



African-European Parliamentary Recommendations to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change – Conference of Parties 15

These Recommendations were adopted by participants at the EU Presidency Seminar on the Promotion of Parliamentary Dialogue on Climate, Food Security and Development in Stockholm, 19-21 August 2009 organised by AWEPA and hosted by the Swedish Parliament. The purpose of these Parliamentary Recommendations is to form a basis for final Parliamentary Recommendations that will be presented by the AWEPA African-European Parliamentary Delegation to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Summit in December 2009, Copenhagen.

We, African and European parliamentarians emphasize the importance of reaching a global agreement on Climate Change at the Conference of Parties (COP-15) this December in Copenhagen, Denmark and stress the importance of post COP 15 parliamentary monitoring.

The UNFCCC Summit provides a unique opportunity to bridge the gap between commitment and action towards needed adaptation and mitigation measures in Africa and Europe. Once agreement is reached in Copenhagen on a new Climate deal, there will be a need for an implementation strategy to realise all commitments. In this process special attention should be accorded to the role of parliamentarians in the following:

- Development of Climate Change-related policies and reform of legislation
- Budgetary re-allocations to meet newly-identified needs and opportunities
- Awareness raising among communities on new policies and behaviour changes
- Monitoring international assistance related to climate, water, food and agriculture

Aware of and reaffirming the African Union General Assembly Resolution No: Assembly/AU/Dec.257 (XIII) adopted at the Thirteenth Ordinary Session on 3rd July 2009 on the Decision on the African Common Position on Climate Change including the Modalities of the Representation of Africa to the World Summit on Climate Change and the African Union Executive Council Resolutions: EX.CL/Dec.500(XV) Rev.1 and EX.CL/Dec.502(XV) Rev.1 adopted at the Fifteenth Ordinary session on 1st July 2009

Noting the AWEPA Action Plan on Climate Change and Food Security adopted 27 August 2008, Nairobi;
Noting the IPU Declaration on Climate Change adopted 10 April 2009;
Noting the Regional Parliamentary Recommendations on Climate Change and Food Security for West Africa, adopted 26 March 2009, Senegal;
Noting the Globe Statement from the GLOBE International Legislators' Forum, Rome, to Leaders of the G8 and Major Economies Forum, 12-13 June 2009.
Noting the REPES Declaration on Climate Change adopted on 6 August 2009, Praia

Participants present at the EU Presidency Seminar on the Promotion of Parliamentary Dialogue on Climate, Food Security and Development, 19-21 August 2009, have agreed on the following points:

1. Africa is the least emitter of green house gases and is the most vulnerable to its impacts;

2. European Parliaments must exert pressure on their governments and other developed and emerging emitters to commit to clear and defined emission reduction plans and programmes;
3. Adaptation is a prerequisite for development and poverty reduction in developing countries. Adaptation measures thus need proper integration within national development plans, including the MDGs – following cross-sectoral debate in national parliaments;
4. European parliaments must also urge their governments to state categorically what quantum of funds and practical plans and programmes to support African nations to mitigate the effects of Climate Change;
5. Significantly enhanced adaptation funds which should be easily accessible and user friendly should be mobilized to assist African countries. New, rapidly deployed and additional funds are essential and the methodology of greenhouse development rights for fair global burden sharing is recommended. A recommended approach would involve the mobilisation of substantial funds additional to ODA to assist vulnerable, low income countries already affected by climate change, supplemented by the replenishment and reform of mechanisms for funding adaptation, including accountability via parliamentary scrutiny of expenditures;
6. While developed countries should commit substantial resources to African governments national budgets to support initiatives addressing climate change, African governments should mainstream climate change into existing planning and financial systems including support to the most vulnerable segments of the population – women and children - and their parliaments should provide necessary oversight and scrutiny;
7. The African Union should engage and involve the regional and national parliaments on all matters pertaining to relationships with the European Union on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction;
8. African and European parliamentarians should work together to hold public oversight hearings that require relevant ministries to account for their policies and actions regarding Climate Change including negotiation processes;
9. European governments should support African Parliament to hold annual public hearings on Climate Change issues, as part of an overall public outreach and information sharing among government, parliaments, civil society, the private sector and communities;
10. European governments should support proactive and preventive strategies, including anti-corruption measures, to decrease human vulnerability to Climate Change which disproportionately affects the poor and vulnerable in particular women and children, to safeguard food security, to alleviate poverty and to promote sustainable development, including Disaster Risk Reduction as a key component in the response to Climate Change;
11. Cross-sectoral parliamentary reviews of all relevant legislation and national policies related to Climate Change mitigation and adaptation should be initiated on a multi-party basis with targeted donor support for parliamentary capacity to implement recommended measures;
12. Parliamentarians are ideally placed to ensure ownership of policy responses at the national and local levels. In the face of climate stress, they require sufficient donor support to enable them to

play a key role in leading constituency action and directing global support to the needs of the local population;

Industrialized countries have a major role to play in Climate Change mitigation and adaptation in Africa. Being the major emitters of greenhouse gasses, developed countries and emerging emitters such as China, India and Brazil and Mexico, are morally obliged to help African countries reduce their vulnerability and adapt to Climate Change by making available all technologies, including advanced solar energy, allowing for Climate Change adaptation and mitigation.

We therefore call upon the international community to look beyond COP-15 and work through dialogue to develop and improve global mechanisms and provide adequate financial support to strengthen parliamentary action.

Deep cooperation between rich and poor nations is needed to realise an effective response to climate changes. This can only be achieved through a more sustainable use of our resources, in ways that do not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their needs.