

Final version

Bamako Declaration on Consolidating the African Common Position on Climate Change and Preparation for the United Nations Conference Sustainable Development (Rio+20)

We, African Ministers of Environment,

Having met in Bamako from 15 to 16 September 2011 at the fourth special session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Welcoming the decisions¹ of the Assembly of the Africa Union made at its seventeenth ordinary session held in Malabo 30 June to 1 July 2011, among others, (i) urging African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to hold an extra-ordinary session on and consider and endorse the updated African common position on climate change, (ii) and on Africa's preparations for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio +20),

In relation to the updated African common position on climate change,

Recalling the decisions of the thirteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment held in Bamako from 23 to 25 June 2010 on strengthening the international climate change regime through the full, effective and sustained implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol thereto,

Noting the outcome of the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol held in Cancun 29 November to 10 December 2010,

Aware of the forthcoming seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol scheduled to take place in Durban from 28 November to 9 December 2011,

Stressing Africa's vulnerability to the effects of climate change and in this context, noting in particular the adverse effects such as the desiccation of Lake Chad, drought in the Horn of Africa and other rapidly advancing adverse effects of climate change on ecosystems, food production, social and economic development in Africa; and noting further the urgent need for all countries to take action to mitigate and adapt to climate change,

Emphasizing the need to give special consideration to developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change in accordance with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, including the small island developing States, least developed countries and other countries in Africa,

Appreciating the efforts of the African group of negotiators in the development of the updated African common position on strengthening the international climate change regime through full, effective and sustained implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol thereto,

Concerned about the insufficient transparency and slow disbursement of the financial resources pledged by developed countries as "fast-start" financing for the period 2010 to 2012 and that the bulk of funds disbursed are neither "new" nor "additional,"

¹ Assembly/AU/Dec.363-390(XVII)

Emphasizing the importance of a successful outcome of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to be held in Durban from 28 November to 9 December 2011 to all States and people of Africa,

Hereby declare our resolve:

1. To endorse the updated African common position on climate change as the basis for negotiations by African States on strengthening the international climate change regime through full, effective and sustained implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol thereto;
2. To agree that the key messages on the negotiations during the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol should guide and inform discussions;
3. To affirm that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol constitute the fundamental global legal framework on climate change and that the climate negotiations must produce two outcomes in line with the Bali Roadmap, regarding an agreed outcome to ensure the full, effective and sustained implementation of the Convention and a second period of mitigation commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol;
4. To call for integrated and balanced outcomes that are based on science, equity and the rule of law reflecting the latest scientific, technical, economic and social information as these outcomes will significantly influence efforts to secure Africa's sustainable development;
5. To urge all Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to recognize the need to limit temperature increase to well below 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels in order to avoid dangerous interference with the climate system in a time frame that protects ecosystems, food production and sustainable development, particularly in Africa;
6. To reaffirm that achieving sustainable development and poverty eradication are the priorities to Africa, and the right to equitable sharing of atmospheric space and resources by non-Annex I Parties, particularly in Africa;
7. To reaffirm that a long-term global goal must include ambitious short, medium and long-term mitigation commitments by Annex I Parties reflecting their historical responsibilities and an equitable and appropriate contribution to the global effort, as well as the provision of adequate means of implementation - finance, technology and capacity building - to enable non-Annex I Parties to address mitigation and adaptation;
8. To urge Annex I Parties to the Kyoto Protocol to commit to 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 45 per cent by 2020 and 95 per cent by 2050, compared to 1990 levels, as an equitable and appropriate contribution to achieving the objective of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;
9. To request Annex I Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change 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 through an agreed set of common accounting rules and compliance framework;

10. To urge all Annex I Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to ensure that the environmental integrity of their emission reduction commitments by closing loopholes, limiting the use of carbon markets and project-based mechanisms to ten per cent of their commitments and ensure carbon credits reflect genuinely additional emission reductions;
11. To emphasize that the extent to which non-Annex I Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change will effectively implement actions under the Convention will depend on full and effective implementation by developed country Parties and fulfilment of their commitments relating to finance, technology transfer and capacity building;
12. To call on developed country Parties to urgently scale up support for the implementation of adaptation measures and plans, particularly through the Cancun Adaptation Framework and Nairobi Work Programme, and to support and expedite work to understand, reduce and compensate loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including impacts on agriculture;
13. To call on developed country Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to support the strengthening or establishment of regional centres and networks for adaptation and to request the African Union Commission to engage bilateral and multilateral partners to take concrete steps to ensure that Africa has strong regional adaptation centres and networks;
14. To call on the developed country Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to provide new and additional public financial resources to non-Annex I Parties for programmes for the conservation and sustainable management of forests, wetlands, soils and marine resources that contribute to improving human wellbeing, conservation of biodiversity, enhancement of economic and social development, as well as mitigating climate change;
15. To call on the developed country Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to take into account the specific conditions of small island developing states, by providing necessary financial and technical resources for adequate management of coastal areas in order for them to face the challenges of rising sea levels;
16. To encourage the Global Environment Facility, in its capacity as the operating entity of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to strengthen its support for Africa as it is the continent most affected by climate change;
17. To call for agreement at the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on the sources and scale of public financial resources to be provided by Annex II Parties' for the period commencing in 2013, on enhanced transparency in the provision of new and additional financial resources through a common reporting format, and on the operationalization of the Green Climate Fund and the Standing Committee on Finance;
18. To call upon developed country Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to provide new and additional resources to the climate funds under the Convention, in particular the Least Developed Countries Fund, the Special Climate Change Fund and the Adaptation Fund that are currently the only financial means to fund adaptation under the Convention;
19. To urge Parties to cooperate efficiently on technology transfer to Africa in support of adaptation and mitigation to climate change, and to support the full operationalisation of the technology mechanism of the Convention;

20. To note the Johannesburg Communiqué of the African Ministerial Conference on Climate-Smart Agriculture and, in recognition of the importance of agriculture to Africa, to recommend that a comprehensive work programme on agriculture in non-Annex I Parties be established under the Cancun Adaptation Framework and further recommend that agriculture be addressed as a matter of priority in relation to the mitigation commitments of Annex I Parties;

21. To note the outcome of the African Ministerial Conference on Energy and to further encourage the continued concrete implementation of actions that contribute to increased access to energy and its development;

22. To welcome the report of the African Development Bank on the design of the Africa Green Fund and call upon the Bank to continue this work and reflect the inputs made at this Conference. To further request the African Development Bank to present and showcase its previous experience in this regard to the next Conference;

23. To urge all African countries to render support to South Africa in hosting the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change serving as the seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol;

In relation to preparations for United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio +20),

Recalling the decision of the United Nations General Assembly to hold the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012 in Rio de Janeiro, and *noting* the conference objectives of securing renewed political commitment for sustainable development, and assessing progress to date and the remaining gaps in the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development and addressing new and emerging challenges,

Stressing the critical importance of having a well-coordinated and coherent common position for Africa so as to ensure that the concerns and priorities of the region are well articulated and reflected in the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20),

Welcoming the establishment of the Africa regional preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development involving the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme, the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank, regional economic communities, and other United Nations agencies to adequately support African countries in their collective preparations for the Conference,

Recalling the United Nations General Assembly resolution 65/160 that called for the holding of a high-level meeting to address desertification, land degradation and drought in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication in New York on twentieth of September 2011 as an additional opportunity to reaffirm the urgent need for affective implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,

Recognising that the current global institutional structures do not fully address Africa's sustainable development aspirations on matters of the environment, social and economic spheres,

Noting that the concept of green economy is a viable and promising vehicle to achieve sustainable development in Africa, minimise environmental risks and that its advancement requires political support, policy reforms, institutional innovations, public and private sector investment and allocation of resources,

Hereby declare our resolve:

24. To request development partners and the United Nations agencies to strengthen the capacities of African countries in combating desertification and land degradation and coping with drought and natural and technological disasters;
25. To call upon the African Union Commission, regional economic communities, the African Development Bank, United Nations agencies, civil society organizations and other development partners to collaborate in undertaking effective and sustainable measures to support African countries particularly in the Horn of Africa on matters of identifying long term responses and coping methods on the drought crises including establishing or strengthening monitoring mechanisms;
26. To fully support the decision of the Assembly of the Africa Union at its seventeenth ordinary session held in Malabo 30 June to 1 July 2011 in which the Assembly recognized that current institutional structures did not fully address Africa's needs in matters of the environment, sustainable development and climate change within the context of revision of institutional frameworks for sustainable development, and took into consideration the need to strengthen, consolidate and transform the United Nations Environment Programme into an international specialized institution for the environment based in Nairobi, Kenya.
27. To urge all countries to ensure coherence among the institutional frameworks of the environment, social and economic pillars across the United Nations system thereby enhancing the implementation of sustainable development agenda;
28. To call for a clearer understanding of the concept of the green economy; of the implications for the transition, in the African context, to a green economy; and that such transition has costs and benefits associated to it, and that its realisation is contingent on African countries receiving from developed countries the needed means of implementation in addition to the resources made available by African countries themselves;
29. To recognise that the green economy is a means to achieve Africa's objectives of sustainable development, employment creation, economic growth and poverty reduction and that green economy should be underlined by national objectives, social and economic development imperatives and the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals;
30. To call upon developed countries to support, within the African context, the development of green economy initiatives especially on matters of financing, technology transfer, capacity building and removal of barriers to trade;
31. To endorse the outcome document made at the meeting on "strengthening the institutional framework for sustainable development: the environment pillar" held in Bamako 12 to 13 September 2011 and decisions of the fourth special session of African Ministerial Conference on the Environment on green economy and international environment governance in the context of institutional framework for sustainable development in preparation for the Rio+20 Conference and affirm that any such institution, whatever its form, should comply with the characteristics specified in the outcome document;
32. To encourage the involvement of women, young people and organisations for persons with disabilities, in addition to the private sector and civil society in the processes leading to and during the Rio +20 conference;
33. To urge all African countries to actively participate in the African regional preparatory conference to be held in Addis Ababa in 20 to 25 October 2011 where the Africa consensus statement to Rio+20 is expected to be adopted and also in the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development;

We, African Ministers of Environment, hereby declare our resolve:

34. To express our appreciation to the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank and other organizations for their continued support to the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment;

35. To mandate the President of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to submit the report of the fourth special session of the Conference, including the Bamako Declaration on consolidating the African common position and strategy for climate change, to the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change for their consideration;

36. To request the African Union Commission to submit the report of the fourth special session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to the next Summit.

37. To express our appreciation to the Government and the people of Mali for hosting the fourth special session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment.
