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**REPORT OF THE COORDINATOR OF THE COMMITTEE OF AFRICAN HEADS OF  
STATE AND GOVERNMENT ON CLIMATE CHANGE (CAHOSCC) ON AFRICA'S  
PREPARATION FOR THE 17<sup>TH</sup> CONFERENCE OF PARTIES OF  
THE UNFCCC (COP17), DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA,  
28 NOVEMBER – 9 DECEMBER 2011**

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**Introduction**

1. This report is prepared pursuant to Assembly Decision (Assembly/AU/Dec.342(XVI)) on Climate Change negotiations, as relates to Africa's preparation towards the Seventeenth Conference of the Parties (COP 17) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Conference of the Parties/Seventh Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP7) that will be held in Durban, South Africa from 28 November to 9 December 2011.

2. The Committee of Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC) held its meeting on 29 June 2011 on the margins of the 17<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea. CAHOSCC received reports from:

- a) the Commission on progress on implementation of previous decisions on climate change, which documents the preparatory activities that the Commission, in collaboration with partners, has been undertaking leading to COP17/CMP7, and highlights some emerging issues;
- b) Algeria on updates on the state of play of the negotiation process since COP16/CMP6, Cancun, focusing on the imperatives to formally update the African Common Position through the AMCEN process;
- c) South Africa, the host of the COP17/CMP7, on emerging issues for a possible balanced outcome at COP17/CMP7, outlined a package of possible outcomes for Durban with the following elements: (i) operationalisation of the Cancun provisions on technology, mitigation, adaptation, RED+, starting with finance with regards to Green Climate Fund; (ii) establishment of all institutional arrangements as part of the Cancun Decisions; (iii) addressing the issue of 2<sup>nd</sup> Commitment Period of the Kyoto Protocol (iv) conversion of mitigation pledges by developed countries to 'commitments'; and (v) the importance of adaptation, a priority agenda for Africa, taking the centre stage of the deal including a mechanism for concrete implementation of adaptation actions and the associated financial and technological support.

3. CAHOSCC deliberated on these reports and in view of the state of play appreciated the fact that Durban 2011 will be an important platform for the world in the right direction towards reaching a comprehensive global agreement on climate change. Hence, CAHOSCC stresses the importance of staging an effective public relations and negotiations in a way that expectations from Durban are managed realistically and

practically. This is particularly significant in view of few low hanging fruits remaining to be picked up after Cancun.

4. A comprehensive, final, legally binding treaty is not to be expected from Durban, owing to the numerous stumbling blocks that are yet to be resolved. Hence, there is need to identify and concentrate our energy on what would be achievable in concrete measures. In doing so, we shall be sticking to our fundamental positions and principles. Managing expectations in Durban is more about identifying the result that can be achieved in the remaining period leading up to Durban. Some of the areas would include making tangible progress towards:

- a) a fair and balanced financial allocation and commitments for adaptation and mitigation;
- b) enhanced delivery on pledges;
- c) concrete results on long term finances;
- d) establishment of a financial delivery mechanism that Africa can trust, etc.

5. CAHOSCC underlines as a matter of principle and of self-interest that Africa should maintain and engage the multilateral process, which is key for Africa because we believe in fair, inclusive global systems. Hence, it is important that our negotiators need to keep in mind that Africa has few options in seeking solutions outside of the multilateral systems, which may not be necessarily the case with major actors and significant groupings, who nevertheless still pursue individual solutions while engaged in the multilateral system. Success to us includes supporting and strengthening the multilateral process; urging all parties to find areas of agreements and implement decisions made in Cancun and complete work agreed upon in Bali.

6. Africa, as a vulnerable continent, wishes to give priorities to outcomes in climate regimes that ensure protection of the environment for future generations; hence calls for a decision to be reached for a 2<sup>nd</sup> commitment period for Kyoto Protocol (KP), with fair and comparable contribution to be made by non KP parties.

7. CAHOSCC recognizes the significance of building and maintaining strategic alliances, but also cautions that not all countries/allies will necessarily agree on all issues with us. Hence, CAHOSCC agrees to pursue a strategy of creating and engaging alliances on a case by case basis, with careful identification and alignment of positions and interests. In this respect, it may be advisable to engage some of the groupings, in addition to the multilateral system pending a final agreement in climate change, to benefit from opportunities in the areas of technology, finance, etc.

8. CAHOSCC recalls the significance of good coordination among the African delegation demonstrated in Cancun, which had ultimately contributed to better results; hence underscoring that more efforts should be exerted towards further enhancing close coordination among the Commission, AMCEN, the African Group of Negotiators, etc., in Durban. CAHOSCC stresses the need for Member States to participate in Durban fully, and to rally our support behind South Africa, negotiating as a team with one voice. The preparatory work to stage an Africa Pavilion needs to be enhanced.

**9.** Adaptation, which is linked with sustainable development, remains Africa's priority agenda in climate change deals. Our incessant call for a fair balance of finances for mitigation and adaptation stems from such fact that the state of our dependence on natural resources for livelihoods renders Africa particularly susceptible to climate change and variability. Adaptation for us is about financing green development.

**10.** Africa needs to more vigorously pursue the agenda item on progress on delivery of real money viz-a-vis pledges made previously. CAHOSCC recognizes the existence of key emerging global players (e.g., BRICS) and encourages engaging them for win-win deals; for example, through attracting their financial resources for investment in sustainable green development in Africa. In this respect, flexible and innovative options should be explored.

**11.** CAHOSCC proposes a draft Decision for Assembly's consideration and adoption (attached herewith).

**DRAFT**  
**DECISION ON AFRICA'S PREPARATION FOR COP17/CMP7, DURBAN,**  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA, NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2011**  
**Doc. Assembly/AU/7(XVII)**

**The Assembly,**

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Coordinator of the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC), H.E. Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, on Africa's preparation towards the Seventeenth Conference of the Parties (COP 17) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Conference of the Parties/Seventh Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP7) that will be held in Durban, South Africa from 28 November to 9 December 2011.
2. **COMMENDS** all the African Ministers, Negotiators as well as the Commission for the efforts made to uphold the African Common Position on Climate Change.
3. **FURTHER COMMENDS** the Republic of South Africa, the Commission, the African Development Bank and Partners for the efforts being exerted towards Africa's preparation for COP17/CMP7.
4. **URGES** CAHOSCC to convene a meeting to consider and take forward the Updated African Common Position on Climate Change to COP17/CMP7, which the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN) will have considered and endorsed at its Extra-Ordinary Session to be held in September 2011.
5. **URGES** all the Member States to attend and participate in COP17/CMP7 in large numbers and, individually and collectively, provide support to the Presidency of South Africa in order to ensure the success of the Conference.
6. **CALLS ON** African negotiators to concentrate on completing the negotiations on climate finance in Durban and in that regard build on work of the Transitional Committee and other experts to ensure adequate resources flows to address Africa's Climate Change challenge.
7. **CALLS ON** the African Development Bank to complete the design of the African Green Fund ahead of Durban and to engage in consultation with African countries to ensure adequate voice for Africa in the governance of the Fund.
8. **ENCOURAGES** the African Development Bank to coordinate its design of the Africa Green Climate Fund in consultation with Member States and obtaining insights from the Africa Group representatives to the Transitional Committee designing the Green Climate Fund.

9. **REQUESTS** the African Development Bank to accordingly present a report reflecting modalities and progress in the design of the African Green Climate Fund to the next meeting of African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN);
10. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Commission to report to the next Ordinary Session of the Assembly in January 2012.

2011-07-01

# Report of the Coordinator of the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC) on Africa's Preparation for the 17th Conference of Parties of the UNFCCC (COP17), Durban, South Africa, 28 November – 9 December 2011

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