Africa's common position: key political messages agreed by African negotiators

30 October 2009, African Union/AMCEN

Addis Ababa: These key messages [agreed by African negotiators on 21 October 2009] are based on Africa's common position on climate change as adopted in Algiers on 21 November 2008 and updated by Special Session of AMCEN held in Nairobi on 29 May 2009 and endorsed by the Thirteenth AU Summit held in Sirte, Libya, 1-3 July 2009.

We also reaffirm that Africa, in the context of environmental justice, should be equitably compensated for environmental resources, economic and social loses. In this respect, Africa requires sustained and scaled up finance, technology and capacity building for adaptation and risk management. We insist on developed countries historical responsibilities on climate change.

Africa recognizes the UNFCCC and reaffirms its principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities and that these should form the basis for the post-2012 regime. Given the uncertainties of the impacts of climate change, Africa's adaptation measures should be based on the principle of precautionary principle

Copenhagen must produce a 2-track outcome:

* one track for the amendment of Annex B (All Developed Countries) of the Kyoto Protocol on further commitments by Annex I Parties for the 2nd and subsequent commitment periods (Article 3.9 of the Kyoto Protocol)

* a separate legal instrument, for the outcome of the negotiations under the Convention

Africa will not accept any delay by developed countries to deeply cut their greenhouse gas emissions and support for Africa to adapt to the negative impacts of climate change.

For positive and acceptable outcomes in Copenhagen, Africa insists that we must stick to the mandate of the Bali Action Plan under the Convention and to the mandate of Article 3.9 of the Kyoto Protocol.

Bali Action Plan:

The shared vision - Africa proposes a fair, inclusive, effective and equitable deal in Copenhagen that will benefit the climate and vulnerable countries and be undertaken in the context of poverty eradication and sustainable development and the need for gender equity.

1. **Adaptation:** Adaptation for Africa is the highest priority.
Africa is the most vulnerable continent and has the right for full support to adapt to climate change. Africa has also contributed the least to the global greenhouse gas emissions, and stands to suffer the most. The provision of financial, technological and capacity building support by developed country Parties for adaptation in developing countries is a commitment under the Convention that must be urgently fulfilled, recognizing that climate change is an additional burden to sustainable development, and a threat to achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

2. Mitigation: The Copenhagen outcome must contain ambitious, quantified, legally binding and economy wide greenhouse gas emission reduction commitments for all developed country Parties, of at least 40% reduction below 1990 levels by 2020.

* Mitigation actions for Africa should be voluntary and nationally appropriate.

* A firewall must be maintained between mitigation commitments by all developed countries and mitigation actions by developing countries.

3. Means of Implementation (finance, technology transfer and capacity building): For Africa, the Copenhagen outcome will not be possible without a commitment by developed countries to massively scaled up, stable and predictable finance, technology and capacity building.

* A financial commitment of at least 1.5% of global GDP of developed countries (IPCC, 2007) is required, to support and enable adaptation and mitigation action in developing countries.

* The Copenhagen outcome must provide new, additional, sustainable, accessible and predictable finance. For a comprehensive international programme on adaptation, that reduces vulnerability and increases resilience to impacts that are already occurring, and impacts that are likely to occur in the future.

* Institutional arrangements must be equitable and transparent, and must facilitate access by developing countries to the "means of implementation" in a coherent and enabling manner.

* An agreement on technology deployment, diffusion and transfer must ensure access by developing countries to affordable, appropriate and adaptable technologies for enhanced action on mitigation and adaptation that will address the immediate needs of Africa.

* Developed countries should commit to strengthening the institutional capacity in Africa, including through the establishment and enhancement of Regional Centers of Excellence for climate change, among which meteorological observation and services.

* Developed countries should fulfill their commitments in accordance with the provisions of the Convention.

4. Kyoto Protocol Issues:
* Africa will neither accept replacement of Kyoto Protocol nor its merger with any new agreement.

* Developed Countries must reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by at least 40% below 1990 levels by 2020 and at least 80% to 95% below 1990 levels by 2050, in order to achieve the lowest level of stabilisation assessed by the IPCC's Fourth Assessment Report.

* KEY MESSAGES AGREED BY AFRICAN GROUP OF NEGOTIATORS, ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA, 21 OCTOBER 2009