

Below are the Key Messages for the Durban Conference adopted at the Fourth special session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (Bamako, 15 to 16 September 2011)

Key Messages on Climate Change Negotiations for 17th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the 7th Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol

1. We, African ministers of environment, recognize that Africa continues to face numerous severe negative impacts arising from the adverse effects of climate change that have been documented and supported by scientific findings, including those of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and other reports. Such impacts are hampering Africa's efforts to attain its development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.
2. We reaffirm that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol constitutes the fundamental global legal framework on climate change and that all actions or measures related to climate change must be in full conformity with the principles and provisions of the Convention, in particular those of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.
3. We reiterate that the climate negotiations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change should produce two outcomes in line with the Bali Roadmap, regarding an agreed outcome on long-term cooperative action to enhance the implementation of the Convention, and an amendment to Annex B of the Kyoto Protocol regarding further mitigation commitments of Annex I Parties for a second commitment period from 2013 to 2017 under the Kyoto Protocol.
4. We express our deep concern that the inadequate mitigation pledges, notably by Annex I Parties under the Cancun decisions, risk an increase in global average temperature of greater than 2°C – and possibly as much as 5°C – as documented and supported by scientific analyses, including those of the United Nations Environment Programme, and the Stockholm Environment Institute and other leading scientific institutions. Such temperature increases will have catastrophic impacts worldwide, and particularly for Africa due to its high vulnerability to the impacts of climate change and low adaptive capacity.
5. We are aware that the mitigation pledges by Annex I Parties in the context of the climate change negotiations amount to less than the voluntary mitigation pledges by non-Annex I Parties. We therefore stress that Annex I Parties must show leadership including through raising their level of ambition to the scale required by science and equity.
6. We reaffirm that adaptation is an essential priority for Africa and that there is an urgent need for immediate and adequate support for the implementation of adaptation measures and actions through the provision of grant-based public resources. We acknowledge that there is an urgent and immediate need to avoid further loss and damage arising from the adverse effects of climate change on Africa. In this regard, immediate action should be taken in particular by Annex I Parties to reduce their emissions in line with the information set out in the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and more recent scientific studies in a way that will limit the global average temperature increase to well below 1.5°C.

7. We reaffirm that achieving sustainable development and poverty eradication are the priorities for Africa. We also reaffirm the right to equitable sharing of atmospheric space and resources by non-Annex I Parties, in particular Africa, taking into account the cumulative historical responsibility and use of such resources by Annex I Parties and the fact that cumulative emissions in Africa remain extremely low. Africa's share of global emissions will need to grow to meet its social and economic development needs.

Implementing the Kyoto Protocol

8. We call on developed country Parties to the Kyoto Protocol to honour their commitments through ambitious mitigation commitments for a second and subsequent commitment periods and to reduce their emissions of greenhouse gases by at least 40 per cent during the second commitment period from 2013 to 2017 and by at least 95 per cent by 2050, compared to 1990 levels, as an equitable and appropriate contribution to achieving the objective of the Convention. We stress the urgency of agreeing a second commitment period in Durban and of elaborating measures to avoid a gap between commitment periods.
9. We call on Annex I Parties to ensure the environmental integrity of their emission reduction commitments, and to guarantee an equitable and appropriate level of domestic emission reductions, by closing existing loopholes, limiting the use of carbon markets and project-based mechanisms to 10% of their commitments, and ensuring the additionality of carbon credits. We confirm that new market mechanisms shall be conditional upon agreement by Annex I Parties to ambitious mitigation commitments through a second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol.

Implementing the Convention

Shared vision

10. We emphasize that avoiding dangerous interference with the climate system and achieving a global goal of limiting temperature increase to well below 1.5°C will require an integrated approach based on science, equity and the rule of law. Such an approach must include ambitious short, medium and long-term mitigation commitments by Annex I Parties that reflect their historical responsibilities and is an equitable and appropriate contribution to the global effort to tackle climate change, and the provision of adequate means of implementation – finance, technology and capacity building – to enable non-Annex I Parties to address mitigation and adaptation.

Adaptation

11. We call for elaboration of the Cancun Adaptation Framework as a mechanism to facilitate the support of national adaptation actions and plans of non-Annex I Parties through the finance and technology mechanisms of the Convention. We affirm that adaptation activities should be funded at full cost through direct and simplified access to adequate, new and additional public grant-based financial resources, following a country driven approach, as well as to environmentally sound technologies and capacity building in a predictable and prompt manner as part of a balanced package on all issues to implement the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol.
12. We urge that measures should be taken to expedite work on strengthening international cooperation and expertise in order to understand, reduce and compensate loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including impacts on agriculture, water, human health and other areas related to extreme weather events and slow onset events particularly in Africa.

Mitigation

13. We request developed country Parties that are not party to the Kyoto Protocol to undertake legally binding commitments under the Convention that are comparable in magnitude and effort and are measurable, reportable and verifiable with regard to mitigation efforts and the provision of financial and technological resources. We urge the agreement of quantified emission reduction commitments for these Parties under an agreed set of common accounting rules and compliance framework.
14. We reaffirm that a firewall must be maintained between mitigation commitments of Annex I Parties that are legally binding in nature and appropriate voluntary mitigation actions by non-Annex I Parties. We also reaffirm that the measuring and verification process shall be applied to mitigation commitments of Annex I Parties and to the means of implementation provided to non-Annex I Parties.

15. We stress that the extent to which non-Annex I Parties will effectively implement actions under the Convention will depend on the effective implementation and fulfillment by developed country Parties of their commitments under the Convention related to financial resources and technology transfer, taking into account the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, under Article 4 paragraphs 1, 3, 4 and 5 of the Convention.

Means of implementation

16. We express concerns about insufficient transparency and slow disbursement of the financial resources pledged by developed country Parties as “fast start” finance for the period 2010-2012 and indications that a small proportion of these resources are “new and additional”.
17. We call for enhanced transparency, a common reporting format and agreement in Durban on the scale of public resources to be provided by Annex II Parties commencing in 2013, building on short-term finance commitments and reaching a scale adequate to meet the needs of non-Annex I Parties in 2020 and beyond.
18. We stress the importance of ensuring direct access for all non-Annex I Parties, equitable allocation through geographical and needs based criteria, a balance between adaptation and mitigation, and grant-based funding for adaptation activities.
19. We note the pledge by developed country Parties to mobilize jointly \$100 billion per year by 2020, and reiterate Africa’s position that developed country Parties should by the year 2020 provide scaled up financial support based on an assessed scale of contributions that constitutes at least 1.5 per cent of the gross domestic product of Annex I Parties, in order to curb climate change and meet the needs of non-Annex I Parties to tackle climate change and its adverse effects. We emphasize that public finance should be the main source of funding to ensure the sustainability, predictability and adequacy of funding, bearing in mind that private and market finance can play a complementary role.
20. We stress the urgent need to address the issue of technology transfer, including the identification and removal of all barriers preventing access to climate-related technologies and the appropriate treatment of intellectual property rights, including the removal of patents on climate-related technologies for non-Annex I Parties.
21. We stress that capacity building should be treated as a crosscutting issue and be clearly reflected on other thematic areas. We acknowledge the creation of performance indicators for monitoring and review of capacity building is paramount. We further stress that capacity building activities should not be left to the private sector.
22. We note the efforts made in the establishment of effective and accountable institutions under the authority and guidance of the Conference of the Parties in relation to adaptation, finance, technology transfer and capacity building.
23. We accordingly expect that COP17 will conclude the operationalization of effective and accountable institutions under the Conference of the Parties in relation to, *inter alia*, adaptation, technology and finance in accordance with the relevant principles and provisions of the Convention, the Bali Action Plan and the Cancun decisions and taking into account the proposals made by the African Group and the Group of 77 and China. We reaffirm that operationalization of the Green Climate Fund, with a legal personality under the Conference of the Parties, is crucial for securing success in Durban.
24. Finally, we reaffirm that the two tracks of negotiations under the Convention must continue as separate tracks and that a balanced outcome is expected at the end of the negotiations in Durban, including a legally binding outcome on the scale of emission reductions to be undertaken by Annex I Parties individually and in aggregate through a second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol, and a legally binding outcome on the various pillars of the Bali Action Plan in accordance with the Bali Roadmap.