



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

# Africa-Europe Strategic Declaration on Climate Adaptation

AEF calls for Africa and Europe to find common ground on climate strategies, for positioning on adaptation and action ahead of CoP27

**Global co-operation has been dealt a blow by Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Yet urgent progress on climate change must be made at the "African COP" to be held in Egypt in November 2022. Europe and Africa need to build on the outcomes of the 6th AU-EU Summit, held in February, to deepen their partnership on adaptation to climate change. But, to achieve this, it will be important to acknowledge the different priorities of the two continents, and the practical difficulties of 'landing' partnership work at the right organisational level to make sure it works in practice.**

Africa and Europe recognise that adaptation is a global challenge faced by all, due to the ever-growing impacts of climate change, and how they affect key sectors at multiple scales - local, subnational, national, regional and international. Adaptation is a key component of the urgent global response to climate change in order to protect people, livelihoods and ecosystems. It is also a central pillar of climate negotiations that requires cross-continental alignment and immediate actions.

**In this context, AU-EU leaders must seek to build a prosperous and sustainable partnership between Africa and Europe, which includes addressing the needs for adequate financial and technical support to address adaptation in the lead up to CoP27.**

As a follow-up to the UN Bonn Climate Change Conference (SB56) and given the slow progress in global climate negotiations under the UNFCCC, **the two continents should acknowledge that adaptation action will require a step-change to reinforce partnership, finance, wider influence, and sectoral joint working.**

**In terms of partnership, whilst the EU's Global Gateway initiative has a lot to offer Africa, the focus of the two continents on energy security and just transition, renewable energy, and energy efficiency potential should not come at the expense of strong signals on climate change adaptation.**

The challenges of institutional asymmetry between Africa and Europe must be overcome, by avoiding fragmentation and mainstreaming joint work on adaptation across multiple institutions, governance levels and geographies. **Africa and Europe must also explore ways to meet halfway within the UNFCCC negotiating process - for instance, on the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA), and Loss and Damage (L&D).**

Practical steps must address losses and damages to avoid the dialogues becoming mere talking-shop with no accountability for actions needed, leading to anger and mistrust from African partners. **Urgent EU leadership is needed as part of the new "Glasgow dialogue" that discusses arrangements for the funding of activities to avert, minimize and address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change.**

**In terms of finance, the EU may be a global leader on climate finance but, as Africa's adaptation gap continues to widen, there are several areas for more ambitious action. These relate to i) the quality of the financial system, and the capacity needed to make sure adaptation finance reaches the most vulnerable and marginalised people within each country, ii) the transparency and volume of international climate finance for Africa, including the missed \$100 billion pledge by 2020 and the post-2025 adaptation finance framework, iii) the balance of this finance between mitigation and adaptation, including the doubling of adaptation finance by 2025, and iv) the targeting of the most vulnerable countries within Africa so to ensure an allocation across African countries and sectors which reflects their fragility.**

Although public finance should remain the mainstay of adaptation, **there is also an urgent need to identify ways to increase investment from private finance in building climate resilience. Europe and Africa, and their lending arms may also want to engage with other initiatives launched at Glasgow that try to pull private finance from both Europe and Africa into resilience efforts across Africa.**

**Given the current trust deficit towards the EU on climate finance following the report from the European Court of Auditors (ECA), EU's leading role in climate diplomacy and finance is being questioned. It is timely for the EU to regain its place and lead by example, while influencing other developed nations and its own private sector on factors shaping climate resilience ahead of CoP27.** Increasing needs for adaptation spending put under strain the current financial capacity of most African countries, and resources are diverted from much needed investment in health, education and other sectors.

In terms of sectoral partnership, **2022 offers multiple opportunities for the EU to spell out how its Global Gateway will provide tangible benefits to Africa. The EU will need to demonstrate how it can support much-needed investment into climate resilience across key sectors, such as water, agriculture and broader infrastructure. Cross-continental adaptation action could include actions for the ocean and blue economy, as well as how to make the most of the use of AI and space technologies.**

Most African countries are still building much of their infrastructure for the century ahead, which gives them a valuable opportunity to leapfrog straight to climate resilient design, as opposed to the EU's vast retrofitting task. **As part of the Global Gateway offer, European financing institutions should broaden their external portfolios to encompass adaptation, despite the less appealing returns, longer time horizons and less certain risk profiles than mitigation actions.** Use of de-risking mechanisms such as guarantees, technical assistance and better risk assessments would tie in well with the AfDB's current strategic focus on sustainable infrastructure.

**Europe may also want to look at how its adaptation, soil and starfish missions under the Green Deal might generate regional lesson-learning and a platform for mutual exchange with African counterparts - and what these missions could learn from African expertise in tackling the impacts of climate change.**

Building a stronger partnership between the EU and Africa on adaptation will demand that the EU listens to Africa, builds trust, finds the right counterparts - and above all, avoids overpromising and then under-delivering. Whilst the EU is a leader amongst donor nations on climate finance, it is much more likely to achieve the strong partnership it seeks with Africa if a balanced approach between adaptation and mitigation dominates its climate discussions, rather than focusing largely on cutting greenhouse gases. **The EU needs to consider the long-term vision of the AU, and its members states, and the trade-offs in addressing climate change actions. It should also prioritise improving access to finance for adaptation initiatives, processes and procedures and implementation.**

The Global Gateway initiative will need to prove its relevance to Africa's pressing climate resilience concerns, and pay more than lip service to African concerns about climate vulnerability if it is to make good on its latest partnership aspirations. A true partnership demands a long-term approach, agreeing joint responsibilities, and a willingness to adapt as circumstances change. As we have seen in recent months, geo-political change is here to stay, bringing new threats to food security and the basics of life. The EU and Africa need to talk frankly to build their common future in an uncertain world.



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