

Copenhagen :

Let's solve the Climate & Development Nexus

Climate and Development Network

Members of the **climate & development network**, formed by nearly 40 African and French NGOs, met for a capacity building workshop in Tunisia from 25th to 27th of May this year. For this occasion, they worked on elements which are critical for the new agreement on climate change to be adopted on next December in Copenhagen. The following declaration aims at emphasizing those key elements in order to make Copenhagen's agreement a success.

The Tunis Declaration

Considering that,

the current climate crisis results from non-sustainable ways of life, consumption and production, particularly in industrialized countries responsible for destabilization of the climate balance, these models are also built on increasing inequalities and have left behind them any notions of equity or justice. Furthermore, climate crisis exacerbates and worsens these imbalances. Thus, the poorest countries are those who are suffering the most from climate change impacts, although they have very little responsibility for it.

Climate and development are intimately linked

Therefore climate crisis further compromises the right to development and satisfaction of essential needs to which vulnerable populations can rightfully aspire.

It is an extra constraint to find low carbon development pathways. Access to energy, water, food, health and education as planned within the millennium development goals are more than ever a question of survival for the developing countries.

Whereas the future of fight against global warming will be decided in Copenhagen, Africa is once again the most forgotten continent of the international climate regime. For instance, the national action plans for adaptation are rarely updated by the national institutions. Moreover, attention on climate change has been one of the lowest priorities for lack of financial technology transfer, especially renewable energy, is almost nonexistent today.

The continent is therefore facing a situation that must be solved but which seems out of reach. How to satisfy both better energy and food access for all, while, in the meantime, a developing development scheme that relies massively on fossil fuels and an energy intensive agriculture.

Copenhagen and the solidarity principle

The answer is both, simple and complex. We need to build into international development policies for both adaptation and mitigation. We must, in one hand, a set of climate policies for meeting development needs and, on the other hand, development policies must systematically take into account adaptation and mitigation issues.

To achieve this, a strong financial and technical support from industrialized countries will be needed. Pressures on African resources (energy, forests, agriculture) caused by northern countries' consumption ways will also have to be cut down in order to avoid destroying on one side what we are trying to build on the other side.

Therefore, Africa will have to be able to raise its voice during the Copenhagen conference as part of its future will be decided there.

Africa is therefore at a crossroads. Either development and environmental challenges will be jointly resolved or one of them will be favored when the other will be undermined. This last option will lead us towards a dark future. Climate and development are the two pieces of a single puzzle from which the only way out is solidarity and justice. Courageous political choices are needed. Compulsory and will only succeed if they respect the mosaic of regional diversity.

Involvement of civil society in decision-making processes and education of populations remain changes to come will also be part of Copenhagen success.

In this context, the climate & development Network expresses its willingness to contribute to this debate and highlights in this document a series of general principles assembling recommendations to concrete, at last, at Copenhagen solidarity and equity as essential components of international climate policies

1 Increase the well-being of developing countries' populations alongside any climate policy development

It is inconceivable to oppose either climatic or development objectives. The latter one is a priority for Africa.

Recommendation 1: Ensure mainstreaming of climate change issues in any bilateral and multilateral development cooperation

Recommendation 2: Promote energy access, water supply, food security and other basic needs to all while limiting greenhouse gas emissions

2 Cut drastically greenhouse gases emissions in the North

The Kyoto protocol plans that industrialized countries, which are historically responsible for global warming, take the lead of the fight against global warming because they have the capacity to do it. From a financial and technological point of view, industrialized countries must commit themselves to drastically and urgently drop out their greenhouse gas emissions.

Recommendation 3: Industrialized countries must commit to cut their greenhouse gas emissions by at least 50% by 2050 and by at least 20% by 2020, below 1990 levels.

Recommendation 4: Ensure access to flexibility mechanisms will have to be strictly regulated and limited.

3 Develop and finance climate change adaptation policies

For many countries, especially for the least developed countries, adaptation to climate change is an absolute priority. The national action plans for adaptation are the basis for the action of these countries, but the funds for adaptation are totally insufficient considering the challenges open ahead. We will have to enable a huge step forward on that subject to protect first climate change victims from a tremendously violent crisis.

Recommendation 5: Finance adaptation implementation well before 2020 and enable their development for all developing countries to ensure vulnerable communities survival. It will have to be done through creation of an institutional mechanism for adaptation including an executive committee under the coordination subsidiary of national autonomous bodies managed in cooperation with civil society and monitoring procedures.

Recommendation 6: Include adaptation policies within national medium and long term development strategies. In the other hand, development and emissions reduction issues will have to be mainstreamed in adaptation plans.

4 Support in a differentiated and appropriated way developing countries in their mitigation efforts

Southern countries have an essential role to play in greenhouse gas emissions reduction at world level. Without their participation, the global emissions reduction objective by 2050 below 2°C level will not be reached. However, it is appropriate to deal differently with emerging countries (China, Brazil, South Africa) than with other developing countries. For the latter ones, especially the least developed countries, the national appropriate mitigation actions can only be voluntary, compatible with their development goals which are a priority and supported financially by industrialized countries.

Recommendation 7: Support the development and the implementation of mitigation strategies in developing countries by financial and technical flows from developed countries. Nevertheless, a differentiated support is needed. This support could be partial for emerging countries and integral for other developing countries.

Recommendation 8: Encourage development and emissions mitigation goals, by setting up resilient and low carbon national development strategies in developing countries.

5 Guarantee everyone low carbon energy access

Energy access challenge is strongly interlinked with development and climate change issues. Guaranteeing to everyone access to low carbon energy sources allowing basic needs fulfillment in Africa is a priority

Recommendation 9: Use African energy resources locally

Recommendation 10: Reshape fossil fuels subsidies, which undermine renewable energy development, towards clean and sustainable energy sources

Recommendation 11: Set up a mechanism which grants access to all technologies and finances required to satisfy African energy needs: energy efficiency, renewable energy sources,

6 Create a global climate fund

There are too many facilities to finance the fight against climate change in Southern countries. They are at present heterogeneous and do not allow development of coordinated actions and are largely insufficient. It is necessary to develop financing tools with stable and sufficient provisions allowing development of true national or regional policies to fight climate change, including technology transfer, reduction of deforestation, energy access, adaptation

Recommendation 12: Generate new and sustainable finance resources, through a tax on emissions (Swiss proposal) and/or by auctioning emissions allowances of developed countries (European proposal). These contributions will need to include all economic sectors notably shipping and aviation and to be based on, polluter-pays, responsibility and capacity to pay principles

Recommendation 13: Create a global climate fund under the coordination with decentralised governance at regional, national and local levels, integrating civil society in its setting up and implementation processes

7 Reinforce North/South and South/South co-operation and technology transfer

The development of technologies to fight climate change are critical. It will allow the achievement of many adaptation and mitigation actions. For that, a massive development of technologies addressing the real needs of the developing countries populations is required

Recommendation 14: Prioritize the list of technology transfers needs, and priority sectors, taking into account local and indigenous specificities. Set up a database, patent rights free existing technologies

Recommendation 15: Foster South-South, North-South and public-private research cooperation for technology development and spread by creating and funding centers of excellence. Emphasize traditional and indigenous know-how transfers

8 Stop deforestation, protect forest's ecosystems and the people living there

A commitment on reducing deforestation is a vital component of the Copenhagen conference. Beyond the market system, protect forest's ecosystems and the natural services they provide whilst respecting the populations living there and existing biodiversity, are essential elements of climate stability

Recommendation 16: Promote a community-based sustainable forest management by appropriate agro-forestry techniques, securing in the meantime the rights of indigenous populations

Recommendation 17: Ensure protection of forest's ecosystems and biodiversity, notably by taking into account the attention on biological diversity

9 Ensure synergies between the three Rio's Conventions to protect biodiversity and fight against deforestation

Climate crisis is not limited to the climate convention framework preservation of all the ecosystems that form part of the carbon cycle as well as the fight against the harmful consequences of desertification must be part of the international community's answer to climate challenge

Recommendation 18: integrate desertification and biodiversity conventions components within actions under climate convention and vice versa in order to avoid discrepancies in a global environment preservation perspective

10 Secure civil society involvement within climate regime

Climate change issue is also about democracy and participation involvement of southern countries, their populations as well as local authorities and communities in the administration of the institutions formed in Copenhagen will be the only way to guarantee the efficiency of the actions undertaken

Recommendation 19: ensure a balanced representation of the northern and southern countries in climate institutions administration, particularly those relating to financial mechanisms

Recommendation 20: guarantee representation of local communities, indigenous people, women and the youth within development of national mitigation and adaptation strategies

The Climate & Development Network...

... coordinated by :



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