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B7-0000/2009

## **MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION**

further to Questions for Oral Answer B7-0000/2009 and B7-0000/2009

pursuant to Rule 115(5) of the Rules of Procedure

on climate change and developing countries in the context of the United Nations' Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen

by Eva Joly  
on behalf of the Committee on Development

**European Parliament resolution on climate change and developing countries in the context of the United Nations' Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to the joint statement of 20 December 2005 by the Council and the representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council, the European Parliament and the Commission on European Union Development Policy: ‘The European Consensus’, and in particular points 22, 38, 75, 76 and 105 thereof<sup>1</sup>,
- having regard to Agenda 21, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, and the Statement of Principles for the Sustainable Management of forests, adopted by more than 178 governments at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) held in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) from 3 to 14 June 1992, principles which were strongly reaffirmed at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) held in Johannesburg (South Africa) from 26 August to 4 September 2002,
- having regard to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Kyoto Protocol,
- having regard to the United Nations Millennium Declaration of 8 September 2000, which set out the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as objectives established jointly by the international community for the elimination of poverty,
- having regard to the Declaration on Integrating Climate Change Adaptation into Development Co-operation, adopted by the Development and Environment Ministers of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) member countries on 4 April 2006,
- having regard to the Africa-EU Partnership on Climate Change as part of the First Action Plan (2008-2010) for the implementation of the Joint EU-Africa Strategy,
- having regard to the Bali Roadmap, adopted at the UN Climate Change Conference on the island of Bali (Indonesia) in December 2007,
- having regard to the 14th Conference of the Parties (COP) to the UNFCCC and the Fourth COP serving as a meeting of the parties to the Kyoto Protocol, from 1 to 12 December 2008 in Poznan (Poland),
- having regard to the Commission Communication of 11 March 2003 on climate change in the context of development cooperation (COM(2003)0085),
- having regard to the Council Conclusions and the 2004-2008 Action Plan on climate change in the context of development, of 24 November 2004,

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<sup>1</sup> OJ C 46, 24.2.2006, p. 1.

- having regard to the Commission Communication of 10 January 2007 on Limiting global climate change to 2 degrees Celsius – The way ahead for 2020 and beyond (COM(2007)0002),
- having regard to the Commission Communication of 18 September 2007 on building a global climate change alliance (GCCA) between the European Union and poor developing countries most vulnerable to climate change (COM(2007)0540),
- having regard to the its resolution of 21 October 2008 on building a Global Climate Change Alliance between the European Union and poor developing countries most vulnerable to climate change<sup>1</sup>,
- having regard to the Commission Communication of 28 January 2009 entitled ‘Towards a comprehensive climate change agreement in Copenhagen’ COM(2009)0039, ,
- having regard to its resolution of 11 March 2009 on an EU strategy for a comprehensive climate change agreement in Copenhagen and the adequate provision of financing for climate change policy<sup>2</sup> ,
- having regard to the Resolution of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly of 9 April 2009 on the social and environmental consequences of climate change in the ACP countries<sup>3</sup>,
- having regard to the Council Conclusions of 25 June 2009 on integrating environment in development cooperation,
- having regard to the OECD report of 2007 entitled ‘Stocktaking of Progress on Integrating Adaptation to Climate Change into Development Co-operation Activities’,
- having regard to the reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and in particular to the contribution of the IPCC Working Group II (‘Climate Change Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability’) to the Fourth Assessment Report,
- having regard to the Human Development Report 2007/2008 entitled ‘Fighting climate change: Human solidarity in a divided world’ launched by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP),
- having regard to the report of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund entitled ‘Global Monitoring Report 2008: MDGs and the Environment - Agenda for Inclusive and Sustainable Development’,
- having regard to the OECD Environmental Outlook to 2030 released on 5 March 2008,
- having regard to the “Human Impact Report: Climate Change – The Anatomy of a Silent Crisis” of the Global Humanitarian Forum, of May 2009,

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<sup>1</sup> P6\_TA(2008)0491.

<sup>2</sup> P6\_TA (2009)0121.

<sup>3</sup> ACP-EU/100.383/09/fin.

- having regard to the report of the Commission on Climate Change and Development of Sweden of May 2009 entitled “Closing the Gaps: Disaster risk reduction and adaptation to climate change in developing countries”,
  - having regard to the questions of 2 September 2009 to the Commission and to the Council on climate change and developing countries in the context of the United Nations' Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen (O-0000/2009 – B7-0000/2009, O-0000/2009 – B7-0000/2009),
  - having regard to Rules 115(5) and 110(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas developing countries have contributed least to climate change but are facing its most severe consequences, due to their geographical vulnerability, heavy dependence on the primary sector (agriculture, fisheries) and limited infrastructure for dealing with climate change impacts,
  - B. whereas every year climate change is causing more than 300 000 deaths and is seriously affecting 325 million people and whereas these figures are likely to more than double by 2030; whereas developing countries account for nearly 99 % of these deaths and 98 % of the people seriously affected,
  - C. whereas economic losses due to climate change currently amount to more than USD 125 billion a year<sup>1</sup>, and they could reach USD 600 billion a year by 2030; whereas 90 % of these losses are borne by developing countries,
  - D. whereas climate change has already pushed into poverty over 12 million people and 20 million more would fall into poverty by 2030,
  - E. whereas climate change may exacerbate the potential for conflicts over natural resources owing to shrinking arable land, growing water scarcity or deforestation, or due to climate-induced migration,
  - F. whereas industrialised countries have a historical responsibility for climate change and are morally obliged to assist developing countries in their efforts to adapt to its consequences; whereas the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen represents the last stage in global talks to settle a fair and effective deal on a successor to the Kyoto Protocol in accordance with the "polluter pays" principle,
  - G. whereas any delay in taking firm decisions on the mechanisms and financing necessary to reduce the causes and consequences of climate change will result in much higher costs; whereas despite the need for urgent action on climate change in developing countries, adaptation and mitigation measures are significantly underfinanced,
  - H. whereas estimated annual adaptation costs in developing countries range from USD 50 billion to USD 135 billion per year, but donor countries' pledges amount to less than USD 500 million a year; whereas, in sharp contrast, over the past year USD 18 trillion have been committed globally to bail out financial institutions,

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<sup>1</sup> This figure constitutes more than the total Official Development Assistance in any given year.

- I. 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 attainment of the MDGs,
- J. whereas climate change is placing 40 % of international poverty reduction investment at risk<sup>1</sup>, thus threatening the efficacy and sustainability of development work; whereas there is a clear need for greater coordination, complementarity and coherence between climate change and development initiatives,
- K. whereas most of the existing channels for adaptation funding lack the participatory approach that promotes developing countries' ownership and only a few of them are fully trusted by both donor and recipient countries,
- L. whereas National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs) are important instruments for climate change adaptation that promote ownership, but the lack of institutional support and resources for their implementation risks damaging their potential,
- M. whereas the existing landscape of financing for adaptation, both at international and at EU level, is highly fragmented and poorly coordinated, which poses significant challenges for developing countries to implement the activities funded through the variety of mechanisms,
  - 1. Welcomes the fact that progress in placing adaptation on an equal footing with mitigation has been achieved during the negotiations on the post-2012 climate change agreement; stresses that a firmer link between adaptation and mitigation negotiations needs to be established;
  - 2. Insists that the post-2012 climate change agreement should take into account the existing development processes both at international and national level; encourages the Commission and the Member States to build better links between climate change and the MDGs by incorporating adaptation to climate change into projects and programmes aimed at achieving the MDGs and into all poverty reduction strategies;
  - 3. Emphasises that all adaptation finance has to be new and additional to already-existing ODA commitments (aiming at achieving 0,7 % of gross domestic product (GDP) by 2015);
  - 4. Calls on the international community to increase significantly its financial support for adaptation in developing countries and to explore innovative financing mechanisms intended for this purpose, such as national emission taxes, international taxes on trade, levies on aviation and shipping emissions and auctioning of assigned amount units;
  - 5. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to increase substantially the budget for the GCCA and suggests that one source of funding could be to earmark 25 % of expected

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<sup>1</sup> World Bank estimates

revenues from auctioning within the EU Emissions Trading Scheme (EU ETS) to the GCCA; urges the Commission to ensure that the GCCA becomes a clearing house for adaptation funding in developing countries, thus avoiding the creation of new bilateral EU initiatives;

6. Underlines that financing for adaptation and mitigation in developing countries must be sufficient, predictable and transparent; points out that donor countries need to invest in increasing the “absorptive capacity” in developing countries, so that the latter are able to use the resources effectively;
7. Recalls that resources should be distributed not as concessional loans but as grants, since climate change funding is not aid but compensation owed by industrialised countries under the "polluter pays" principle;
8. Takes the view that a compensation and rehabilitation mechanism must be devised in the post-2012 climate change agreement to adequately deal with loss and damage from adverse impacts of climate change in developing countries;
9. Urges the international community to prioritise climate funds for developing countries most vulnerable to climate change and particularly for Africa, which has received less than 12 % of all the climate fund money spent in the last four years, and for the Small Island Developing States (SIDS);
10. Points out the importance of ownership of adaptation funding through, for instance, domestic oversight of delivery mechanisms (e.g. parliamentary committees); in addition, calls on the international community to allocate up to USD 2 billion over the next five years to NAPA projects;
11. Underlines the necessity of institutional accountability and trust by establishing equal representation of donor and recipient countries in the management body of adaptation funding institutions; calls on the international community to increase the financial flows to the Adaptation Fund (AF), one of the most democratic structures for decision-making for adaptation;
12. Considers that adequate planning and management of environmental migration will be critical for human security and calls on the international community to identify and address the legal shortfalls that exist in respect of the protection of environmental refugees;
13. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the governments and parliaments of the Member States and the UNFCCC Secretariat.