacity building in developing countries in strengthening the capacity to coherently develop and implement their National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), NDCs and long-term Low emission development strategies, and call for the provision of adequate support to build both institutional and individual capacity building. Further call on developed countries to provide support to the Action for Climate Empowerment National Focal Points as well as the Paris Committee on Capacity-Building.
20. Urge developed countries to provide continuous resources to the Capacity-Building Initiative for Transparency as well the Consultative Group of Experts, and further urge developed country Parties to provide additional, continuous and adequate support to developing countries for enhancing their capabilities to report under the enhanced transparency framework of the Paris Agreement.
21. Emphasize the importance of delivering the USD 100 billion per annum at COP27 to implement climate action, and for building trust in the multilateral process of addressing climate change. Note the inadequacy of the USD 100 billion and that the latest SCF report on the needs of developing countries highlights that the scale of needs for implementation of NDC is USD 5.6 trillion up to 2030.
22. Welcome the pledges made at COP26 for USD 350 million by developed countries to the Adaptation Fund. We urge developed countries to urgently honor their commitments to double adaptation funding.
23. Express concerns that pledges made at COP26 to the Adaptation Fund are inadequate and yet to be fulfilled thus significantly impacting the programming capacity of the Adaptation Fund to support concrete adaptation actions in developing countries, particularly via the Fund's Direct Access Modality. Call on developed country parties to pledge new and additional financial resources to the Adaptation fund at COP27.
24. Express grave concerns about the post-COVID debt crisis of developing and particularly African countries and highlighted that NDCs cannot be effectively implemented by taking on additional sovereign debt. It is imperative that other creative solutions are found.
25. Welcome the launch of the programme to establish the new finance goal, which must be based on the actual needs of developing countries in implementing the goals agreed in the Convention and Paris Agreement and must be accompanied by a climate focused review of Multilateral Development Banks and International Financial Institutions, to meet the enormous challenges of mitigation and adaptation to developing countries.
26. Emphasize the necessity to avoid unplanned and abrupt divestment from fossil fuels, which will threaten African development, and underline the need for a just transitions financing framework to ensure that Africa's shift from fossil fuel use to renewable energy is measured, avoids negative consequences on workers, communities and national economies, and enhances Africa's energy access and development. Call upon developed countries to provide significant financial commitments and investments in renewable energy at scale and support social and equity dimensions of just transitions pathways.
27. We urge the consideration of Article 6 of the Paris Agreement in terms of raising ambition in mitigation and adaptation actions and help to meet the cost of adaptation for developing countries, and to emphasise the need for the market and non-market-based approaches to ensure environmental integrity, avoid duplication and double counting, and support fair regional distribution and inclusiveness.
28. Reaffirm our support for the promotion of gender equality and responsiveness in developing and implementing climate policies. We also encourage the enhancement of the participation of women in the negotiations under the UNFCCC and of their representation in bodies established pursuant to the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement.
29. Further highlight the importance of ensuring strengthened participation of youth, as appropriate, in the design and implementation of climate actions, and emphasize the importance of the views of youth.
30. Emphasize the importance of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform in engaging diverse knowledge, best practices, experience and perspectives to inform climate-related decisions and actions at the national and international levels.
31. Recognise the importance of REDD+ in African countries in reducing emissions and adapting to climate change impacts. Further, welcomed the successful role of the Green Climate Fund on a pilot programme for REDD+

results-based payments, noting the need for adequate and predictable support for the implementation of all REDD+ activities and strategies. Call upon the Green Climate Fund to extend this REDD+ financing equally to African Countries.

32. Welcome the convening of the technical phase of the first Global Stock Take (GST) and call upon African countries and stakeholders to contribute African perspectives to the GST, covering all aspects of the UNFCCC and its Paris Agreement. We emphasize that the global stock take should be informed by the best available science and be conducted in a comprehensive, equitable, facilitative and balanced manner in its assessment of the collective efforts of Parties in terms of mitigation, adaptation and means of implementation and its recommendations on the way forward.
33. Note with concern the adverse impacts of Response Measures on African countries and assert that Africa will not bear the costs or assume the responsibilities of other regions for climate actions, such as through unfair and discriminatory Carbon Border Taxes.
34. Express grave concern regarding the proposal for introducing trade barriers, such as unilateral carbon border adjustments that are discriminatory and against the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities & respective capabilities. We emphasize that measures taken to combat climate change, including unilateral measures, should not constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination or a disguised restriction on international trade, in particular on African exports.
35. Expresses appreciation to Excellencies coordinating the African Climate Commissions and Initiatives: - African Islands Climate Commission; the Congo Basin Climate Commission; the Sahel Climate Commission; the Africa Adaptation Initiative (AAI) African Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI) and Adaptation of African Agriculture Initiative (AAA) for their committed leadership in expediting the operationalization and scaling-up of these initiatives.
36. Welcome the on-going preparations by the Arab Republic of Egypt to fully operationalize the AAI Technical Support Unit ahead of COP 27 and call on development partners to support its full implementation. Also welcome the initial members of the AAI Steering Committee (Republic of Gabon as AAI Chair, Arab Republic of Egypt as host of the AAI TSU, AUC, UCLG Africa, PACJA); and invite the AAI Chair to ensure full African regional representation in the composition of the Steering Committee, in time for the first steering committee meeting to be held by COP27.
37. Note the initial findings of the AAI First Africa State of Adaptation Report (SoAR), which reiterates the IPCC 6th Assessment Report findings that Africa has warmed faster than the rest of the world. Further note with concern that while domestic expenditures on adaptation is already accounting for approximate 10% of African countries' GDP, the current progress in the implementation of adaptation is not sufficient for African countries to stay ahead of the projected climate change risks and address the adaptation gap. Call for the urgent scaling up of adaptation finance to support African countries' efforts in the implementation of adaptation action.
38. Note the completion of the integrated Assessment of Air Pollution and Climate Change for Sustainable Development in Africa and its report, in response to AMCEN decision 17/2. Urge African countries to support further development and implementation of the 37 recommended measures as a continent-wide Africa Clean Air Program, coordinated by strong country-led initiatives, cascaded to the Regional Economic Communities and higher levels of policy.