ACP-EU JOINT PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

ACP-EU/102.895/19/fin.

RESOLUTION¹

on challenges addressed at COP 25 (United Nations Conference on Climate Change, 2-13 December 2019, Madrid, Spain)

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

– meeting in Kigali (Rwanda) from 19 to 21 November 2019,
– having regard to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Kyoto Protocol thereto,
– having regard to the Paris Agreement agreed in the 21st conference of the parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 21) and to the more recent such conferences, including COP 24 in Katowice, Poland,
– having regard to the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),
– having regard to the special report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) entitled ‘Global Warming of 1.5°C’ and to the IPCC’s fifth assessment report (AR5) and its synthesis report,
– having regard to the IPCC Report on Climate and Land of 8 August 2019,
– having regard to UN Environment’s ‘Emissions Gap Report 2018’ and to the fourth edition of its ‘Adaptation Gap Report’ in 2018,
– having regard to the summary for policymakers of 6 May 2019 of the Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Service,
– having regard to the ‘Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030’ adopted by the UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in March 2015 in Sendai, Japan,
– having regard to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on financing for development,

¹ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 21 November 2019 in Kigali (Rwanda).
having regard to the European Council conclusions of 22 March 2018, 20 June 2019 and 17-18 October 2019,

– having regard to the European Parliament’s resolution of 25 October 2018 on UNFCCC COP 24,

– having regard to the ACP-EU Joint Declaration on climate change adopted by the ACP-EU Council of Ministers in Lomé, Togo, on 1 June 2018,

– having regard to the ACP paper issued on the occasion of COP 24 in Katowice2,

– having regard to the ACP Action Plan on Climate Change 2016-2020,

– having regard to the Partnership Agreement between the members of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States of the one part, and the European Community and its Member States, of the other part, signed in Cotonou on 23 June 2000 (hereinafter ‘the Cotonou Agreement’)3, as amended in 2005 and 20104,

– having regard to its resolution of 25 October 2018 on the UN Climate Change Conference in Katowice, Poland (COP 24) and to its other previous resolutions on climate change,

– having regard to Article 18(2) of its Rules of Procedure,

A. whereas climate change is an existential threat with multiple devastating impacts and whereas global climate action must urgently be stepped up;

Impacts of climate change on developing countries

B. whereas climate change causes the greatest damage in developing countries, including ACP countries, least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing states (SIDS), which have contributed the least to causing it but are the most vulnerable and the least equipped to withstand its impacts;

C. whereas these impacts include lowered agricultural productivity, sea-level rise and coastal erosion, increased frequency and strength of hurricanes, floods and droughts causing physical destruction of buildings and infrastructure, exacerbated food insecurity, food and water crises and other deprivation of human rights on a huge scale, notably regarding the rights to food, water, housing and health;

D. whereas it has been estimated that developing countries, which are innocent victims, will have to bear 80% of the costs of climate change, with dramatic consequences in particular for LDCs and SIDS and fragile countries;

E. whereas according to the World Health Organisation (WHO), climate change affects the social and environmental determinants of health, such as clean air, safe drinking

2 http://www.acp.int/sites/acpsec.waw.be/files/ISSUES%20PAPER%20COP_ENG_V2.pdf
4 OJ L 287, 4.11.2010, p. 3.
water, sufficient food and secure shelter; whereas the WHO believes that between 2030 and 2050, climate change will cause approximately 250 000 additional deaths per year, from malnutrition, malaria, diarrhoea and heat stress;

F. whereas according to ‘The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2019’ published by the UN, the pace of poverty reduction is starting to slow due to the consequences of natural disasters; whereas global hunger is on the rise after a prolonged decline;

G. whereas according to the Report of the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights of 25 June 2019, climate change threatens to undo the last 50 years of progress in development and poverty reduction and, according to the World Bank, climate change could force more than 100 million people into extreme poverty by 2030;

H. whereas climate change has grave implications for security and regional stability stemming from environmental degradation, aggravated tensions over scarce resources, the loss of livelihoods, climate-induced displacement of people and social unrest;

I. whereas women are in general more affected by climate change, while being excluded from key decision-making on climate action, and whereas the UN estimates that 80% of people displaced by climate change are women;

J. whereas indigenous peoples’ territories encompass about 80% of the remaining biodiversity in the world and whereas the IPCC considers indigenous and traditional knowledge to be a major resource in combating climate change;

**Climate action**

K. whereas the growth of the gap between adaptation needs and efforts must urgently be reversed through much stronger mitigation and adaptation;

L. whereas forests prevent land degradation and desertification, and contribute substantially to climate change mitigation and adaptation; whereas deforestation accounts for nearly 20% of global emissions and is driven in particular by expanding industrial production of livestock, soy and palm oil, not least for the EU market;

M. whereas approximately 80% of global deforestation is caused by the expansion of agricultural lands and whereas the deforestation embodied in developed countries’ imports of agricultural commodities represents a majority share of global deforestation;

N. whereas the UN’s Agenda 2030 sets the target of halting and reversing deforestation and forest degradation by 2020; whereas this commitment is reiterated in the Paris Agreement;

1. Recalls that climate change is an existential challenge facing humanity and that all states worldwide need to do their utmost to fight it; underlines that international cooperation, solidarity and joint action are indispensable for the fulfilment of the duty to preserve the planet; reiterates its commitment to support ambitious climate action and calls on global economic and emission leaders to step up their efforts; calls on the ACP and EU Member States to reinforce their cooperation and facilitate coherence between their positions with a view to COP 25;
2. Commits to seeking international consensus on pursuing an agenda on recognition of the status of climate refugee, on a definition of the criteria of this status and on principles for assistance to persons recognised as climate change refugees;

3. Stresses the need for sustainable management of resources and of energy industries and to work towards a public or other energy hub, in order to respond to the climate and social emergency;

4. Welcomes the growing calls in particular from young people in EU and ACP countries for swift action to limit the rise in the global temperature to 1.5°C; calls on national and local governments, in both the EU and the ACP countries, to engage with non-state actors and to actively involve them in defining and implementing climate action policy;

5. Stresses the importance of taking into account the distributional effects of decarbonisation and other climate-related policies, especially on poor people, and of achieving a just transition with wide public acceptance and support; points to the need for re-skilling workers for future-proof quality jobs and for the EU to support this;

**Climate finance**

6. Expresses concern that developed countries’ pledges of financing, from public and private sources, for climate action in developing countries, including LDCs and SIDS, still do not sum up to the USD 100 billion per year by 2020 that the developed countries have collectively committed to provide; is deeply concerned that in the absence of a legally binding provision, the commitment to provide this sum is not being honoured; stresses the fundamental need to reach this agreed target and recognises the need to go higher; welcomes the agreement at COP 24 to be ready to go above USD 100 billion per year when negotiating, starting at COP 25, a new target;

7. Points to the crucial importance of private investments for the transition to climate-friendly infrastructure and production methods; insists on the importance of new and additional innovative financial instruments (e.g. a financial transaction tax and market-based instruments to reduce global aviation and shipping emissions) and a successful replenishment of the Green Climate Fund and urges further progress by multilateral development banks in aligning their activities with the Paris Agreement;

8. Calls for a scale-up of global funding for adaptation, to achieve a better balance with investment in mitigation, and for further progress on the issue of compensation for loss and damage;

9. Urges EU and ACP countries to phase out fossil fuel subsidies, which the International Monetary Fund (IMF) estimates to be behind 28% of global carbon emissions, and which distort effective competition and create disincentives to investments in carbon-neutral technologies; calls for more investment, including in off-grid and decentralised small-scale renewable energy generation;

10. Welcomes the European Parliament’s efforts to raise the proportion of the funding from the proposed 2021-2027 Neighbourhood and Development Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) that should support climate and environmental objectives to at least 45%;
Policy Coherence for Development and the climate

11. Insists on a joint and integrated approach to the implementation of the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals, fully respecting the principle of policy coherence for development (PCD), between development, trade, agriculture, energy and climate policies;

12. Stresses that the fight against climate change must challenge agroindustry and intensive farming; encourages an agricultural model based on local production, short supply chains, small and medium-sized holdings, and a production system that is both people and environment friendly;

13. Reaffirms the inalienable right to food security, including the right of small-scale farmers to produce food for their people, by ensuring that farmers have access to land, seeds and water;

14. Urges the EU to scale up its assistance to domestic food production, targeting its support to small-scale farmers, access to and control over locally-adapted seeds and natural resources, crop diversification, agro-forestry and agro-ecological practices, in line with the conclusions of the last IPCC Special Report on ‘Climate Change and land’;

15. Stresses the need to ensure that the existing trade rules and agreements become fully compatible with the Paris Agreement and Agenda 2030; underlines the need for commitments in trade agreements to apply without prejudice to non-discriminatory policy action towards accomplishing these aims in order to make trade an effective tool to achieve the SDGs; calls on the EU and ACP partners to carry out a comprehensive assessment of the consistency of existing and future agreements with the Paris Agreement; stresses that the ongoing rise of CO2 emissions related to transport and international trade undermines the effectiveness of climate change strategy;

16. Insists that climate policies should be biodiversity-proof; calls on the ACP and EU countries to develop ecosystem-based approaches to climate change mitigation and adaptation strategy;

Forests

17. Is alarmed by the deteriorating status of the world’s forests; highlights the key role of sustainable forestry and land use in tackling global CO2 emissions; calls on EU and ACP Member States to step up forest protection measures, intensify reforestation and improve forest management strategies; calls on all UN members to carry out reforestation measures as soon as possible;

18. Calls for greater efforts to effectively regulate European trade in forest-risk commodities, notably by introducing mandatory due diligence obligations for all operators in forest-risk commodity supply chains;

Knowledge-sharing, technology transfers, disaster prevention and preparedness

19. Calls on developed countries to step up their support for collaborative research,
knowledge-sharing, capacity building and technology transfer to developing countries, including LDCs and SIDS, thereby honouring the Paris Agreement and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on financing for development, while also delivering in relation to SDG 17; calls on the EU to promote the adoption of a declaration comparable to the Doha Declaration of 2001 on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health to foster the legal transfer of climate-friendly technology in developing countries;

20. Calls on governments to invest in capacity building and disaster prevention and preparedness and to integrate disaster risk reduction strategies into their sustainable development policies at national, regional and local levels;

Gender

21. Stresses that women’s full and equal participation in international forums, such as the UNFCCC, and in national, regional and local climate action, are vital to their success; calls on the EU and ACP Member States to mainstream the gender perspective into climate policies, and to promote the participation of indigenous women and women’s rights defenders within the UNFCCC framework;

22. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council of Ministers, the regional organisations of the ACP States, the African Union, the Pan-African Parliament, the national parliaments of the ACP countries and of the EU Member States, the European Parliament, the European Commission, the Council of Ministers of the European Union and the Secretary-General of the United Nations.