

Climate Chance Conference

Agadir, Morocco, 11-13 September 2017

Declaration of Local and Subnational Leaders of Africa

We, the local and subnational Leaders of Africa, meeting this Tuesday, September 12th, 2017 in Agadir, Morocco, in the framework of the Climate Chance Summit,

-Taking into account the commitment of the Paris Agreement on climate change to limit global warming of the planet to well below 2 degrees Celsius, and ideally 1.5 degrees;

-Adhering to the call for Action launched at the COP22 in Marrakesh, Morocco, in favor of the implementation of the Paris Agreement, in particular through the effective realization of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and the National Adaptation Plans;

-Whereas the road map adopted in Marrakesh on November 14th, 2016, by the Climate Summit for Local and Regional Leaders defined a global framework for action towards localizing Climate Finance;

-Reaffirming our adherence and support to the recent commitments and declarations of local and subnational leaders concerning the climate, in particular: the Declaration of the Summit of Cities and Regions of Africa in Yamoussoukro (June 2015); the Declaration of the World Summit on Climate and Territories in Lyon (July 2015); the Declaration of the Summit of World Local and Regional Leaders on Climate in Paris (December 2015); the Declaration of Local and regional elected leaders of Africa at the preparatory Forum to the COP22 held in Cotonou (September 2016); the Marrakech Roadmap for Action of Cities and Regions for Climate (November 2016);

Declare the following:

(1) We reaffirm our own commitment to the fight against climate change by anticipating the evolution of our own territories, in particular urban areas, in order to avoid tomorrow a significant increase in our own CO2 emissions tomorrow and address from today on the necessary adaptation measures; We commit ourselves to carry out these "climate plans" and involve all the stakeholders of our territories: citizens, associations, economic actors, etc.

(2) We encourage cities and regions of Africa to join the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, as well as RegionsAdapt and Under2Coalition, aiming at implementing a long-term vision of their territory relating to access to energy, reduction of greenhouse gases emissions, adaptation actions to climate change, and adoption of low carbon solutions;

(3) We stress the importance of recognizing the specificity of the challenges of climate change in Africa, which justifies at the territorial level, to give priority to access to energy, urban and land-use planning, taking into account rural-urban complementarity, particularly as regards sustainable agriculture policies ensuring food security in these territories, and to actions on climate change adaptation. Mitigation strategies should be developed at the occasion of the implementation of these strategies of access to energy and adaptation to climate change;

(4) We recall that most of the Nationally Determined Contributions should intervene at the level of cities and territories, which requires the involvement of local and subnational governments to facilitate the mobilization and collaboration of all the actors of the territory for their effective implementation on the ground; We reiterate our willingness to work closely with our National Governments to identify priority actions, increase ambition and respond effectively to adaptation issues;

(5) We call accordingly to the adoption and implementation of a capacity building and technical assistance program benefiting to local and subnational governments of Africa to enable them to master the MRV (measurement, reporting and verification) process and prepare eligible requests to climate finance, including the Green Climate Fund, with an insistence on simplifying the procedures;

(6) We recall the importance of decentralized cooperation processes which are consistent with institutional and capacity building;

(7) We reiterate our attachment to the multi-stakeholder cooperation framework in the field of climate offered by Climate Chance, and encourage its initiators to continue developing more synergies and complementariness among all pertinent stakeholders for their concerted actions to meet the challenges and opportunities of climate change in our cities and territories. We call on the various actors of African civil societies to join this call and this process of collective engagement, to exchange best practices and priorities for action, to define together scenarios for action to match the challenges of climate change for the African continent.

We will take stock of this collective mobilization at the occasion of the Africities Summit to take place in Brazzaville in December 2018.

Done in Agadir, Morocco, 12 September 2017.