

**Draft RESOLUTION No. 1/CXII/21
OF THE 112th SESSION OF THE OACPS COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
HELD BY VIDEOCONFERENCE ON 7 AND 8 JULY 2021**

**CLIMATE ACTION IN PREPARATION FOR THE 26TH SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE
CHANGE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES (COP26)**

The OACPS Council of Ministers,

- Meeting by videoconference on 7 and 8 July 2021,
- A. **HAVING REGARD** to the Georgetown Agreement, as revised by Decision No. 1/CX/19 of the 110th Session of the ACP Council of Ministers, held in Nairobi, Kenya, on 7 December 2019, and endorsed by the 9th Summit of ACP Heads of State and Government, held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 9 to 10 December 2019;
- B. **HAVING REGARD ALSO** to paragraphs 20 and 21 of the Nairobi *Nguvu Ya Pamoja* Declaration endorsed by the 9th Summit of ACP Heads of State and Government;
- C. **HAVING REGARD** to the new OACPS-EU Partnership Agreement initialled on 15 April 2021;
- D. **HAVING REGARD ALSO** to the 2018 Special Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)ⁱ on the impact of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty;
- E. **HAVING REGARD** to the UN Decade of Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration 2021 – 2030ⁱⁱ and the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development 2021- 2030ⁱⁱⁱ;
- F. **NOTING WITH CONCERN** the increasing frequency and severity of climate-related disasters that have affected many members of the OACPS, including cyclones/hurricanes, storms, floods, fires, droughts, coastal erosion, and sea-level rise, which have an impact on OACPS peoples' lives, health and wellbeing, livelihoods, and ecosystems;^{iv}
- G. **FURTHER NOTING** that even though members of the OACPS have contributed little to greenhouse gas emissions, they are some of the countries that are most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, due to numerous existing exogenous shocks and stresses, ranging from low adaptive capacity to intrinsic exposure to climate change due to geographical conditions. Other existing stresses include poverty, political conflicts, population growth, and ecosystem and environmental degradation;

- H. **ACKNOWLEDGING** the interlinkages between the global challenges of biodiversity loss, climate change, and environmental degradation, **noting** the positive contribution of ecosystem-based approaches in addressing these challenges, and **highlighting** the important need to conserve and protect forest cover in this context;
- I. **FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING** the urgent need to secure food systems transformation, to ensure that food security and nutrition are the foundation of a healthy population^v;
- J. **CONVEYING** the devastating socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the members and peoples of the OACPS, as well as its compounding effects on the climate crisis, biodiversity loss, and environmental degradation, but **noting** that COVID-19 must not be used as an excuse by developed Country Parties to backslide on their mitigation targets/contributions and promises to annually mobilise climate finance to support the needs of developing countries;
- K. **EXPRESSING** deep concern regarding the challenges faced by members of the OACPS to access appropriate and at-scale climate finance due to burdensome accreditation, project identification, and preparation and approval processes, despite increasing demands for climate finance to achieve climate mitigation and adaptation objectives;
- L. **REAFFIRMING** the OACPS' commitment to the implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including Sustainable Development Goal 13 (SDG13) on Climate Action;
- M. **REAFFIRMING ALSO** the OACPS' commitment to the full and effective implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol, and the Paris Agreement;
- N. **REITERATING** the OACPS' commitment to the attainment of the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement for the security and prosperity of its peoples and of Planet Earth;
- O. **REAFFIRMING** the OACPS' commitment to promoting coherent policies and strategies at all levels, in order to identify vulnerabilities and other drivers of risk;
- P. **NOTING** with serious concern the Initial 2021 NDC Synthesis Report, showing that the current aggregate effects of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) collectively fall far short of the level of ambition urgently needed to achieve the Paris Agreement goal of limiting global temperature rise by 2°C and ideally to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels;

- Q. **FURTHER NOTING** that even with the implementation of the encouraging commitments announced during the US President's Leaders' Summit on Climate, the emissions gap will only narrow by 11 to 14%, and a further reduction of 20 to 23 GtCO₂ will be required to stay on an emissions trajectory needed to remain below 1.5°C;
1. **Commits** to cooperate on enhanced disaster risk reduction and resilience to the short and long-term impacts of disasters, and to pay particular attention to promoting coordination, complementarity, and synergies between disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation strategies;
 2. **Reaffirms** its existing commitment to strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, from all countries, and **Calls** on all Parties to commit to further strengthening their greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets in the next round of NDCs, and to enhance their adaptation actions and ambition, with developed countries scaling up technical and financial support, including capacity building for and technology transfer to developing countries;
 3. **Reiterates** the urgency of taking action to address climate change, ensuring that adaptation is given the same treatment as mitigation; that transparent, at-scale, appropriate, easily accessible, additional and predictable financial resources are made available in order to support climate adaptation and resilience building initiatives, specifically for the most vulnerable countries, such as OACPS Small Island Developing States (SIDS), low-lying coastal countries, Least Developed Countries (LDCs), and Land-locked Least Developed Countries (LLDCs);
 4. **Calls** for global momentum to accelerate action on adaptation and **Welcomes** the continued efforts of members of the OACPS, regional agencies and non-state actors to transition to low greenhouse gas emissions development and climate resilient economies, as exemplified in their ambitious revised NDCs^{vi};
 5. **Stresses** that flexibility should be afforded to developing countries in the submission of NDCs based on varying national circumstances, and urges the COP26 to adopt a decision on the implementation timeframe.

6. **Calls** for additional support, including easily accessible, long-term and predictable finance for the urgent implementation of adaptation actions, National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), and the adaptation component of NDCs for all 79 members of the OACPS, particularly African countries, SIDS, LDCs and LLDCs, which are most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change;
7. **Calls also** for further guidance on Adaptation Communications as important documents in the context of the ongoing discussions on the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) and to inform the Global Stocktake. Further **Calls** for the Communications to include priorities for support needs, plans, and actions, and to be an integral part of NAPs, NDCs, or national communications, and to not create additional reporting burdens for developing countries, noting in particular challenges related to adaptation data – including types, availability, collection and assessments;
8. **Stresses** that adaptation should be given greater prominence at COP26, with a clearly articulated GGA, with relevant processes on how to measure progress, and with clear methodologies on how to translate the GGA into national frameworks, complemented by the development and application of risk-informed methodologies for assessing adaptation needs through the development of climate services for adaptation^{vii}, provisions for adequate finance, capacity building, and technology support, particularly for developing countries;
9. **Emphasises** the importance of addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including extreme weather events and slow onset events. Loss and Damage must be included in the operationalisation of the Paris Agreement;
10. **Looks forward** to strong leadership from developed countries at COP26, to provide clarity, certainty and predictability on how they will redouble their long-term commitments to mobilise at least US\$100 billion in climate finance in the post-2020 period and beyond, as well as mechanisms to coherently access and canalise that finance;
11. **Welcomes** the launch of the deliberations on the new collective quantified goal (post-2025) on finance that will start at COP26;
12. **Calls** for decisions on modalities for biannually communicating finance information, from developed countries, while reflecting the needs of vulnerable countries, and providing clarity on how to scale up climate finance beyond the current US\$100 billion commitment;

13. **Calls also** on the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and the Adaptation Fund (AF) to expedite work on simplifying and facilitating access to impactful financial resources, in particular for African countries, LDCs, and SIDS, in the context of their national climate strategies and plans, taking into account the actions needed to maintain global temperature rise below 1.5°C, as highlighted in the IPCC Special Report on 1.5°C;
14. **Stresses** that work on Market Mechanisms, under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, includes safeguards to avoid double counting and ensures environmental integrity, while at the same time facilitating the implementation of NDCs and progressively more ambitious mitigation efforts by Parties. The OACPS recognises that Parties can choose voluntary cooperation to implement their NDCs, to allow for higher ambition both in their mitigation and adaptation actions, and to promote sustainable development and environmental integrity. Consideration should also be given to the possibility of leveraging Article 6.4 to enhance the scope of mitigation actions by linking them to adaptation or contributing towards enhancing climate adaptation actions through a predictable source of financing;
15. **Emphasises** that the first global stocktake, which is due to take place in 2023, should be undertaken in a comprehensive and facilitative manner, taking into consideration mitigation, adaptation, and the means of implementation and support, and remaining mindful of equity and the best available science;
16. **Recognises** the importance for Parties to prepare and submit the first biennial transparency reports by 2024, and to implement the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) under the Paris Agreement, and henceforth **calls** for the development of common modalities, procedures and guidelines (MPGs)^{viii} for the ETF to promote effective implementation and provide a clear understanding of the climate change actions to be undertaken, ensuring to include the principles of:
 - No backsliding to enhance existing arrangements under the Convention;
 - Different starting points providing flexibility for developing countries;
 - Improvement over time with support to be provided to developing countries on a continuous basis, to build transparency-related capacity over time; and,
 - Incorporating loss and damage reporting, and linking it to the Global Stocktake;
17. **Stresses** the importance of COVID-19 recovery finance and debt reduction strategies in achieving the long-term temperature goal of the Paris Agreement and supporting national and/or sectoral climate actions for the most climate-vulnerable;

18. **Promotes** mutually reinforcing solutions to the biodiversity, land degradation, and climate challenge, highlighting the role of ecosystem-based approaches and land use that have dual adaptation and mitigation benefits;
19. **Emphasises** the importance of highlighting Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE), under Article 12 of the Paris Agreement, balancing its six elements (education, training, public awareness, public participation, public access to information, and international cooperation) and providing clarity on the next steps to structure a successor to the Doha Work Programme;
20. **Reiterates** the OACPS' commitment to working together and with partners, to support ambitious climate action and seek further opportunities to receive and mobilise access to climate finance in support of OACPS actions relating to adaptation, mitigation, and building resilience to climate change, noting ongoing recovery efforts to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic; and
21. **Seeks and calls** for further means of implementation and investment towards the full and effective implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Paris Agreement.
22. **Decides** that the current resolution will be used as a basis for international cooperation with the European Union, including the possibility of adopting joint positions, during the 26th Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 26) to the UNFCCC

Done at Honiara, 8 July 2021

End Notes

ⁱ https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2018/10/SR15_SPM_version_stand_alone_LR.pdf

ⁱⁱ <https://www.decadeonrestoration.org/>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://oceandecade.org/>

^{iv} 9th Summit of Heads of State and Government Declaration Paragraph 22.

^v 9th Summit of Heads of State and Government Declaration Paragraph 25

^{vi} <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NDCStaging/Pages/All.aspx>

^{vii} According to **Decision 11/CMA.1 COP24 of UNFCCC**, under "Methodologies for assessing adaptation needs with a view to assisting developing countries, calls on the UN World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) to report regularly on the global status of climate services, in terms of assessing the adaptation needs and their application, as well as on the related gaps, good practices, lessons learned, and guidelines, for consideration and further guidance by the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice at its fifty-seventh session (November 2022), in the context of its consideration of the report of the Adaptation Committee". The intra-ACP – ClimSA Programme is instrumental for the OACPS to report progress on the matter.

^{viii} Annexe to Decision 18/CMA.1