



THE TRIPLE AMBITION FOR AFRICA AT THE COP 26

AMBITION ON ADAPTATION
AMBITION ON MITIGATION
AMBITION ON MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

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According to the latest report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), mean temperatures and hot extremes have emerged above natural variability relative to 1850 – 1900 in all land regions and the rate of surface temperature increase has generally been more rapid in Africa than the global average. What is interesting in this analysis is that the major driver of the temperature increase in Africa is largely human-induced. As the world prepares to meet in Glasgow, UK from the 31st of October to November 12th 2021 for the UNFCCC COP 26, there is no doubt that the world is at a critical juncture and it is imperative that Glasgow provides the hope to solve the climate crisis.



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For Africa, COP 26 offers an opportunity for Africa to seek and push for solutions (climate-positive actions) that will chart a sustainable pathway towards its recovery from the COVID 19 pandemic. Keeping the global temperature below 1.5 degree Celsius would require getting all hands on deck through a broad-based mobilization of all stakeholders to further step up action in line with the Paris Objectives. There is no denial that Africa needs to be at the heart of these negotiations as echoed by the Chair of the African Group of Negotiators on Climate Change and COP26 should be an opportunity to foster a whole-of-society approach to combat climate change and its destructive impacts.

COP26 provides an opportunity for countries to present their updated NDCs and according to a WWF report on the NDCs We Want published in September 2021, twenty countries in Africa have submitted new or updated NDCs. Using the #NDCsWeWant Checklist which aim to shine a spotlight on all kinds of progress, encourage best practices, identify key challenges and call out laggards, with the goal of increasing the overall ambition of the NDC process, the NDCs of Rwanda, Ethiopia and Cape Verde qualified as the NDCsWeWant.

So considering the fact that though Africa is responsible for less than 4% of global emissions, it continues to face some of the most worrying climate impacts with direct consequences on some of its key economic sectors like agriculture and which has been exacerbated by the COVID 19 pandemic. While Africa will be going to Glasgow to speak with one strong, clear and single voice, it needs to ensure that its unique needs are considered in the broader negotiations. Her priorities at COP 26 include the following:

CLIMATE ADAPTATION

There is no denial that adaptation is critical to Africa's ability to cope with the effects of change and to be able to build adaptive capacity of vulnerable communities and ecosystems. Today Africa faces an even wider adaptation gap with far-reaching impacts in sectors such as agriculture, health, infrastructure, biodiversity and livelihoods.

COP 26 offers the opportunity to stress the need for further elaboration of adaptation planning and implementation, including reaching an agreement on the global goal, adaptation needs an associated cost. At COP 26 Africa will therefore need to ensure that it puts emphasis to ensure that parties support the urgent development and implementation of the National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and the adaptation component of developing countries' NDCs, given still 7 countries have submitted yet their NAPs for Africa. The COP26 equally offers an opportunity for African countries to rally support for the African Adaptation Acceleration Programme (AAAP) aimed at galvanizing climate resilient actions through a trip win approach to address the impacts of COVID 19, climate change and the economy but also the African Adaptation Initiative launched by the African Heads of State in 2015 at COP21 in Paris.

Africa will equally need to ensure that adaptation is a core element of long term climate change strategies and push for the operationalization of the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) with a COP decision with a clear process set out to measure progress, developing methodologies to translate the GGA to national framework, along with the provision of adequate financial and technical support to implement the GGA objectives on the ground.

Another aspect under adaptation that Africa needs to consider is to prioritize in their NDCs Climate resilient agriculture and nature based solutions to develop actions that will involve innovative partnerships including private sector as well as resources needed to deliver these actions.

LOSS AND DAMAGE

Even enhanced actions on adaptation will not be sufficient to avoid and reduce all loss and damage from the impacts of climate change. Africa has experienced economic and non-economic losses since many decades due to climate change. Therefore, Africa expects an ambitious outcome on Loss and Damage emphasizes that COP 26 should be the moment that provides the COP on an institutional set up to avoid, minimize and address loss and damage. The set up should ensure that African countries and the vulnerable people and communities promptly receive the technical and financial assistance as well as services they need. We encourage parties to support and adopt decision to make loss and damage as part of the agenda within the UNFCCC negotiations, and its inclusion in the discussions on the new finance goal on board from 2025.

CLIMATE FINANCE

At the UNFCCC COP 16 in 2009, developed countries committed to a goal of mobilizing USD 100 billion per year by 2020 in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency to address the needs of developing countries in helping them to cope with the impacts of climate change. At COP 21 this goal was reiterated and this amount was to be the floor and not the ceiling. This commitment is still to be met and at COP26, Africa together with other developing countries have to insist on having clarity on this commitment and how to scale up beyond 2020. Ensuring the post-2025 finance goal negotiations starting at COP26 are concluded by 2023, and scales up finance well beyond the current US\$100 billion commitment. The outcome of these negotiations must be a new goal that reflects the needs of developing and particularly vulnerable countries for adaptation, loss and damage and mitigation.

There must be clarity about the role and scale of public and private finance, and which maintains the primary responsibility of developed countries in providing climate finance. Africa needs to equally insist on supporting the position of having at least 50% of international public climate finance allocated to climate change adaptation. Ensuring provisions of scaled up new and additional financing for nature based solutions. We encourage Parties to increase their funding for nature-based solutions to at least 30% of overall climate finance, as appropriate, both for adaptation and mitigation. Accelerating the implementation of Paris Agreement Article 2.1c, including through equitably redirecting harmful subsidies towards climate change solutions.

Financing mechanisms and flows should be clearly set up to support the full implementation of NAPs and NDCs in Africa including financial commitments pledges from developing countries to multilateral funding.

MARKET MECHANISM

There is no doubt that parties to the UNFCCC are interested in pursuing the market mechanisms as provided in the Paris Agreement. According to the Chair of the African Group of Negotiators on climate change, market mechanisms under the Paris Agreement should help raise ambition on mitigation actions, support sustainable and green development in African countries and provide finance for adaptation. It is therefore important that African countries at COP26 ensure any outcome on these negotiations for instance that corresponding adjustments be applied for all internationally transferred mitigation outcomes (ITMOs) and for mitigation outcomes used for other purposes, such as under the ICAO Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation, to avoid double-counting of emissions reductions. This must cover units generated and reductions both inside or outside the scope of a host country's NDC.

African countries equally need to ensure there is an agreement on an accounting approach to ITMO with strong accountability and environmental integrity for the entire period of the NDC. Adoption of the “averaging approach”, in which a country must apply a corresponding adjustment in the target year of its NDC equal to the average annual net transfer over the covered period, is one way to achieve this.

AMBITIOUS NDCS

Under the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, countries agreed to update their nationally determined contribution (NDC) every five years which will help to achieve the goal of keeping global temperature below 1.5-degree C. The first NDCs submitted in 2016 were not ambitious enough and new or updated NDCs were supposed to be submitted by 2020. Only 20 African countries have been able to submit new or updated NDCs and according to a WWF report on the NDCs We Want published in September 2021, only three countries NDCs were considered to be ambitious enough i.e. Rwanda, Ethiopia and Cape Verde, majority of the other NDCs had a long way to go. It was also noted that despite the importance of adaptation in Africa, the picture on adaptation ambition in the NDCs is mixed.

Africa therefore needs to use the COP26 as an opportunity to reiterate its need within the context of the new and updated NDCs to seek for resources that will enable it to adequately respond to climate change. This will include access to finance, capacity and technological transfers. However, at the same time, Africa needs to use the opportunity for the countries still to submit their new or updated NDCs to increase ambitions and adopt Long term strategies.

ANCHORING NATURE INTO COP 26 DECISIONS

Africa has a huge potential to build the evidence on how nature plays a critical role in building resilience to climate impacts and in contributing to limit global warming to 1.5°C. The political momentum around nature must now be therefore translated in the UNFCCC formal process to recognize the vital contribution played by nature in achieving the objectives of the Paris Agreement, and to ensure that nature’s potential for climate change mitigation and adaptation is maximized. We encourage parties to maximize the potential of nature in NAPs, NDCs and relevant domestic plans. Africa should pledge for securing more finance for nature given form the 2018 WRI report, globally still less than 1.4% funding goes to Nature based solutions for adaptation.

WWF through its different country offices in Africa are currently engaging with their respective governments and other stakeholders, COP 26 provides an opportunity to examine the interdependence of man and his environment and therefore the problem of climate change needs to be addressed with the same urgency as the world handled the COVID 19 crisis. For WWF, we shall continue to push parties towards adopting a whole-of-society approach, leveraging stronger climate plans and accelerating implementation, fulfilling existing mandates from the UNFCCC and Paris Agreement, recognizing the operationalizing the critical role of nature for keeping warming below 1.5-degree C and ensuring the Paris Agreement is fit for purpose.

There is no doubt that the outcome of COP26 for Africa in Glasgow will shape the discussions on COP 27 to take place in Egypt, Africa in 2022.

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**OUR MISSION IS TO STOP THE
DEGRADATION OF THE PLANET'S
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND
TO BUILD A FUTURE IN WHICH
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