

Kisumu Declaration by Local Authorities in Africa on the urgency of positioning Africa's local governments at the heart of the climate action agenda to win the race for adaptation and resilience and on the urgency of implementing Locally Determined Contributions (LDCs) in support of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)

We, local and regional elected representatives of Africa, gathered this Tuesday, May 17, 2022, in Kisumu, Kenya, as part of the Second edition of climate day during the Ninth edition of the Africities Summit organized in preparation for the United Nations Climate Conference COP27 to be held from 07 to 17 November 2022 in Sharm El Sheikh in Egypt,

Recognizing the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the consequences of the war in Ukraine, on the continent and in Africa,

Recognizing the already proven consequences of the impacts of climate change on African territories and the lives of millions of people,

Taking note of the renewed warning by the international scientific community and extremely concerned by the conclusions of the 6th assessment report, the third part of which, published on 4 April 2022, reminds us that we have less than a decade to drastically reduce our greenhouse gas emissions or risk no longer being in a position to achieve the objective of limiting the rise in global temperature to 1.5 degrees Celsius by the end of the century compared to the pre-industrial era,

Recalling that current climate trends are putting Africa at the forefront of the expected impacts and that the continent will be hardest hit in the coming years with pressure that will be exacerbated in view of demographic and urban trends with an urban population that will increase from 560 million in 2015 to more than 1.1 billion in 2050,

Noting at the global level that the IPCC, in its latest report, recalls that these impacts will be considerable for the 3.3 to 3.6 billion people who already live in an environment vulnerable to climate change and that in the face of this reality, it is also recognized that adaptation alone will not meet all the challenges and that it must now be taken as a measure to complement upstream efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in order to avoid losing even more infrastructure, territories and limit the significant impact on biodiversity and water resources in all territories,

Noting once again that the reality of the current commitments made by States Parties to the UNFCCC in their updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) at COP26 in Glasgow does not allow for a trajectory compatible with a temperature increase of less than 1.5 degrees Celsius or 2 degrees Celsius by 2100, which are the objectives of the Paris Agreement on the climate, but that, on the contrary, the current trajectories are directing us towards a warming around 3 to 4 degrees, with catastrophic consequences for Humanity, with a particularly devastating or even existential impact for African societies,

Recalling the need to learn from the limitations of previous multilateral agreements such as the Kyoto Protocol and in particular from the fact that local and subnational communities and governments have not been included as participatory actors, which has considerably delayed the

global establishment of a virtuous moment in terms of local mobilization, which is nevertheless necessary and effective,

Recalling that beyond the commitments made by States, whether in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), their Long-Term Strategies (LTS) or their National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), everyone agrees that the solution cannot be achieved without the involvement of territories and local governments in the development and implementation of strategies and action program for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. greenhouse or in the implementation of adaptation measures and responses to increase the resilience capacity of territories,

Emphasizing the fact that the bulk of global climate policy decisions are taken and implemented at the territorial level, making local authorities and actors the engine of the global transformation towards a green economy, sustainable development, and a human economy resilient to climate change and environmentally friendly civilization,

Recalling that adaptation to climate change remains largely a territorial challenge and that the local and national levels have become interdependent and that, therefore, local governments have a central role to play in preparing territories for the consequences of climate change and in harnessing the still under-exploited potential of subnational actors,

Recalling that despite this awareness of the essential role of cities and territories in climate action, the place of the latter in the implementation mechanisms of the Paris Agreement and in particular access to the necessary resources is still very insufficient or non-existent.

Recalling the recent commitments and declarations of local and regional elected representatives in favor of the Climate, including, among others: the Declaration of the Summit of African Cities and Regions in Yamoussoukro, Côte d'Ivoire (June 2015); the Declaration of the World Summit on Climate and Territories of Lyon, France (July 2015); the Declaration of Local and Regional Elected Representatives for the Climate Summit in Paris, France (December 2015); the Declaration of Local and Regional Elected Representatives of Africa adopted at the COP 22 Preparatory Forum held in Cotonou, Benin (September 2016); the Roadmap for Action by The World's Cities and Regions for Climate adopted at COP 22 in Marrakech, Morocco (November 2016); the Declaration of Local and Regional Elected Representatives of Africa adopted at the Climate Chance Summit held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire (June 2018); and the Declaration of Action of the World Climate Summit adopted in San Francisco, USA (July 2018);

Recalling that in 2022, six years after COP22 in Marrakech, Africa will once again host the next world climate conference in Sharm el-Sheikh and that COP27 should be the COP of adaptation and resilience at the heart of the agenda for action and that it must also strengthen the role of cities and territories by placing it at the heart of the implementation system and giving them the operational means and financial to act,

Declare the following:

1. We share the warning of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the international scientific community that we have a few years left to act before the climate trajectory becomes irreversible. We therefore underline the urgency of translating "The Marrakesh Partnership for Climate Action" adopted at COP 22, into an operational mechanism to

integrate cities and territories into the process of implementing Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

2. Commit to participate in the ambition to limit the increase in global temperature by the end of the century to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial temperature levels, including by implementing Locally Determined Contributions (LDCs) to expand and complement Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).
3. UCLG Africa, commits to involve all national associations of African mayors to mobilize in the challenges of "Race to Zero" mitigation, adaptation and resilience "Race to Resilience";
4. We commit to developing and engaging in decentralized South-South and North-South-South cooperation partnerships around the agenda of NDCs and LDCs.
5. We encourage key actors to mobilize within the UCLG Africa Climate Task Force for the implementation of the major challenges on the agenda of action.
6. We ask the UCLG Africa Climate Task Force to organize every year from 2022, the African Forum of Mayors on Climate and to strengthen the establishment of a structured dialogue between National Governments, Local and Subnational Governments, and the various initiatives implemented at regional and international level, with a view to strengthening the framework for implementing and monitoring the territorialization of NDCs.

We recommend that:

To national governments:

1. Establish a structured dialogue between national and local governments for the implementation of NDCs at the local level on the continent and the political support of continental and international institutions such as CAHOSCC which, in its decision of February 2019, encourages partnerships with local actors and in particular the action of UCLG Africa,

To local authorities:

2. Strengthen the UCLG Africa Climate Task Force to support African local and subnational authorities more effectively in the definition of concrete and multi-year action plans for the implementation of Territorial Climate projects,
3. Adhere, for all cities and territories in Africa, to the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy in Sub-Saharan Africa (CoM SSA) and Mediterranean countries, to initiate territorial action on climate and energy, the implementation of action plans for access to sustainable energy, as well as advocacy actions for multi-level governance in the face of climate challenges facing the African continent,

To development partners:

4. Direct important financial flows, those of the Green Climate Fund and the Adaptation Fund, to local and subnational governments and facilitate direct access to them.

Kisumu, May 17, 2022