

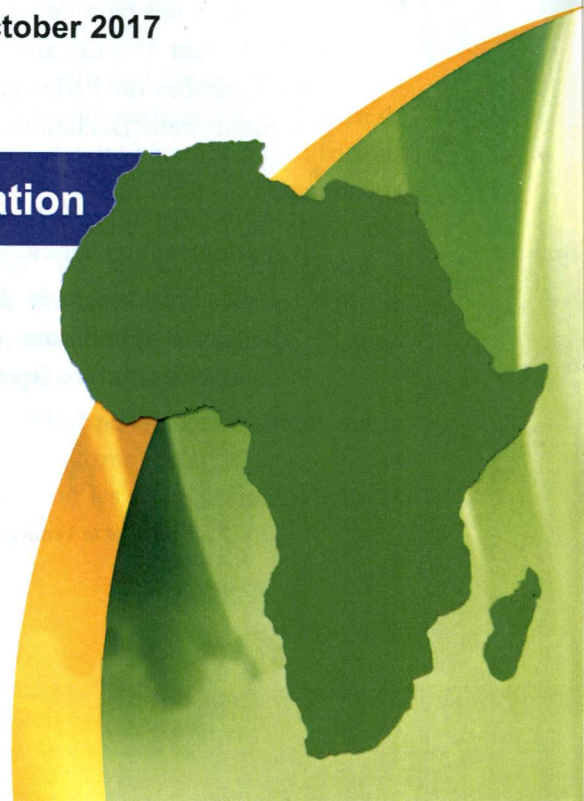
The African Parliamentary Consultation

Meeting on :

"Climate and Sustainable development, from Agreements to Action : an African Parliamentary Perspective"

27th October 2017

The Rabat Declaration



The Rabat Declaration

The Speakers and Representatives of national parliaments, and the heads and officials of African and regional parliamentary institutions, meeting in Rabat, on 27 October 2017, at the invitation of the Parliament of the Kingdom of Morocco,

- ✓ Aware of their responsibility as representatives of their peoples in defending the causes of the African continent and the rights of its peoples to sustainable development and progress;
- ✓ Reaffirming the strategic importance of the Final Declaration of the First Africa Action Summit, held in Marrakesh, Morocco, on 16 November 2016, at the invitation of His Majesty King Mohammed VI of Morocco, as a document that sets out the vision of participating African leaders and heads of Governments regarding sustainable development in Africa and responds to African peoples' aspirations; and reaffirming their commitment to the resolutions of the Declaration to the plans sketched out in the Declaration;
- ✓ Aware, as well, of their responsibilities in terms of tackling the effects of the climate disruptions resulting from global warming, and of the need to mobilize public opinion so as to enable the African continent to contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions which cause global warming;
- ✓ Recalling the severe consequences of climate change on African populations, particularly growing poverty and greater vulnerability, which are compounded by other perils faced by a number of African countries, such as terrorism, transnational organized crime and the exacerbation of internal migration and trans-border and continental

migration due to climate change, water scarcity and a dwindling forest cover;

- ✓ Affirming their determination to work, at parliamentary level, to enact the necessary legislation to achieve this goal and to ensure oversight over the public policies implemented by governments to meet their contractual commitments and reduce global warming, particularly those made at the Conferences of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Paris 2015 (COP21) and in Marrakesh 2016 (COP22);
- ✓ Recalling the relevant resolutions and recommendations relating to climate change which have been adopted by African continental and regional parliamentary organizations, as well as the relevant resolutions and recommendations of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, particularly the final document adopted by the Parliamentary Meeting held by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Moroccan Parliament, in Marrakesh on 13 November 2016, on the sidelines of the Conference of the parties to the United Nations Convention on Climate Change;

Affirm the following:

1. Reiterate their commitment to the progress made in terms of international pledges regarding climate change, which culminated in the Paris Agreement and the Marrakesh Action Proclamation for Our Climate and Sustainable Development; call upon national parliaments to implement what has been agreed and to stand up categorically against any backtracking on these commitments ;
2. Reaffirm their commitment to work towards the adoption

of national legislation in order to reduce global warming, mitigate its impact and promote sustainable development as well investment in the green economy and in renewable energy; they also commit to ensure, through their oversight functions, that African governments fulfil their obligations with respect to contributing to a reduction of gas emissions that lead to global warming;

3. Recall that reducing global warming and mitigating its catastrophic effects on Humankind - both today and into the future - is a common, historic responsibility lying with the members of the international community; they affirm that this is a moral imperative and a humanitarian duty which requires tangible international solidarity and a sharing of the financial burden to achieve the objectives to which the international community has committed, particularly at the Paris Conference;
4. Call upon donor countries and organizations, particularly the rich countries, to fulfill their commitments to the Green Climate Fund as a mechanism designed to achieve the goal of transferring rich countries' credits to developing countries, in particular the most vulnerable countries and those most affected by climate disruptions, to provide the funds needed to implement targeted initiatives and to reduce the impact of climate disruptions on African peoples;
5. Call upon rich countries to increase the contributions they promised to provide to African countries, to generous and practical honor their commitments;
6. Call for taking the necessary support measures for Africa so that the requirements for combating global warming will not constitute factors that hinder comprehensive

development, especially industrial development in Africa; in this regard, they call for facilitating the transfer of environment-friendly technology and for the promotion of green investment in the continent;

7. Ask that the Green Climate Fund allocate more financial resources to agriculture in African countries in view of the critical, central role played by the sector in providing food and employment and in contributing to soil conservation, promoting economic dynamics and stabilizing the population; they recall, in this regard, that African farmers are among the most severely affected by climate disruptions, and agriculture is one of the means for mitigating those effects; they also reiterate the continent's food needs, which will triple in the next 30 years; they emphasize the critical importance of the sector in terms of food security and stability;
8. Strongly support the Adaptation of African Agriculture Initiative, which was formulated and launched on the eve of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Marrakesh in 2016 (COP22); they ask that the necessary funding be provided for projects designed to adapt African agriculture to climate change, and that innovative solutions be devised to respond to Africa's urgent needs; they support African initiatives and projects designed to enable the continent to cope with the consequences of climate disruptions, such as the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel, the Initiative for Security, Stability and Sustainability in Africa, the Rural Resilience Initiative, the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative, the Conservation of the Lake Chad Basin Ecosystem, the Blue Growth Initiative, the African Clean Energy Corridor project and the Congo Basin Blue Fund;

9. Call upon rich countries and international investors to facilitate the transfer of technology to Africa so that African countries may cope with the effects of climate change, particularly drought, and adapt the farming sector, irrigation methods and water storage and management to climate change;
10. Emphasize the importance of investing in the production of energy from renewable sources, especially as Africa has enormous potential in this regard, making it a promising energy market, knowing that several African countries are suffering from a significant deficit in this field - especially in rural areas - and considering growing energy uses as well as the pivotal role of energy in development and urbanization; they call for making access by all African to electricity - especially from renewable sources - a central objective;
11. Call for optimal, rational use of marine resources in African continental waters, for combating excessive indiscriminate exploitation of marine life and for devising national plans for investment in the fishery sector in order to help tackle the food deficit, create jobs and harness the necessary skills to turn the sector into a national, socioeconomic industry that creates jobs as well as export added value.
12. Consider that the values of justice and solidarity require the financing of a large-scale international plan to support sustainable development in Africa - a plan that goes beyond conventional aid models and involves strategic projects designed to achieve real economic, technological, infrastructure and social resurgence on the continent based on justice, shared benefit and genuine partnership; they recall many instances in history during which a transition was achieved in various parts of the world thanks to strategic

plans supported by the international community, but Africa has never benefited from such plans. They believe that the advent of a new Africa is a goal which can be achieved, given the continent's human resources and great potential in terms of raw materials that should be harnessed to create wealth;

13. They affirm, in this regard, that financing a strategic development plan in Africa would be a matter of righting a historical wrong; not only would it be an act of fairness, but it would also help avert the adverse effects of climate disruptions on a continent which is not responsible for climate disruptions since it contributes only very moderately to greenhouse gas emissions (a mere %4 of total emissions);
14. Recall also the enormous resources and energies available in the continent; should those strategic resources be properly harnessed and used, they would have a crucial impact on social transformation in Africa;
15. Propose that an African Parliamentary Working Group be established within the African Parliamentary Union to engage in advocacy work and defend the interests of African countries with respect to international mechanisms and programs that provide funding for climate change action; they also call for setting up, within the African Parliamentary Union, of an African Parliamentary Forum for the Climate and Sustainable Development in Africa with the following mandate:
 - to monitor the effects of climate disruptions on African populations and draw the attention of public opinion and of influential powers to their negative repercussions on African countries;

- to prepare reports for multilateral parliamentary organizations on the progress made in honoring international commitments towards Africa in the area of mitigating the impact of climate change on African countries;

16. Decide to step up consultation and strengthen coordination among themselves during the Conferences of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, especially COP23, to be held in Bonn, Germany, from 6 to 17 November 2017, and at the parliamentary meeting to be held on 12 November 2017, on the sidelines of the Conference, in order to engage in active, effective advocacy and make the concerns of African countries on climate change heard;
17. Ask the President of the African Parliamentary Union, the Speaker of the Parliament of the Economic Community of West African States, the President of the Pan-African Parliament and the Speakers of the Kingdom of Morocco's Houses of Parliament to forward this Declaration to:
 - Parliaments of Member States of the African Parliamentary Union and sub-regional African parliamentary organizations ;
 - the Presidency of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP23) ; and
 - the Presidency of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

Rabat, Friday 27 October 2017

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Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture (DREA)

African Union Specialized Technical Office on Research and Development

27-Oct-17

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