

WE CARE, WE DARE, WE ACT.

Development and climate goals at serious risk.

The shared complex, overlapping challenges we face today are too great for individual, isolated responses. With less than forty days to the opening of COP27 in Egypt, and no sign of the needed progress with cuts to greenhouse gas emissions and climate financing, many promises made earlier look in peril. Russia's invasion of the Ukraine has generated multiple adverse consequences, both directly for the Ukrainian people, and more broadly for global cohesion. Price hikes and supply shortages for food, fuel, fertiliser and finance have hit Africa and Europe, distracting political attention from wider collective goals, including on energy access, development and climate finance. Many developed countries are experiencing a set of major economic shocks and associated political impacts, yet such crises have been the common experience over decades for many African countries. Stopping Russia's war in the Ukraine, and conflicts in Ethiopia and the Sahel, are top priorities to put us back on track and direct the attention of world leaders towards the humanitarian and climate emergency.

The "cost of living crisis" and inflationary pressures mean that many developed countries are not focused on the climate emergency, despite unprecedented heat and drought across Europe in the last few months, and the highly visible climate disasters seen in Pakistan, Bangladesh, Somalia, Puerto Rico and many other parts of the developing world. While the ongoing conflict in Ukraine is seen as an excuse for inaction by some, the associated energy crunch as winter approaches inevitably has huge political salience in all parts of Europe. Action by the international community is failing in both speed and scale, as all countries seek to manage the economic, health and environmental shocks of the last few years. But while recession and inflation look daunting, they can be survived, whereas we cannot hope to survive irreversible climate chaos. We are in the last stretch when we can still win against climate change, and must grasp this last moment of opportunity for our generation to provide a better future for generations to come.

We must ask: Is the message about climate impacts in Africa and elsewhere not getting through? What messaging would break open the increasingly inward politics in much of Europe and other parts of the world? These next few years provide a small chance of keeping climate change at manageable levels, but we must wake up to the risks we face today and in future years, which are being decided by our leaders in these next few weeks. We can and must do things differently, and have a responsibility to be vocal. As we move from the 77th General Assembly of the United Nations towards COP27, leaders must match their commitments with action, recognising that we have all had enough of empty promises.

Actions to be taken.

We have a yawning gap between where we are now and ambitions for COP27. **Developed countries must re-engage on high ambition climate actions to re-build trust with African countries.** Despite its difficult, damaging consequences in both Africa and Europe, we must not let the invasion of Ukraine be an excuse for detaching from the essential global work needed on delivering energy access, climate action and finance. The hike in energy prices has hit many people hard, but it should provoke accelerated investment in both energy efficiency and renewable power generation. A nationalistic political focus may be tempting for countries confronting energy and food insecurity, but outward engagement is utterly key if we are to use our collective strengths and complementarities. We must use the IMF and WB autumn meetings, and G20 to build on work at UNGA77 to reaffirm the vital importance of multilateralism in advance of COP27.



We have the solutions and the finance to bring down carbon emissions and build more resilient societies. **Let's focus on fast-tracking implementation of low carbon solutions.** The science tells us what needs to be done, and equally what we must stop doing. Just as one example, we must convert the \$1.8tr spent annually on harmful public subsidies which intensify carbon emissions, and repurpose this for climate action and energy transitions.

Financial commitments need to be implemented. Successive empty promises fuel growing distrust, frustration and anger. The \$100bn so often discussed at COP since 2009 is but a small fraction of what is needed. And it represents a rounding error when compared with the enormous sums found for pandemic measures, estimated at \$14tr. We have big questions to resolve around climate funding post 2025. Should development funds and climate finance be brought together, or are there significant risks of losing additionality, and the overall pot decreasing? How can Africa best benefit from carbon markets and can Europe offer support to develop these market structures? How can access to climate finance be made less complex? Many funds are not accessible to governments and local people needing help. Finance delivery would help rebuild trust.

The Loss and Damage debate has become locked, with little movement within the negotiation process. Developed country governments are worried about historical emissions and recognising liability, yet **we must move beyond the Loss & Damage stand-off which risks de-railing COP27.** Given the macro-economic losses and damages resulting from climate change, the imperative for action is clear, so we need to mobilise civil society and multi-generational voices with moral authority such that developed country governments find it politically impossible not to move, and identify new funding streams that can accelerate implementation. We must explore the readiness of European and African countries to work together with continental and international financial institutions, to create a Loss and Damage Facility, towards which existing and new funding mechanisms could be directed. Denmark's funding pledge towards Loss and Damage is a very welcome step. Europe as a whole needs to demonstrate a distinct shift in position, and offer prospects for recycled SDRs for loss and damage and debt-for-climate and nature swaps.

Public funds must be focused on those actions which private investment flows will never address. A step-change in investment flows is needed to unlock energy access across Africa and speed up the clean energy transition in Europe, mobilising domestic and foreign flows.

More generally, in addressing the multiple, overlapping crises we face, **we should embrace Prime Minister Mottley's Bridgetown Initiative**, by combining immediate feasible steps to show progress in dealing with financial and fiscal stresses, alongside investment in scaling up innovation and low carbon development, and structural changes to transform global governance and financial systems better to reflect the world of today and tomorrow. On structural change, let us back the call of the AEF for the African Union to become the 21st Member of the G20, given the urgency for Africa to take a more active role in the global crises that are shaping the continent's destiny.

None of the above will take us far unless we get war in Europe and Africa to stop, and to start to invest in building peace. The Russia-Ukraine conflict has poisoned global relations and multiplied the difficulties of reaching international agreement at a time when we need collective action more than ever.