



PAN AFRICAN CLIMATE JUSTICE ALLIANCE

THE POST-DURBAN AND RIO +20 CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS PREPARATORY WORKSHOP

MARCH 4th - 8th, 2012; LIMBE, CAMEROON

Limbe Declaration

In the city of Limbe, Republic of Cameroon, on 6 March 2012, We, Delegates of African Civil Society Organisations, in this workshop of post Durban assessment and Rio plus 20 preparations which was organised and hosted by the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance;

Acknowledging the fact that the non state actors contribution to the UNCED process and it's outcome is essential for informed policy formulation and monitoring of its implementation at all levels;

Considering that the emerging issues raised by Africa have been and are still a major impediment to the realisation of sustainable development in the continent";

Acknowledging that the principles, agreements and commitments established in the Río 92 Declaration, Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Action Plan are fully in effect, and the need to strengthen their implementation in the upcoming Río+20 Conference;

Committed to the success of the Rio+20 Conference and having as an objective to promote sustainable development focusing on poverty eradication, social cohesion and social inclusion;

Concerned that some key Rio principles of sustainable development have been under perpetual threat of distortion and/or ignored in recent international dialogues and negotiations;

Reaffirming the principles of Rio 92, in particular the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and the sovereign right of states over their natural resources;

Conscious of the importance of renewing political commitment on sustainable development at the highest level in the Rio +20 Conference,

Desirous that Rio +20 contributes to reduce the implementation gap of the internationally agreed environmental goals in regards to sustainable development, existing to date;

Acknowledging the effort by Africa to speak with one voice in Rio and desirous that this one voice should be that of and be informed by realities of the local communities,

Confirming the fact that the current proposal of the possible adoption of sustainable development goals to proceed with the design of new development models, made within the framework of the discussions for Rio+20, and that this can become an important tool to focus on goals that ensure integration and complementarity of the three pillars of sustainable development;

Affirming that the rights of people and states to development imply the recognition of the rights of population to overcome poverty, the elimination of conditions that generate inequity and social exclusion, the exercise of the rights in harmony with nature, and the rights, spirituality and cultures of indigenous people and local communities, under the principles of Agenda 21 and other relevant instruments, and the need that these rights be implemented in a context of complementarity in an integral and interdependent manner;

Concerned that the last two decades have been characterised by unfulfilled promises and commitments by developed countries to Africa hence breeding an atmosphere of ever diminishing trust and confidence in international negotiations;

Considering that Africa's right to development and development efforts have been limited by the negative impacts of climate change, a situation to which she least contributed;

Reaffirming the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and the respective capacities; and the validity of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and all its principles;

Taking into consideration the AU Malabo Decision on Africa's Preparations for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20)

Taking into account the need for adaptation by the African countries and their

peculiar vulnerability to climate change, and above all indigenous communities, the poor and marginalized communities;

That Africa needs new, additional, sufficient and non conditional financial resources, based on the principle of common and differentiated responsibilities, to face the mitigation and, especially, adaptation needs, to avoid and remedy damages and losses caused by climate change;

Declare

1. As the concept of green economy has found its way into international debate and is taking a prominent position, it must be unpacked to make it understandable to African governments and its people before being sanctioned. It should not be used as a tool to distract or slow down the right to development for African countries.
2. It is necessary to identify the tools and costs of green economy and ensure that it is not being imposed by foreign interests that are avoiding the historical responsibilities.
3. It must serve as a vehicle to deliver a low carbon growth for Africa and hence must facilitate transfer of appropriate green technology from developed industrialized countries to Africa. It must also take cognizance of Africa's renewable energy endowment as an asset.
4. Must ensure that actions towards green economy do not increase social inequalities and that revenues generated out of investment in Africa benefit the African people and contribute to poverty reduction. Green economy must not be green business that only benefits corporate interests to the detriment of the African peoples.
5. Green Economy in Africa must address the underlying structural limitations that always put women and vulnerable groups in the disadvantaged position. Women and other marginalized groups, therefore, should directly benefit from the transition to green economy and be seen as key players in the architecture of the green economy rather than the victims.
6. Green economy must not exacerbate negative environmental impacts such as encroaching of biodiversity, environmental degradation, monoculture cropping, land grabbing and invasion that threatens food security and sovereignty. It must take into account precautionary principles as well as the need to undertake SEA and EIA before affirming

7. In order to promote conservation of ecosystems environmental governance in Africa must encourage recognition of the rights of indigenous peoples, secure tenure, empowers them with management and access to their traditional land. As key rights holders who have been stewards over natural resources for generations, they must be integrally involved in discussions and decisions concerning their environment.
8. That for Environmental Governance to be a reality, citizens should be involved at all levels of decision making at national and International levels.
9. That African governments should accelerate the implementation of Principle 10 of Rio Declaration first by implementing the UNEP Guidelines and also adopt with an African convention on Principle 10.

Done at Limbe 06 th march 2012