

Copenhagen :

Let's solve the Climate & Development Nexus

Climate & Development Network's Declaration

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 had left behind them any notions of equity or justice. Furthermore, climate crisis exacerbates 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 adds 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 (NAPAs) requested by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) have gone unheeded for lack of financing. Technology transfer, especially regarding renewable energy, is almost nonexistent today.

The continent is therefore facing an equation 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, avoiding a development scheme that relies massively on fossil fuels and an energy intensive agriculture?

Copenhagen and the solidarity challenge

The answer is both, simple and complex: we need to build integrated development policies for both adaptation and mitigation. We must, in one hand, avoid climate policies forgetting 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' consumptions 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.

Besides, 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 unaddressed. 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 grasp the mosaic of regional diversity.

Involvement of civil society in decision making processes and education of populations regarding 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 concretize, at last, at Copenhagen solidarity and equity as essential components of international climate policies !

The members of the Network recommend 10 principles et 20 recommendations

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

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

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

Recommendation 2: Provide energy access, water supply, food security and other basics needs to all while limiting greenhouse gases 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 gases emissions.

Recommendation 3: Industrialized countries must commit to cut their greenhouse gases emissions by a least 40% by 2020 and by at least 95% by 2050, below 1990 levels.

Recommendation 4: Use and 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 (NAPAs) provide basis for the action of these countries, but the fund for adaptation is totally insufficient considering the challenges. Copenhagen will have to enable a huge step forward on that subject to protect first climate change victims from extremely violent crisis.

Recommendation 5: Finance NAPAs' implementation well before 2012 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 Convention subsidized national autonomous bodies managed in cooperation with civil society and monitoring procedures.

Recommendation 6: Include adaptation policies within national mid and long term development strategies. On 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 gases emissions reduction at world level. Without their participation, the 80% global emissions reduction objective by 2050 below 1990 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 Mitigations Actions (NAMAs) 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 Annex I countries. Nevertheless, a differentiated support is needed: this support could be partial for emerging countries and integral for other developing countries' NAMAs.

Recommendation 8: Achieve 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. Today, giving 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 today many facilities to finance the fight against climate change in Southern countries. They are at present heterogeneous; they don't 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 CO2 emissions (Swiss proposal) and/or by auctioning emissions allowances of developed countries (Norwegian 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 Convention with decentralized 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: Update the list of technology transfers needs, and priority sectors, taking into account local and indigenous specificities. Speed up available, patent rights free existing technologies.

Recommendation 15: Foster South-South, North-South and public-private research cooperation for technology development and spreading 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

An agreement on reducing deforestation is a vital component of the Copenhagen conference. Beyond the REDD 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 Convention 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: Secure 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 :



Created in 2007, this network is composed in 2009 by nearly 40 members including :

ENDA Tiers Monde ; Réseau Action Climat-France ; réseau HELIO International et HELIO Afrique ; Mali Folkcenter-Nyetaa ; membres et partenaires de l'UICN, dont Ministère de l'Environnement du Cameroun, Ministère de l'Environnement du Mali, point focal UNFCCC du Bénin, Université de Jos, Civic Response Ghana, AMADEPELCODE, SPONG, FECOND, SPANA, MEA Mouvement écologique d'Algérie, projet UICN-KYB; du REPAOC (Réseau des plates-formes nationales d'ONG d'Afrique de l'Ouest et du Centre) ; Fondation Nicolas Hulot ; OFEDI (Organisation Femmes pour la gestion de l'Énergie l'Environnement et la promotion du Développement Intégré) ; IDID (Initiatives pour un Développement Intégré Durable) ; ONG-EDER « Énergie et Environnement pour le Développement Rural » ; JVE Togo, JVE Côte d'Ivoire ; Guinée Écologie ; Association des amis de la Saoura ; ADEID Cameroun; Nature Conservation Egypt; Egyptian Aquaculture Society ; ATPNE (Association Tunisienne de Protection de la Nature et de l'Environnement) ; ATPNE Sousse ; IPACC Tchad ; GRET France ; Les Amis de la Terre France ; Association Ribat Al Fath pour le développement durable et son club environnement ; Association marocaine pour l'écotourisme et la protection de la Nature (AMPEPN) ; Association Homme et Environnement Maroc ; Association ESVT Maroc ; et autres ONG francophones d'Afrique de l'Ouest et du Nord.

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