

COP21: RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CLIMATE & DEVELOPMENT NETWORK

The COP21 will be held in Paris in December 2015 and will lead to a global agreement on fighting climate change. On this occasion, the 75 member organizations of the Climate & Development Network (RC&D) united their voices to call on donors, governments, and negotiators to support and invest in low-carbon and climate-resilient development.



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An agreement that protects and reinforces human rights and gender equality

For full climate justice, the agreement signed in Paris will have to acknowledge the specific vulnerabilities of the most affected populations, including women and indigenous communities, and protect their rights. This is the key for success in fighting climate change.

Donors, African governments, and the COP21 can and must:

- Incorporate human rights and gender equality in policies, programs, mechanisms, and projects at all levels.
- Strengthen participation by local and indigenous populations and by women in all stages of the planning process of policies, programs, and projects at the local, national, and international levels.
- Promote and strengthen the principles of transparency and accountability via reporting, monitoring, verification, appeal, and sanction mechanisms in the event of non-respect by financial partners or states
- Analyze vulnerabilities and specificities, in order to better identify the needs of the most vulnerable local communities. Based on this analysis, determine more indicators that are sensitive to gender and human rights in climate policies and projects.
- Provide capacity building for administration and civil society stakeholders on issues related to gender and human rights.
- Eliminate discriminations, in order to facilitate access to land and to ecological and financial resources by women and indigenous populations.

An agreement that finances the fight against climate change in the poorest and most vulnerable countries

Climate financing for the poorest and most vulnerable countries is often neglected in negotiations and in the fight against climate change. The COP21 must demonstrate that commitments will be respected and that new commitments will be made to respond to the climate emergency in the countries suffering the most.

Donors can and must:

- Guarantee and implement direct accessibility to financing, by giving priority to the most vulnerable populations, in particular indigenous populations and women.
- Encourage and develop governance and financing for and by Africa, through support for the creation or reinforcement of national bodies, direct access to financing, and active participation by African civil society.
- Draw up a list of undertakings that should be excluded from climate and development financing: fossil fuels, «false solutions» like nuclear energy, GMOs, carbon capture and storage (CCS), climate-smart agriculture (CSA), and projects harmful to social and environmental rights.

African governments can and must:

- Consolidate their institutional framework as well as national bodies and policies; engage in capacity building, so as to develop projects eligible for and able to receive international financing.
- Incorporate climate budgets into national and local development and planning programs.
- Establish and reinforce a mechanism for monitoring and evaluating financial flows and needs at the country level.

The COP21 can and must:

- Devote at least 50% of public financing to adaptation, in the form of donations and funds that must come on top of Official Development Assistance.

- Increase the volume of climate financing that goes through UNFCCC funds, in particular the Green Climate Fund and the Adaptation Fund.
- Guarantee the additionality of the commitments and the prioritization of public financing and donations; this public financing and its links with private financing must be entered into accounts clearly and precisely.
- Create innovative financing such as the tax on financial transactions and that on maritime and aviation emissions.
- Put an end to all financing by public financial institutions that is harmful to the climate, and redirect it to low-carbon and resilient development that generates social and environmental impacts that are proven to be positive.
- Between now and the COP21, adopt a roadmap that will clarify how the commitment of 100 billion dollars per year by 2020 will be met, and according to what intermediary steps. This roadmap must provide for financing that is mostly public and that will give priority to adaptation.
- For the developed countries, guarantee that their post-2020 financial commitments will be public and will give priority to adaptation. These commitments must be separate from those devoted to the financial mechanism for loss and damage.
- Set up a monitoring and evaluation mechanism on financial flows and needs in the Paris agreement as well as at the national level—especially in the NAPAs, the NAPs, and the «national contributions» (INDCs)—and guarantee that they are periodically revised according to mitigation patterns and climate change scenarios.



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An agreement that massively invests in access to sustainable energy services for all

The last IPCC report was very clear: we must start now to speed up our efforts to reduce emissions, especially by giving up fossil fuels definitively and by investing massively in renewable energy and energy efficiency. This transition is not only possible but desirable, including in the countries that are the poorest and that emit the least amount of GHGs, because it makes it possible to reach the objectives of universal access to energy.

Donors can and must:

- Decrease and gradually give up direct and indirect subsidies for fossil fuels. Instead, renewable and energy-efficient energy should be subsidized, with the priority target being sustainable energy systems that have the greatest impact on development and the climate.
- Guarantee that the projects financed are transparent and entered into accounts; that they are subject to impact analysis; and that they have grassroots stakeholders participate in them, upstream and downstream.
- Work along with states and regions in developing energy strategies and programs to provide access to sustainable energy services at the regional level; help incorporate those strategies and programs into sectoral policies.

African governments can and must:

- Mobilize their own additional financing to provide for the implementation of renewable energies and energy efficiency.
- Set up legislative, technical, and financial mechanisms to encourage the production and sales of sustainable energy services adapted to people's needs and ensure the development of local value chains.

- Ensure that technological projects and solutions meet local needs; see to their ownership by the local population; make sure they take into account human rights and gender inequalities.
- Provide local authorities with legal and financial resources so that they are able to provide energy to their community, and set up a funding mechanism for local communities for their energy policy.
- Promote exchanges of good practice and technology transfer.
- Develop roadmaps that are transparent and explicit with regard to development of renewable energy and energy efficiency. They should state intermediary objectives and the corresponding financial needs. These roadmaps should appear in the «national contributions» (INDC) for post-2020.

The COP21 can and must:

- Strengthen, starting now, the existing commitments by the developing countries to reduce their GHG emissions before 2020.
- Increase post-2020 country climate commitments (INDCs) well before the Paris agreement comes into force.
- Strengthen access to renewable energy in the poorest countries, especially by providing financial and technological support.

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An agreement that enables the most vulnerable populations to deal with the impacts of climate change

Adaptation is the no. 1 priority of the least developed countries and their populations, especially in Africa. It should be given the same importance as mitigation in the agreement to be adopted in Paris and in financing strategies.

Donors and African governments can and must:

- Increase adaptation financing in the most affected countries.
- Guarantee access to resilient means of subsistence as well as the respect of human rights and of gender equality through adaptation practices.
- Give priority to adaptation by local and indigenous communities and by the most vulnerable groups, including women, as well as to community-based adaptation.
- Enhance the status of traditional and indigenous knowledge, capitalize on good practices, and promote the spread of climate information and innovations.

- Incorporate—for greater coherence—adaptation in all development, anti-poverty, and sectoral plans.
- Allocate national and local budgets for adaptation, and make national climate-change windows operational.
- Strengthen the capacities and participation of civil society for the implementation of adaptation policies and projects.

The COP21 can and must:

- Create a Global Adaptation Goal within the Paris agreement that can evolve according to mitigation and warming patterns. This means that the adaptation needs of the most vulnerable countries will increase or decrease according to the international community's efforts to reduce emissions.

An agreement that preserves food security and the climate by investing massively in family farming and agro-ecology

Agriculture, and hence food security, are directly threatened by climate change. At the same time, industrial agriculture is responsible for a growing proportion of greenhouse gas emissions. With this as a background, the COP21 must take action on agricultural sector emissions and at the same time preserve and support low-emission and resilient agricultural models that guarantee food security.

Donors, African governments, and the COP21 can and must:

- Give priority to family farming and their agro-ecological practices, given their crucial role in food security.
- Refuse that climate change becomes an alibi for developing an agricultural model based on the promotion of agribusiness and GMOs.
- Subject all agricultural and food security projects to prior impact studies, especially with regard to human, environmental, and social rights.

The COP21 can and must:

- Incorporate food security—and hence the promotion of family farming and agro-ecology—so that it becomes operational in the Paris agreement: it must be included in the preamble, the overall objectives, and the chapter on adaptation.

- Acknowledge the fact that it is mainly industrial agriculture that is responsible for agricultural emissions, and do not allow the agricultural sector to compensate for industrial-sector emissions.
- Require that the mitigation actions linked to land use, including carbon storage, do not negatively impact food security.
- Refuse the inclusion of the climate-smart agriculture concept and the Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture (GACSA) in the Paris agreement and in the agenda of solutions.



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LE RC&D

The Climate & Development Network (in French "Réseau Climat & Développement") was formed in 2007 at the initiative of ENDA Energie, Réseau Action Climat, and Fondation Nicolas Hulot. The network consists of 75 French-speaking organizations, mainly from Africa, which work for the integration of climate and development issues and for greater climate justice. It takes action on these issues through local projects in the field and advocacy actions (both national and international) to promote renewable energy, defend innovative financing, and take into account adaptation in local and international planning.

THE RC&D WORKSHOP IN PARIS

The Climate & Development Network held its 9th annual workshop on 14–18 April 2015, in Paris. Nearly 60 French-speaking participants from Africa and France attended this annual gathering of the network's members and partners. It targeted six core themes of climate and development issues for Africa: energy, adaptation, climate change financing, agriculture and food security, gender equality, and human rights.

THE RC&D MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS:

West Africa: REPAO, WWF-Wamer.
Algeria: Amis de la Saoura, ARCE.
Benin: CREDEL, Eco-Bénin, Eco-Ecolo, CDBIBA, OFEDI, JVE, IDID.
Burkina Faso: AFEP, WEP, ABTNDDE, Enviroptek, SPONG.
Burundi: Avochaclisd.
Cameroon: Horizon Vert, Carré Géo Environnement, CCDEAH, ADD, ADEID, ACAMEE, CENAH.
Congo: ACDA.
Ivory Coast: Solutions Climat, Enviescience, JVE, AFHON.
Djibouti: EVA.
France: ACF, Fondation Nicolas Hulot, HELIO, RAC-F, Energies 2050, Rain Drop.
Guinea: Guinée Écologie, Germanwatch.
Mauritius: Maudesco, DION.
Mali:

FEMNET, MFC, AFAD, Amade Pelcode, CTESA, Réso Climat.
Mauritania: ANPEC, TEMNYIA, SOS Oasis.
Morocco: AH&E, AZIR, AESVT.
Niger: Demi-E, LEAD, EDER, RJNCC, JVE.
CAR: Ursad.
DRC: OCEAN, ACIDI, Planète Verte, ADC.
Sao Tome and Principe: Sitio do Ecuador.
Senegal: ENDA, ARAFE, ASESCAW, ADARS, CONGAD.
Togo: JVE, Amis de la Terre, MVC, ANCE, AFHON, RJE, ODIH, OPED, ASED.
Tchad: LEAD, AFPAT.
Tunisia: 2C2D, ATPNE.

