



Africa EU declaration on climate change

10 décembre 2008



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Africa- EU and climate change negotiations : a real strategic partnership



Minister of State Office

Paris, Wednesday 10 December 2008

PRESS RELEASE

Jean-Louis BORLOO applauds Africa and the European Union for uniting their forces to climate change

“On Monday 1 December, Africa and the European Union *approved an important community declaration on climate change in which the two continents highlight their shared fears concerning global warming and bring to mind their common objective to reach an ambitious, post-Kyoto international agreement, in Copenhagen at the end of 2009*”, declared Jean-Louis BORLOO, Minister of State for Ecology, Energy, Sustainable Development and Regional Planning, announcing this achievement on the first day of the Poznan convention.

The IPCC and the Bali Action Plan (2007) have both provided evidence that Africa is one of the most vulnerable countries as regards climate change as well as being one of the countries the least responsible for global warming.

The European Union/Africa common agreement is proof of the convergence between the two continents despite the significant socio-economic differences separating them. This tends to prove that on a more global scale, great alliances are possible in the face of the emergency that is global warming. This marks an important step towards the emergence of common approaches and consolidation of preparatory cooperation for the future post-Kyoto regime.

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This is the fruit of intense collaboration undertaken on one hand in the framework of the 11th ministerial Africa-European Union troika that took place 20-21 November in Addis Abeba and on the other from results of the **African Conference of Ministers of the Environment on climate change that took place in Algiers on 20 November, attended by the French Minister of State, Jean-Louis BORLOO**. It also constitutes a focal point for players in climate change and those involved with development who jointly drew up this declaration, a unique occurrence up until now.

A AFRICA EU DECLARATION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

BACKGROUND /PREAMBULAR PARAGRAPHS

1. During the 11th Ministerial Meeting of the African and EU Troikas that took place in Addis Ababa on 20 and 21 November 2008 in the framework of the Africa EU dialogue, Ministers exchanged views on climate change and acknowledged that climate change is a serious global challenge which demands urgent, cooperative, fair and shared responsibility to act.
2. They underlined their joint commitment to the objectives and principles of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Kyoto Protocol. They emphasised the necessity to conclude negotiations on a strengthened, fair and effective global agreement for the climate change regime after 2012 by the end of 2009, affirming the urgent need to work closely together on the development of all elements of such an agreement. Both sides also agreed to work together to mobilise political support for stronger action on climate change and to examine how the international framework could facilitate such action. This action should be guided by a shared vision for long term cooperative efforts and should include perspectives on low-carbon development, climate-safe paths and reduced climate vulnerabilities. They emphasised that the elements of the future climate change agreement should contribute to the necessary economic development of Africa.
3. They emphasised that to avoid the worst impacts of climate change, all countries in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities need to carry their fair share of responsibility to limit a global temperature increase to not more than 2°C related to 450 ppm CO₂eq.
4. They therefore highlighted that the future global agreement should be informed by the best available science as set out in the IPCC 4th Assessment Report, that points to the need for a shared vision of achieving equitable and sustainable development, which includes a global long term goal for emissions to decline by at least 50% by 2050, compared to 1990 levels and to peaking global emissions by 2020 and decline thereafter. They highlighted that the increase in extreme events (hurricanes, droughts, floods), the variations of temperature and rainfall changes, the exposition to sea level up-rise are extremely diverse from one region of Africa to another. Therefore they stressed the necessity for more measures, research and analysis of the impact of climate change in the different eco-climatic regions of Africa.
5. They further stressed that, for this shared vision and long term global goal to be credible, it requires all developed countries to take the lead e.g. by committing to ambitious and comparable legally binding emission reduction targets. They noted that on the basis of the information provided by the IPCC, keeping the 2°C objective within reach implies that developed countries should collectively reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by between 25 and 40 % by 2020 compared to 1990 levels, through domestic and international efforts, and transform their economies over the coming decades in order collectively to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by 80 to 95 % by 2050 compared to 1990 levels.
6. They agreed that even with the achievement of limiting climate change to not more than 2 °C above pre-industrial levels, the global community will still suffer from climate change and therefore adaptation must be treated with equal importance as mitigation. They further recognized the leading role of developed countries in supporting effective adaptation actions and new and additional financing in developing countries. Africa and EU are facing climate change impacts with different intensities. Their adaptation capacities are very different hence the importance for Europe to exchange experiences in the adaptation domain with Africa.

7. In this context they recognised that a global transition to a low carbon economy and society is essential. They noted that the transition presents many opportunities to stimulate environmental economic activities that could create jobs as stated in the September 2008 ILO report *“Green Jobs: towards decent work in a sustainable, low carbon world”*.
8. They recalled Article 32 of the Cotonou Agreement regarding ACP-EU cooperation on environmental protection and the sustainable utilization of natural resources and the Joint ACP-EU Declaration on Climate Change and Development adopted in Port Moresby in June 2006 They also recalled the Africa-EU Joint Strategy adopted at the Africa-EU Summit in December 2007 and its Climate Change Partnership in the first Action Plan under the Africa-EU Joint Strategy that aims to strengthen cooperation between the Africa and the EU in the areas of climate change and land desertification. They emphasised the need for fast progress in the implementation of the Partnership.
9. They recalled relevant African Decisions, Declarations and initiatives, including Declaration on Climate Change and Development in Africa adopted by Heads of State during the African Union Summit (Addis Ababa 2007); Action Plan of the Environment Initiative of NEPAD (June 2003) ; Tunis Declaration and Action Plan adopted at the International Conference on International Solidarity for the Protection of Africa and the Mediterranean Region from Climate Change ; Joint Declaration of the Abidjan Convention and Nairobi Convention ; Decision 2 on Climate change adopted at the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, (Johannesburg, 10–12 June 2008) ; and Algiers Declaration on climate changes in Africa, adopted by the African Conference of Ministers in charge of environment on climate change post 2012, (Algiers, 20 November 2008).
10. Ministers affirmed the outcome of the United Nations Climate Change Conference held in Bali in December 2007 as a major step in the global fight against climate change. They called for a better implementation of the commitments already taken on information exchange, mitigation, adaptation, technology transfer, financing and support to the developing countries. They stressed the importance to progress on the proposals of the Bali Action Plan, especially on those concerning Africa: adaptation, mitigation, deforestation and degradation of forest and land. They underlined that these measures, supported by the international community, could lead, as stated in the IPCC report, to a progressive decrease of the growth of emissions in developing countries, below “business-as-usual” emission trajectories. They welcomed in particular the decision to finalize the operational details of the Adaptation Fund without delay, in light of the role that the Adaptation Fund will play in financing concrete adaptation projects in developing countries.
11. They stressed that integration of climate change into planning and development strategies and into all relevant decision-making processes at all levels of society is an important element of effective adaptation at national level. They noted that local adaptation measures can also contribute to global public goods such as biodiversity conservation. They noted the importance to strengthen the links between the three conventions of Rio¹.
12. They recognised that combating climate change will also contribute to the eradication of poverty and to sustainable growth. Sustainable agriculture and forestry, increasing of renewable energy sources as well as water management will have positive effects on both. Empowering women's participation in these activities will increase the local contribution and efficiency of actions.

¹ - Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), adopted June 5th 1992
 - United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), adopted May 9th 1992
 - United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), adopted June 17th 1994

AFRICAN POLICY

13. They noted that the immediate priority for Africa is development, supported by economic growth, poverty alleviation, and measures to achieve MDGs such as food security, access to energy, water and sanitation. Due to increasingly visible degradation of the ecosystems and natural resources, these priorities should take a sustainable development approach that reconcile economic, social, human and environmental aspects.
14. Africa is already facing a wide range of impacts related to climate change: lands are degrading, water resources are depleting, agriculture productivity is decreasing leading to food insecurity, water borne diseases are spreading, sea level is rising including in deltas and extremes climate events are more frequent. In light of the impact of climate change on humans (Sahel droughts in the 1970's, refugees and internally displaced persons), Africa stressed that the intensity of these tragedies could be greater in the coming years and decades.
15. Africa is launching many initiatives at national, regional and continental levels, such as adaptation policies and disaster risk reduction strategies through a political mobilisation (New partnership For Africa's Development [NEPAD], Addis-Ababa Declaration on climate change and development in Africa- 2007-January 27). Africa and EU agreed to foster consultations for the preparation of these initiatives.
16. They welcomed the progress made in Africa on renewable energy, electricity access, energy efficiency and water management. They commended the efforts made by the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) in coordinating regional strategies and actions on water.
17. They welcomed the African Environment Ministers conference on climate change (Algiers, 20 November 2008), and the EU acknowledged Africa's concerns on climate change issues as reflected in the Algiers Declaration.
18. They recognised the regional dynamic in the Congo Basin on the sustainable management of forests, pushed by the strong commitments of the Heads of States and of such organisations as COMIFAC. They stressed that this progress should be taken into account in the negotiation process on REDD+. They further welcomed the progress on sustainable land management, water and soil conservation, restoration of degraded land and conservation agriculture allowing to slow down soil erosion and to maintain the organic matter content and the carbon content of the soils. The CLIMDEV African initiative (currently finalised) together with the Program on African Monitoring of the Environment for Sustainable Development (AMESD) have the potential to mainstream climate information into development planning and practices in Africa. The Great Green Wall for the Sahara Initiative aims at federating African efforts and institutions working on sustainable land management. They noted that all these programs are at the same time contributing to adapt to climate change, but also increasing economic growth and improving the livelihood of many urban and rural Africans.
19. They noted that Africa is one of the most vulnerable continents when it comes to the enormous impact of the climate change. The African countries have to face a multitude of negative effects with important repercussions on their economic, social, environmental and human situation. They noted also that although Africa is comparatively a lower emitter of green house gases, it is making all efforts within its limits of capability and capacity to contribute to the reduction of these gases.

EU POLICY

20. Europe and Africa are both concerned by the negative impacts of climate change on social and economic conditions in Africa
21. They recognised that Europe is also facing a range of impacts related to climate change: premature accelerated melting of ice, flooding, tempests and other climate related disasters, but had more adapted potentials and capacities than Africa to deal with these disasters.
22. They noted that the EU is reducing its emissions according to its commitments under the Kyoto-Protocol. They welcomed that the EU made a firm independent commitment to achieve at least a 20 % reduction of GHG emissions by 2020 compared to 1990 levels. They further welcomed that EU has endorsed an objective of a 30% reduction in GHG emissions by 2020 compared to 1990 as its contribution to a global and comprehensive agreement for the period beyond 2012, provided that other developed countries commit themselves to comparable emission reductions and that economically more advanced developing countries contribute adequately according to their responsibilities and respective capabilities.
23. They emphasised the need to improve the effectiveness of Multilateral Environmental Agreements and to enhance efforts to better implement, comply with and enforce their provisions. They welcomed EU efforts to support Africa financially and technically to achieve its sustainable development goals.

AFRICA-EU COOPERATION AND COMMON ACTIONS

24. The EU and its Member States are working principally through development cooperation to support African countries in their efforts to tackle climate change with the aim of promoting an improved quality of life and sustainable development, in particular through capacity building support, investments, grants and loans to private and public entities and sectoral approaches.
25. Ministers welcomed the European Union's intention to assist and support the African region in its adaptation and mitigation efforts, through the Global Climate Change Alliance and other appropriate instruments. They recalled that the GCCA is a platform for improving political dialogue and promoting cooperation through the exchange of experiences between the European Union and African countries most vulnerable to climate change on the integration of climate change issues into development policies and strategies. They underlined the GCCA significance for the Africa region particularly to complement and strengthen the African regional mechanisms for fostering political dialogue and cooperation on climate change.
26. Furthermore, Instruments like the Global Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Fund (GEEREF) will accelerate the transfer of clean technologies and contribute to bring secure energy supplies to people in poorer regions of the world by giving priority to meeting the needs of the ACP countries. EU is also an active partner of regional initiatives like solar plan with Union pour la Méditerranée (UPM) or sustainable management of forests in Congo basin with PFBC (Partenariat pour les Forêts du Bassin du Congo).

INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE NEGOCIATIONS

27. Ministers therefore affirmed their commitment to enhance their consultations in international negotiations on climate change. Among the numerous issues to be discussed in Poznan, they decided to focus on the following items through regular consultation:

- adaptation fund :
Africa and EU will work together to speed up the operationalization of this fund while seeking to mobilise new and additional funding for adaptation
- Capacity building:
EU and Africa will work together to reinforce national and regional strategies of african countries, in terms of adaptation and mitigation, through bilateral and multilateral instruments of cooperation. They will promote (a) strengthening the capacity of African countries for the implementation of Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEA), (b) strengthening the African capacity for negotiations on the global carbon market, and (c) enhancing the African countries capacities to take advantage of the Global Climate Change Allinace.
- Adaptation and mitigation initiatives in Africa :
EU and Africa will explore investment and financing possibilities to allow the support of adaptation and mitigation initiatives in Africa as well as technology development, through implementing bilateral, triangular and multilateral cooperation programs for the development and transfer of technology.
Reduction of emissions from deforestation and forest degradation - REDD+, Africa and EU will continue to promote in Poznan the place and the specificities of African countries in this initiative.
- Mid term goal for emission reduction
In Poznan Africa and EU will call for developed countries to collectively reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by between 25 and 40% by 2020 compared to 1990 levels through domestic and international efforts, according to their responsibilities and respective capabilities.
- Financing
A key challenge for the Copenhagen agreement will be to develop in conformity with Bali action plan an architecture to optimise and mobilise predictable, sustainable and new, additional and adequate investment and financial flows from various sources (including the private sector, the carbon market, public sector and innovative instruments) and to deliver financing efficiently, effectively and equitably. In Poznań, the discussion on the financial architecture for the post 2012 framework including the fourth review of the financing mechanism will be an opportunity to progress on the financing system of the Convention and the potential for additional financial flows. Africa and EU will cooperate on this issue. Africa and EU will recall the key role of the Global Environment Facility as the financial mechanism of the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol and the importance of improving this instrument to reinforce its effectiveness and efficiency.

BILATERAL COOPERATION

28. They noted that Africa is constrained by the increasing impacts of climate change and the related threats of disasters and conflicts. They considered essential to move from reactive adaptation to proactive policies, strategies and plans taking advantage of synergies with disaster risk reduction and ecosystem management efforts. Climate change considerations should have a central position at the national and regional level in Africa and be tackled as integral to development rather than through isolated actions. It should be increasingly taken into account when designing development cooperation programmes drawing on the lessons of aid effectiveness (Paris Agenda) and good development practice.

29. In this context, they jointly identified the following as immediate priorities areas for action:

- Capacity Building of African countries for climate change and for the negotiation and implementation of Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEA);
- Investment and financing possibilities in support of adaptation and mitigation initiatives in Africa;
- Strengthening African capacities to better exploit opportunities under the carbon market;
- Water resources management and adaptation of agriculture
- Desertification , land degradation and scarcity of water
- Urban development
- Reduction of deforestation and degradation of the forests
- Sustainable management of firewood supply
- Access to energy and energy efficiency
- Sea level rise, small islands and deltas adaptation
- Development of renewable energy, notably solar in Sahara
- Support and cooperation on pollution inventories including GHG
- Disaster risk reduction

30. They have agreed to cooperate closely to ensure appropriate follow up action to this Declaration linking it as appropriate with the UNFCCC negotiation process. In this regard they invited the Africa EU Joint Expert Group under the Partnership n.6 (Climate Change) of the first Action Plan of the Africa-EU Joint Strategy to translate the proposed priorities into concrete cooperation activities inter alia under the GCCA.

CONCRETE EXAMPLES OF AFRICA EU PARTNERSHIP IN FAVOR OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

CONGO BASIN COUNTRIES

Capacity building on GHG inventories

To have the "most precise" inventories for greenhouse gas emissions possible

The Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Planning and Development has organized training on GHG inventories for Congo Basin Countries. This training allows countries to increase their capacity to take stock of their emissions. This is part of international negotiations relating to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), more particularly, Partnership for Forests of the Congo Basin, which supports members countries of the Commission of Forests of Central Africa in international negotiations over climate change.

It aims to assist in the calculation of GHG emissions for national communication and prepare these countries for a possible mechanism called REDD (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation in developing countries).

During the session, the ambassador for international negotiations on climate change, Mr Brice Lalonde, underlined the importance of calculating the 'most accurate' GHG inventories at a global level for the fight against global warming.

The training was managed by experts from the Atmospheric Pollution Technical Inter-professional Centre (CITEPA) and from the International Forest Office (ONFI). The training was launched within the framework of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP) whose objective is to help the member states of the Central African Forests Commission (COMIFAC) with negotiations under the UNFCCC.

Initial training in Paris

Seven countries in the Congo Basin (Cameroon, Congo, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Sao Tome and Principe) were represented in Paris from 29 September to 3 October 2008.

[The principles of a GHG emissions inventory](#)

Presentation of institutional and structuring elements for the implementation of an GHG inventory system

[Training for every sector of activity](#)

Industry, oil refinery, production processes

Transport, waste management

Land use change and forestry: this sector was discussed over two days. After an explanation by

CITEPA of the different approaches of the IPCC, the ONFI detailed the various ways to establish a forest inventory. Elements related to the forest inventories in Central Africa were described and debated among the participants.

[Presentation of the functionalities of the NAI Software](#)

The functionalities of the NAI software, developed by the UNFCCC, were presented for each GHG-emitting sector.

[Exchange of experiences:](#)

Between French experts and experts from the Congo Basin; between Central Africa Countries: each country presented feedback on its first national communication. This established an interesting framework for the preparation of the second national communication.

Next step: practical workshops in Central Africa during 2009

SENEGAL

The “Schools for Sustainable Development” Project

Context

To envisage and generate “development that meets the needs of current generations without compromising those of future generations”.

This philosophy of action commits each of us (citizens, companies, governments and international institutions), to modify our behaviour in light of the difficulties that humanity must face (social inequalities, industrial and health risks, climate changes, loss of biodiversity, etc.). It also calls for us to better understand and get to grips with the world and all its differences.

“We shall require a substantially new manner of thinking if humanity is to survive”, wrote Albert Einstein.

If this is a planetary problem, the fact remains that the necessary answers must be in coherence with strategic priorities, specific to each region. Globalisation must express itself through respect of cultural identity and socio-economic balance.

Wisdom, knowledge and understanding of the Other constitute the key to preserving this richness and building a viable world, one that is bearable and sustainable.

As our children are the citizens of tomorrow, “work” on values associated with sustainable development are clearly called for within schools. Sustainable development education must help students to become “concerned and responsible citizens, exerting their rights and responsibilities at all levels: local, national and global” (UNESCO).

The French example

Children make the best “ambassadors” for sustainable development. In France, 12 million children currently go to school.

The “[Schools for Sustainable Development](#)” project was encouraged in November 2007 to support the commitment in favour of sustainable development of this new generation. It aims to encourage and promote projects that are made concrete with encouragement from schools and centres for education.

The “[Schools for Sustainable Development](#)” project places the student and teacher at the heart of the project. Its main role is to make acquisitions, with the education community made up of students and teachers; tools and concepts to understand the challenges of globalisation, the inequalities of economic and social development, but also and importantly, the impact of human society on the natural environment.

Experience Exchange

The “[Schools for Sustainable Development](#)” project thus aims to surpass geographical borders, encouraging exchange and intercultural dialogue, ensuring that there is respect for individual diversity and identity. If climate change affects all countries, Africa will be particularly touched especially in terms of food safety, sustainable supply and water: the means of subsistence of a growing number of communities continues to deteriorate due to desertification linked in part to climate change and local soil degradation.

At a time when, in France the second year of the “Schools acting” project is underway, the Africa/EU partnership with affirmation through its 2008-2010 plan and its desire to achieve concrete action may represent an opportunity for initiative pooling.

Initialisation of the project in POZNAN

Africa Day organised for Wednesday 10 December in the framework of the 14th Climate Conference in Poznan is the occasion to launch action between France and Senegal concerning the conditions needed for a project such as the “[Schools for Sustainable Development](#)” scheme to be introduced to Senegal as well as any possible interaction between the projects carried out in schools in France and Senegal. Consideration will be taken over the next few months as to this subject, in the framework of the Africa/EU partnership.