



Réseau Climat & Développement's (RC&D) position paper for COP22

The Paris Agreement adopted in December 2015 is the first climate Agreement committing all countries of the world. In order to enter into force, it needed to be ratified by at least 55 of the states covering 55% of greenhouse gas global emissions. The first step was reached on September 21st and the second on October 5th, therefore taking less than a year for the Agreement to be effective. It will come into force on November 4th 2016. It is a powerful symbol proving that climate issues remain a top priority. Some good news were also recorded, such as the ever-faster development of renewable energies, which could guarantee universal access to energy for African populations by 2030. But the Agreement's entry into force and this good news are insufficient to guarantee climate justice. The Agreement only serves as a basis for guiding principles, which now need to be developed, refined, and above all implemented.

The greenhouse gas emissions pathway set by the countries' national contributions insures a global warming of approximately +3°C by the end of the century. This level of temperature rise would have disastrous effects, while the impacts of climate change are incrementally visible on the African continent. A global warming of +2°C would already be a major threat to food security on the continent and to ecosystems, and would have consequences on the livelihoods and means of subsistence of the most vulnerable populations. Countries will therefore need to review and improve their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) very quickly in order to stabilise global warming under the 2°/1,5°C threshold. They will thus be able to respect the Paris Agreement commitments and avoid irreversible consequences in the most affected countries.

The COP22, held in Marrakech, Morocco, from the 7th to the 18th of November, must follow through the momentum built in Paris. It is first and foremost an African COP, which should focus on the specific needs of the most vulnerable countries and populations, whether it be for climate finance, adaptation, access to energy or human rights. It must also establish clear rules for the implementation of the Agreement, to make it robust and transparent while taking in consideration countries capacities. Lastly, COP22 is the "action COP": it must show that many climate initiatives are carried on after COP21 and become projects, programs and concrete action plans, particularly in the poorest countries, in order to respond to the twofold fight against climate change and poverty.

1. Provide climate finance on par with the stakes

Considering the climate emergency we are facing, the Paris Agreement didn't meet the high expectations in terms of financial commitments. The cost of climate change already represents a major obstacle to the eradication of poverty. According to the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), the annual cost of adaptation could reach between 140 and 300 billion dollars a year by 2030 in developing countries. This cost in Africa alone could reach 50 billion dollars per year in 2050. In the face of such alarming situation, developed

countries should provide climate finance on par with the stakes, new and additional to development assistance. The promise made in Copenhagen in 2009 to provide 100 billion US dollars a year by 2020 must be respected in order to rebuild a shaken confidence with the poorest countries. The release of the roadmap for the 100 billion dollars per year by 2020 is insufficient and shall be completed at COP22.

For COP22, RC&D recommends:

1. **The implementation of a quantified target to fund adaptation up until 2020**, when it is currently only 16% of allocated climate finance, with a view to strike a balance between adaptation and mitigation;
2. **The development of a clear, transparent and common accounting system, specifying the nature of allocated funds**, in order to obtain further information on the quality of raised funds, avoid double counting and guarantee the amount of grant-based public finance;
3. **Speed up the development of innovative finance sources** such as financial transactions tax.

2. Make adaptation a top priority for Africa

Despite the international community's stated determination to assist vulnerable communities' adaptation plans, climate change carries down the path of desolation, notably so in the less advanced countries. According to data published by the American government, 2015 was the hottest year ever recorded since the early days of meteorological reports. In Africa, countries south of the Saharan desert such as Sudan, Eritrea, Ethiopia or Djibouti suffer from drought; others like Kenya, Somalia and Uganda face the dangers of flooding. The implementation of the Paris Agreement principles is urgent and needs to be reinforced as soon as possible in order to avoid catastrophic consequences for vulnerable communities, to facilitate adaptation and limit the impacts of loss and damage. Adaptation should be a priority, and as such be translated into action at the national level.

For COP22, RC&D recommends:

1. **To define adaptation as an upmost priority for Africa** and developing countries, by promoting the implementation of concrete field initiatives increasing the resilience of the most vulnerable populations;
2. **To support further work on loss and damage by reviewing the Warsaw International Mechanism**, so as to adopt an ambitious working plan clarifying the definition of loss and damage and addressing the operational issues for L&D finance;
3. **To prepare, as of COP22, the facilitative dialogue of 2018, to ensure countries raise their climate ambition** in order to avoid unprecedented climate disasters for the planet and the most vulnerable populations.

3. Use the tremendous potential of renewable energies

Over two thirds of Africans, being approximately 621 million people, still don't have access to electricity. Yet by choosing to massively develop renewable energies, the African continent could offer a development model that would contribute to the global reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, while facilitating the execution of daily tasks, including for women, with transversal benefits on health, education and employment. The transition

towards renewable energies could therefore create a virtuous circle to fight both climate change and poverty. Yet the Paris Agreement's failure to account for the issue of energy remains a major challenge for COP22. COP22 must take into consideration the needs of the most vulnerable populations, not by building extensive and polluting coal power plants, but by introducing renewable energy sources for the benefit of local populations, through off-grid and subsidised renewable energy and energy efficiency projects.

For COP22, RC&D recommends:

1. **Explicit acknowledgment in COP22 decisions of the importance of renewable energies to reach the objectives of the Paris Agreement**, including regarding financial and technological mechanisms;
2. **The quick implementation of the African Renewable Energy Initiative**, by funding in priority off-grid projects meeting the needs of the most vulnerable populations, adopting a gender-sensitive approach and promoting human rights;
3. **The genuine participation of civil society in the operationalization of the African Renewable Energy Initiative**, through capacity building and involvement in decision-making processes.

4. Protect food security and fight false solutions in agriculture

According to FAO's latest report, over 800 million people suffer from starvation nowadays, being 11.3% of the world population. The primary mean guaranteeing food security that is agriculture is severely impacted by climate change. In Sub-Saharan Africa, a warming of approximately 2°C would lead to a 10% decrease in global agricultural yield by 2050, whilst a higher warming could bring that figure to 15, even 20%. If the Paris Agreement preamble recognises as a "fundamental priority" to protect food security and end world hunger, none of its provisions provide guidance on how to achieve these goals. Essential questions on food security remain unanswered. These primarily include land use and negative emissions - for which the Paris Agreement is likely to accentuate competition over access to land and the dynamic of land grabbing - but also the role of agriculture, particularly family farming, in the implementation of the Agreement.

For COP22, RC&D recommends:

1. **The extension of the SBSTA work program related to agriculture beyond 2016**, enlarged to food security and nutrition issues, with particular attention given to family farming;
2. **The creation of a framework to ensure that "land use" and "negative emissions" aren't detrimental to human rights and food security** through the adoption of clear and transparent principles. This framework should also insist on funding mechanisms for family farming;
3. **The reinforcement of collaborations between various international agendas** such as the Rio Conventions, the Committee on World Food Security and the FAO, and the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development Goals.

5. Promote a gender-sensitive approach in all climate policies

In developing countries, women continue to be particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Their livelihoods depend substantially on natural resources impacted by climate hazards and their social roles entrench greater inequalities and vulnerabilities. Yet women can offer innovative answers and also play an essential role in the fight against climate change by providing much-needed and concrete solutions. The inclusion of a gender approach in climate issues is therefore vital and makes reference to the promotion of gender equality in all environmental, economic and social policies and fair participation in political processes. The Paris Agreement admitted the necessary integration of gender principles, however it failed to define clear guidelines to encourage all actors to make these principles operational and to implement them in their strategies. The urgent need to act must not be achieved at any cost and certainly not to the expense of those most affected by climate change.

For COP22, RC&D recommends:

1. **The review of the Lima work-program on gender in order to pursue the inclusion of gender in international negotiations**, with a working plan defining objectives, scheduled activities and providing the human and financial means necessary to its implementation;
2. **The operationalization of the gender approach in the Paris Agreement**, by ensuring that all mechanisms implemented under the climate agenda integrate safeguards to protect and promote gender equality, especially within the Action Agenda.

6. Reconcile the fight against climate change with the respect of human rights

Climate change is a threat to poor populations whose survival depends on the production and preservation of natural resources. In Africa, this represents approximately 80% of the global population, living mainly in rural areas. Moreover, climate change is occasionally the source of cross-community conflicts and even contributes to the countries' political instability. The number of climate migrants and refugees never ceases to grow. The consequences of climate change on human rights are varied and strengthen one another. These populations' survival is in the hands of international negotiators who are, most of the time, unaware of the reality on the ground. Despite the mention to human rights in the preamble of the Paris Agreement, there are still some major insufficiencies in the inclusion of human rights in the fight against climate change. It involves the risk of implementing climate actions that wouldn't contribute to the development and rights of affected populations. Worse, it could result in human rights violations. These gaps must be filled at COP22.

For COP22, RC&D recommends:

1. **The integration of human rights and social principles at the heart of commitment and review cycles** (NDCs, transparency framework, global stocktake) as part of the Paris Agreement;
2. **The promotion of capacity building to help countries include human rights** in their NDCs and the establishment of a watch committee for the implementation of human rights commitments;
3. **The reinforcement of non-state actors' responsibility including private actors**, by creating exclusion lists and safeguards for initiatives included in the Action Agenda.