

AFRICAN UNION

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ASSEMBLY OF THE UNION
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**DECISIONS, DECLARATIONS
AND RESOLUTION**



**DECISION ON AFRICA'S ENGAGEMENTS IN THE
GLOBAL CLIMATE NEGOTIATIONS
Doc. Assembly/AU/7(XXVI)**

The Assembly,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Coordinator of the Committee of the African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC), H.E. Abdel Fattah El Sisi, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt on climate change action in Africa and Africa's engagement in the global climate negotiations; and **ENDORSES** the recommendations contained therein;
2. **CONGRATULATES** France on hosting a successful Twenty-first Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and for facilitating the adoption of the Paris Agreement that is binding on all Parties;
3. **WELCOMES** the adoption of the Paris Agreement by the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC at its Twenty-first session and **URGES** all Member States to participate in the High-level signature ceremony for the Agreement to be convened by the Secretary General of the United Nations on 22 April 2016 in New York, USA;
4. **CALLS ON** all Member States to ratify the Paris Agreement; and **ACKNOWLEDGES** the UNFCCC Decision to host the Twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 22) on the African continent, in Marrakesh, the Kingdom of Morocco from 7 to 18 November 2016;
5. **EXPRESSES APPRECIATION** to the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN) as well as the Commission, and the African Group of Negotiators (AGN) for representing the interests of Africa in the climate change negotiations and the constructive manner in which they have advanced the UNFCCC process; **URGES** AMCEN, the Commission and AGN to maintain the unity of the group and to continue to represent African interests in the UNFCCC process; and **CALLS ON** the AGN in collaboration with the Commission to continue to provide the necessary technical support and advice to CAHOSCC through AMCEN;
6. **COMMENDS** the Commission, the African Development Bank, and the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA), as well as the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa for the establishment and effectiveness of the Africa Pavilion at COP21; **APPRECIATES** the space provided by the Pavilion for African countries and institutions to showcase Africa's response to climate change; **ACKNOWLEDGES** the support provided by France and Partners: ClimDev-Africa, Benin, GIZ, SOS Sahel, Norway, The World Bank and Islamic Development Bank; and **CALLS ON** Member States to support the continued mounting of an Africa Pavilion at future COPs;

7. **REQUESTS** the Commission to finalize the ClimDev-Africa proposal developed regarding strengthening the 3-tier negotiation structure and a strategy on how to maximize the benefits of the Paris Agreement for Africa, and an assessment of the needs of African countries for the implementation of their Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) to the Paris Agreement, including in relation to means of implementation, and to present recommendations in advance of the Twenty-second conference of the Parties on ways and means for mobilizing adequate resources to support the implementation of the intended nationally determined contributions by African States;
8. **REAFFIRMS** the endorsement by the CAHOSCC at its meeting held on 25 September 2015 in New York, USA of the African Adaptation Initiative (AAI) and the African Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI), building up on the continental initiatives of the Climate for Development in Africa (ClimDev-Africa) and the High Level Work Programme on Climate Change Action in Africa (WPCCA) as work in progress; and **WELCOMES** the launching of the two (2) Initiatives by the Coordinator of the CAHOSCC during COP 21 in Paris, France; In this regard, **WELCOMES** the coordinating role played by H.E Professor Alpha Condé, President of the Republic of Guinea in the area of Renewable Energy at the level of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and **DECIDES** to extend the latter's role at continental level on Africa's commitments in the area of renewable energy;
9. **ACKNOWLEDGES** the Governance Framework proposed in the Document *'The Summary of the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative Framework Document and Action Plan'*; and **AFFIRMS** the appointment of the African Development Bank (AfDB) as the Trustee for the AREI and the host of its Independent Delivery Unit as provided in the AREI Framework Document;
10. **RECALLS** the Assembly's Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.580(XXV) adopted by the 25th Ordinary Session of the Assembly in Johannesburg, South Africa in June 2015 which established a technical working group chaired by the President of AMCEN to develop the African Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI), and which encouraged AMCEN to develop with the AGN a proposal for an African Adaptation Initiative; and **COMMENDS** the work by AMCEN, the AGN and the technical working group comprising the Commission, NPCA, AGN, AfDB, UNEP and IRENA in this regard;
11. **REQUESTS** AMCEN to establish a technical working group in collaboration with the Commission, NPCA, AGN, AFDB, UNECA, UNEP, UNDP, to carry on the work with regard to the African Adaptation Initiative, with the aim of increasing its visibility and ensuring mobilization of adequate resources needed for its operationalization and implementation;
12. **ENCOURAGES** developed countries to support the implementation of the African Adaptation Initiative, taking into consideration the reaffirmation of the Paris

Agreement that adaptation is a global challenge, and of the importance of support for and international cooperation on adaptation efforts, taking into account the needs of developing countries; and **STRESSES** the importance of coordination and synergy between the technical working group and the African Risk Capacity (ARC), ClimDev-Africa as well as other relevant initiatives and efforts;

13. **EXPRESSES APPRECIATION** for the support by G7 and G20 for the AREI, as well as for the Joint Statement on Advancing the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative by Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Sweden, United States of America, United Kingdom and EU reiterating expressions of support for the initiative from G7 Leaders in June 2015 and G20 energy ministers in October 2015, and jointly committing to mobilize at least \$10 billion USD cumulatively from 2015 to 2020; **ALSO EXPRESSES APPRECIATION** for the support provided by the United Nations Secretary General to the Africa Adaptation Initiative;
14. **CALLS ON** AMCEN, the Commission, AfDB, to take appropriate measures, under the guidance of CAHOSCC, to ensure finalization of the African Adaptation Initiative (AAI) and the operationalization and implementation of the African Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI);
15. **REQUESTS** AfDB to take appropriate measures in consultation with AMCEN and the Commission to complete its work on the instrument establishing the AREI governance framework and related establishment documentation, which shall be adopted by the AREI Governing Board at its initial meeting convened by CAHOSCC;
16. **COMMENDS** the African leaders and host of COP 21 for the Special session held on the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and Sahel Initiative, and the Lake Chad Basin, and other African initiatives presented during COP 21 in Paris, France and **REQUESTS** the Secretariat of the UNFCCC, other UN Agencies and Development Partners to recognize the importance of Africa's special needs in addition to the Least Developing Countries (LDCs) in the implementation of the historic Paris Agreement as this remain key to the realization of Africa's green growth path;
17. **CALLS ON** Partners to continue to support Member States and the Commission in addressing the adverse impacts of climate change on the socio-economic development on the continent;
18. **REQUESTS** the Commission to report on the implementation of this decision to the Ordinary Session of the Assembly scheduled for January 2017.