

ACP-EU JOINT PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

ACP-EU/100.613/09/fin.

RESOLUTION ¹

on climate change

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Luanda (Angola) from 30 November to 3 December 2009,
- having regard to Article 17(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) of 1992,
- having regard to the Kyoto Protocol of 1997,
- having regard to the action plan adopted by the European Council following the report by the High Representative for the CFSP in March 2008,
- having regard to the ACP-EU joint declaration on climate change and development adopted by the Joint Council in May 2009,
- having regard to Resolution A/63/281 on climate change and its possible security implications, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 3 June 2009,
- having regard to the views of the World Humanitarian Forum held on 23 June 2009 in Geneva on the initiative of Kofi Annan, former United Nations Secretary-General,
- having regard to the declaration on climate change by the Pan-African Parliamentary Conference held in Yaoundé (Cameroon) from 25 to 27 June 2009,
- having regard to the resolutions adopted on 10 July 2009 at the G8 Summit and the Major Economies' Forum on Climate and Energy held in L'Aquila (Italy),
- having regard to the regional workshop of West African Parliamentarians and local elected representatives on climate change governance held in Praia (Cape Verde) from 3 to 6 August 2009,
- having regard to the resolutions on climate change and conflict by the African Union Summit held in Syrte (Libya) on 30 August 2009,

¹ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 3 December 2009 in Luanda (Angola).

- having regard to the recommendations by the High-Level Meeting on Climate Change convened in New York on 22 September 2009 by Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations,
 - having regard to the recommendations of the World Forum on sustainable development held in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso) from 9 to 11 October 2009,
 - having regard to the Declaration of the Second Pan-African Parliamentary Network on Climate Change Summit held in Nairobi (Kenya) from 12 to 15 October 2009,
 - having regard to the conclusions of the European Council of 29 and 30 October 2009,
 - having regard to the Declaration of the Third Sub-Regional Conference (Congo Basin) of the Pan-African Parliamentary Network on Climate Change held in Yaoundé (Cameroon) from 12 to 13 November 2009,
 - having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 25 November 2009 on the EU strategy for the Copenhagen Conference on Climate Change (COP 15)²,
 - having regard to the forthcoming fifteenth Conference of the Parties (COP 15) to the UNFCCC and the fifth Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (COP/MOP 5) to be held in Copenhagen (Denmark) from 7 to 18 December 2009,
 - having regard to its resolution of 4 April 2009 on the social and environmental consequences of climate change in the ACP countries³,
- A. whereas global warming raises the problem, which is universally recognised to be urgent, of the survival and sustainable development of humankind,
 - B. whereas, according to a report by the Global Humanitarian Forum led by Kofi Annan, climate change has already pushed over 12 million people into poverty, while 300 000 people are dying every year from the adverse effects of climate change, and 20 million will fall into poverty by 2030,
 - C. whereas the unsettled climate, which is already perceptible because of the intensity and frequency of the natural disasters observed on all continents (floods, drought, coastal erosion, sea-level rise, etc.), represents a serious, frightening threat for countries that largely consist of desert, islands or coastal regions,
 - D. whereas the report on the State of World Population 2009 presented by the United Nations Population Fund (UFPA) recognises that climate change is also an issue of population dynamics, poverty and gender equity,

² P7_TA-PROV(2009)0089. Not yet published in the *Official Journal*.

³ ACP-EU/100.383/09/fin, OJ C 221, 14.11.2009, p. 31.

- E. whereas deforestation in the tropics is a major factor of climate change and a serious threat to biodiversity and the livelihoods of more than one billion poor people living in and off such forests,
- F. whereas the international community recognises the impact of climate change on international security,
- G. aware that the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), which have limited capacity and lack resources to adapt to climate change, will suffer the most although they have contributed the least to global warming,
- H. having regard to the importance of agriculture, particularly small- and medium-scale agriculture, in LDCs, in terms of percentage of the active population and the impact of climate change in this sector,
- I. convinced that guaranteeing a sustainable environment for future generations requires the shared but differentiated responsibility of the whole of humankind,
- J. whereas industrialised countries bear a historical responsibility for global pollution and therefore have a duty to provide financial assistance to developing countries in their efforts to adapt to its consequences, including loss and damage caused by the impact of climate change,
- K. whereas most of the money promised for climate change comes from official development assistance (ODA) budgets, thus diverting funds from development assistance and posing a serious threat to poverty reduction and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs),
- L. whereas the increasing displacement and forced migration of people caused by climate change can lead to major complications and conflicts, so this needs to be seriously addressed, since international agreements on climate change and international law do not provide the people concerned with specific assistance,
- M. whereas the G8 Summit and the Major Economies' Forum on Climate and Energy held in L'Aquila (Italy) have recognised that, in accordance with the conclusions of the UNFCCC and of the Kyoto Protocol, the average temperature in the world must not rise more than 2°C above pre-industrial levels,
- N. stresses the urgent need to take account of the situation of women when analysing the impact of climate change, and the link with MDG 3 (gender equality) and MDG 5 (maternal health),
 - 1. Welcomes the universal consensus finally achieved on the need to act together quickly to save planet Earth from the ecological and environmental crisis that threatens it;
 - 2. Urges that the agreement that will be concluded at the Copenhagen Summit in December 2009 should place the emphasis on fairness and social justice by a differentiated approach that takes account of the countries' population, industrial development and poverty;

3. Emphasises the need to reach a legally binding agreement in Copenhagen by the end of this year, which will build on the Kyoto Protocol and come into force on 1 January 2013;
4. Calls on the representatives of EU and ACP countries to work closely together and to coordinate their positions so as to bring the Copenhagen summit to a successful conclusion;
5. Notes the recognition by the G8 and the Major Economies' Forum in L'Aquila of the need to establish a world partnership to promote low-carbon-emission, environment-friendly technologies and to double public sector investment in them;
6. Points out that the main cause of climate change is economic activity that fails to respect natural balances that has been taking place since the Industrial Revolution;
7. Stresses that the international agreement should be based on the principle of a 'common but differentiated responsibility', with the industrialised countries taking the lead in reducing their domestic emissions while the developing countries and the emerging economies also commit themselves to taking nationally appropriate mitigation action in the context of sustainable development, supported and enabled, in a measurable, reportable and verifiable manner, by technology, financing and capacity-building from industrialised countries;
8. Calls on industrialised countries to take the lead in addressing the climate change issues by making legally binding commitments to reduce emissions by 25 to 40 % below 1990 levels by 2020, and by 80 to 95 % below 1990 levels by 2050;
9. Calls upon ACP and EU countries to fix a specific target for the use of renewable energy and considers that energy efficiency and renewable energy should be put at the heart of ACP-EU development cooperation programmes under the Cotonou Agreement;
10. Strongly believes that climate change policy must not be dissociated from other policies, such as agriculture, food security, energy, environment, public health and international trade policy; therefore urges the EU and emerging and developing countries' governments to actively integrate environmental, social and climate change dimensions in country and regional strategy papers as well as in all development programmes and projects;
11. Considers that the hope raised by the existence, in the African countries in particular, of large natural reserves that could genuinely serve as the planet's lungs must result in appropriate financial flows enabling them to use their natural resources while respecting the ecosystem for the good of the whole of humankind;

12. Calls on the European Commission urgently to develop a comprehensive agenda to reduce deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries, including promotion of Voluntary Partnership Agreements under the Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) programmes to ensure that the rights of the indigenous forest communities are respected; in addition considers that the Commission has to come forward with clear, rigorous proposals to ban the import of illegally logged timber and timber products into the EU market; calls on the Commission to present such proposals without further delay;
13. Stresses that the financial resources needed to counter climate change must be additional, renewable, predictable, transparent, long-term, appropriate and allocated primarily as subsidies; underlines that donor countries need to invest in improving and increasing the 'absorption capacity' in developing countries, so that the latter are able to use the resources effectively;
14. Stresses that mitigation and adaptation financing should respect priorities set by developing countries; underlines the need to incorporate local knowledge into mitigation and adaptation strategies as well as the importance of South-South knowledge transfers;
15. Urges that technological transfers should be organised speedily, so it is possible to address emergency situations associated with ecological disasters (drought, floods, etc.);
16. Calls on the international community to explore innovative financing mechanisms in order to increase its financial support for adaptation to and mitigation of climate change for developing countries; encourages the EU and ACP governments to create programmes to attract additional funding from the private sector, in a transparent manner, for financing adaptation projects; stresses that there is a need for better donor coordination and enhanced cooperation between donor and recipient countries;
17. Calls likewise for the agreement concluded by the G8 to reduce the level of greenhouse gases by 2050 to be accompanied by short- and medium-term action plans;
18. Calls on the ACP and EU governments to include agriculture in any climate change deal in Copenhagen so that it has much greater access to adaptation funding as it is vital for food security, poverty reduction and maintaining the ecosystem;
19. Calls on the ACP governments to promote a regional fund for the improvement and propagation of cooperation techniques among small-scale farmers for adaptation and mitigation programmes; stresses the need to reinforce education and information campaigns on climate change impact;
20. Draws attention to the statement by the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food saying that promotion of agrofuels is creating the conditions for another food crisis in the near future; stresses that the first goal of agriculture is to produce food;

21. Calls consequently on the developed countries in Copenhagen to enter into research and development activities and to share new technologies with the LDCs and all the developing countries;
22. Underlines the need for institutional accountability and trust by establishing equal representation of donor and recipient countries in the management bodies of adaptation funding institutions;
23. Insists that the post-2012 climate change agreement should take into account the existing development processes both at international and national level; calls on the European Commission and the EU Member States to build the necessary links between climate change and the MDGs by incorporating mitigation and adaptation to climate change into projects and programmes aimed at achieving the MDGs and into all poverty reduction strategies;
24. Calls on the international community to identify and address the legal shortfalls that exist in respect of the protection of people affected by climate-induced displacement and migration and to initiate a specific assistance and protection system;
25. Calls for the upgrading of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) into a fully fledged World Environment Organisation to be based in Nairobi (Kenya), enhanced with adequate capacity to address the severity of the environmental catastrophe and related challenges in the world;
26. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council, the European Commission, the UN Secretary-General, the Commission of the African Union, the Pan-African Parliament, the UNFCCC and the World Bank.