The 22nd Conference of Parties (COP 22)

Marrakech Morocco

7–18 November 2016

AFRICA'S COMMITMENTS AND ACTIONS ON THE ISSUE OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND GLOBAL WARMING:

Joint Statement by the Network of African Science Academies (NASAC)

It is well established that human activities affect climate and that greenhouse gas emissions lead to global warming. The 1997 Kyoto Protocol established a differentiated approach with binding emissions targets for developed countries but not for developing countries. The 2015 Paris COP 21 attended by 195 countries made some important binding commitments. These included a call for parties to:

(i) Engage both developed and developing countries in a collective effort to reduce greenhouse gas emission and protect and develop the various natural carbon sinks;

(ii) Commit the developed countries to support the efforts of developing countries in terms of greenhouse gas emission, adaptation and mitigation;

(iii) Set in place a mechanism to address "loss and damage" resulting from climate change; and

(iv) Reinforce capacity building and promote technology transfer for the benefit of developing countries. If the COP21 was a Conference of ''*Pacts*'', then COP22 should be a Conference of ''*Acts*'' aiming at translating the Paris Framework Agreement into concrete operational measures and practical actions.

Therefore, we, the member-academies of NASAC, urge African countries to:

1. Identify a series of measures on global warming mitigation, resilience and adaptation to ensure that they are eligible for international support at national and regional levels;
2. Reduce greenhouse gas emission and implement strategies for climate change resilience and adaptation so as to pursue socio-economic development in a more sustainable way;
3. Set in place a mechanism to address "loss and damage" resulting from climate change;
4. Collaborate in practical projects through international cooperation, capacity building and technology transfer on climate change mitigation and adaptation and development of new renewable energy sources; and
5. Make proposals that will assist developed countries to define the operational measures for the constitution and functioning of the Green Fund and the Fund for Climate Change Adaptation.

African countries are indeed most vulnerable. Water scarcity will be enhanced by the high likelihood of new cycles of drought exacerbated by climate change and global warming. 50% of Africa's population live in dryland areas, which represent 43% of Africa's total land area and 75% of agricultural land. Amongst the additional issues that the Academies would like to see addressed during COP22 is the implementation of a mechanism for providing adequate funds to mitigate the consequences of global warming thus increasing Africa's resilience; and to adapt its development strategies to the new environmental reality.

Specifically on global warming and the design of green development, the member-academies of NASAC recommend that:

1. Scientific knowledge on the African specificities with respect to global warming, taking into consideration territorial, geographical, climatological and human particularities, must be improved;
2. World-class scientific and technical approaches to resilience, mitigation and adaptation be designed and developed to suit the new reality of climate change and global warming with specific application in Africa;
3. An African vision of global warming and climate change be established in all domains based on geographical specificities (landlocked countries and coastal and oceanic countries [i.e. small island developing states – SIDS]);
4. Effective technologies be selected to combat global warming in Africa, and African priorities be identified in terms of research and technology transfers;
5. Science Academies and scientific research institutions be empowered to prepare and lead scientific collaborative projects that will be submitted for support to the Green Fund and the Fund for Climate Change Adaptation; and
6. The members of NASAC commit to assist all African countries to achieve effective developmental responses to climate change and global warming.

Joint statement by NASAC at COP 22
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African Academy of Sciences –

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