

CLIMATE CHANCE SUMMIT AFRICA 2019

ACCRA, GHANA, 16 - 18 OCTOBER 2019

DECLARATION

We, representatives of the African local and regional governments and non-state actors gathered in ACCRA at the 2nd African Climate Chance Summit, organized from 16 to 18 October 2019 under the Distinguished Patronage of His Excellency NANA ADDO DANKWA AKUFO-ADDO, President of the Republic of Ghana, and in the presence of His Excellency John KUFOR, former President of the Republic of Ghana,

Acknowledging that the Climate Chance Summit in Accra is the first major African climate event that took place after the UN Secretary General Climate Summit in September 2019 in New York that alerted on the climate emergency;

Taking into account recent scientific reports (IPBES 7 – IPCC special report on climate change and Land-use – IPCC 1.5 report) that warned that life is from now on at risk on our Planet, in which environment, biodiversity and ecosystems are, more than ever, endangered by our collective incapacity to act and transform our model of development in order to protect and restore nature;

Considering that in this global context, as a region of the world already home to nearly half of the earth's human population below the age of 18, and that will become the most populated region of the world before the end of the 21st century. Being also the continent least embedded in the fossil energy dependent economy, Africa has the responsibility to pave the way to the transition towards low carbon economy;

Highlighting the fact that Africa is the region of the world with the lowest access to energy and the least equipped to face extreme climate events brought about by climate change;

Recognizing that the full implementation of the current Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) subscribed for the implementation of the Paris Agreement will not be sufficient to close the 'ambition gap' to limit global warming to 1.5 °C above pre-industrialization era;

Conscious of the fact that the fight against climate change will be won or lost in cities and other sub national governments, and that this battle will certainly not be won if climate action does not become everybody's business at all levels of government as quickly as possible;

Given the efforts that Ghana has put to champion the sustainable development goals and the climate agenda in Africa and the world over, which lead to the appointment of the President of the Republic of Ghana as Co-Chair of SDGs Advocates;

Declare the following:

1. We subscribe to the UN Secretary General alert on climate emergency and call on all stakeholders to urgently act in order to avoid worsening the situation of global warming and to address the challenges brought about by climate change.
2. We however call attention to the fact that African priorities on climate actions focus mainly on adaptation to climate change and access to energy, and that mitigation actions would be addressed through the solutions proposed for the aforementioned priorities. We recommend therefore a balance in funding between climate actions addressing mitigation and adaptation. We further recommend that the recourse to clean energy sources such as solar and wind energy be prioritized when defining strategies to bridge the energy gap in Africa. We propose the involvement of local and regional governments in the implementation of this strategy.
3. We call on African national governments to provide an enabling environment for local and regional governments, and non-state actors, business, NGOs and academia in order to create the conditions for enhanced local climate actions, and for the localization of climate finance. We therefore call on the Green Climate Fund to create a window for local and regional governments, and to the African Development Bank through the Urban and Municipal Development Fund to support local and regional governments in the implementation of their climate initiatives and actions. We also request that a local and regional readiness program be established, funded and implemented using the national associations of local and regional governments and their continental umbrella organization, the United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLG Africa) in order to contribute to building the capacity of African cities and sub national governments and non-state actors to be able to prepare and submit eligible projects to the climate finance institutions.
4. We strongly support the proposal by UCLG Africa Climate Task Force to initiate a bottom-up approach to the revision process of the NDCs starting with the elaboration of locally determined contributions (LDCs) feeding into the NDCs. This approach should be disseminated through the national associations of local and regional governments and UCLG Africa, in order to accelerate ownership of the climate agenda by all relevant stakeholders, and ensure alignment of climate actions at all levels of government, while at the same time addressing coordination and coherence within the framework defined by the Katowice Rule book. We humbly request that the government of Ghana champions this approach at the upcoming Santiago COP 25 and Glasgow COP 26.
5. We strongly encourage African local governments to join the Covenant of Mayors in Sub-Saharan Africa, a movement driven by the local and regional governments, by implementing effective actions on energy access, adaptation and mitigation and by setting ambitious targets through their local climate action plans.
6. We support the annual African Climate Chance summit “as pre-COP” of the non-state actors and local governments to formulate and deliver their messages at the international level, this dialogue will be called “Accra Climate Dialogue”.
7. We call on national governments, the African Union through the Committee of African Heads of State on Climate Change (CAHOSCC), and the international community, in particular the institutions within the global climate ecosystem, to support the Accra Climate Dialogue process.
8. We wish to humbly thank the President of the Republic of Ghana, His Excellency NANA ADDU DANKWA AKUFO-ADDU and the former President of the Republic of Ghana, His Excellency John KUFORU.
9. We also convey our sincere greetings to the Government of Ghana, and especially the Honorable Minister for Local Government and Rural Development, Hajia Alima Mahama, and the Honorable Minister for Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation, Professor

Kwabena Frimpong-Boateng; to Professor Jeffrey David Sachs, Special Advisor to the UN Secretary General on the SDGs; to the High Level Champion for Climate Change, Mr. Tomasz Chruszczow; to the Representative of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Mr William Kojo Agyeman-Bonsu; to UN Habitat Representative, Dr. Vincent Kitio; to the Representative of the Global Covenant of Mayors, Elise Abbes; to the Climate Chance Association, its President, Senator Ronan Dantec, and his team; to the President of the National Association of Local Governments of Ghana, Mr. Bismarck Baisie Nkom; to the Mayor of Accra Metropolitan Assembly and Member of the Board of the Global Covenant of Mayors, Mr. Mohammed Adjei Sowah; to the Planning Committee for the Climate Chance Summit AFRICA 2019; to All African mayors and non-state actors representatives; to the United Cities and Local Government of Africa and in particular the West Africa Regional Office and its Director, Mrs. Saleh Juliet Mekone and her team; as well as the head of the Climate Task Force, Mr. Mohamed Nbou and his team; Mr Frederic Vallier, Secretary General of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) as well as the Director of Projects, Mr. Durmish Guri and his team and all the implementing partners of the Covenant of Mayors in Sub Saharan Africa; the partners of the Climate Chance coalitions, in particular the business partners and NGOs, in particular gender NGOs; to ICLEI Africa, its regional director, Mrs. Kobie Brand, and his team; and to the Regional Director for C40, Mr. Hasting Chikoko.

10. We are particularly thankful to all delegates who took part to the Climate Chance Summit and participated in the birth of the long life Accra Climate Dialogue.

Done in Accra, this Day 18 October 2019

The Participants