

Africa and the European Union join forces to work together against climate change

Africa and the EU have outlined their common concerns for global warming and their common interest for an ambitious post-Kyoto international agreement through the endorsement today of a joint declaration on climate change.

Africa has been identified by experts¹ as one of the most vulnerable regions to climate change and climate variability, while contributing very little to global warming. African countries face already the worst of the impact as proven by unpredictable rainfall, lower crop yields and diminishing resources. The vulnerability of Africa to climate change is exacerbated by widespread poverty, limited access to capital and technology, ecosystem degradation, disasters and conflicts.

Speaking at the UN Conference on Financing for Development in Doha, Qatar, Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Jean Ping, and European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid Louis Michel jointly declared; "Tackling climate change is a real challenge for both Africa and Europe. This is a priority that we must face head-on together to achieve our common aims. We are all aware that a failure to act now will mean even more dramatic consequences down the line – especially for the most vulnerable populations of Africa. Both the EU and the AU are committed to an ambitious post-Kyoto agreement on climate change."

The Joint Africa/EU declaration shows that the EU and the African countries have similar concerns on climate change and that different views can be reconciled against the urgency of global warming. It is an important milestone towards common approaches, enhanced cooperation and ambitious targets for a post-Kyoto climate change agreement.

The European Union intends to assist and support the African region in its adaptation and mitigation efforts, through the Global Climate Change Alliance, and other appropriate instruments, in order to improve political dialogue and promote cooperation through the exchange of experiences between the European Union and African countries.

The Joint Declaration constitutes an important contribution to the UNFCCC conference on climate change in Poznan, Poland (1-12 of December 2008).

¹ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) IV Assessment Report (2007) and by the Bali Action Plan

Background:

The Joint Declaration is the result of collaboration at the 11th Africa-EU Ministerial Troika that took place on 20 and 21 November in Addis Ababa. It also builds on the results of the African Environment Ministers Conference on Climate Change that took place in parallel in Algiers on 20 November and that resulted in the Algiers Declaration on Climate Change in Africa.

The "Joint Declaration" and further information on EU/Africa relations on: <http://www.africa-eu-partnership.org/>

Global Climate Change Alliance: an alliance on climate change between the European Union and the poor developing countries that are most affected and that have the least capacity to deal with climate change. Through this Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA), the EU and these countries work jointly to integrate climate change into poverty reduction strategies. The EU provides substantial resources to address climate change in these countries. Measures include better preparedness for natural disasters which are expected to become more frequent and intense through global warming. See further: [IP/07/1352](#) (18/09/2007)