



COP 23 :

RC&D POSITION PAPER

FOR AN INCLUSIVE, JUST AND AMBITIOUS CLIMATE REGIME

The Paris agreement came into force on November 4th 2016: ratified by 162 Parties representing close to 86% of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions¹, the Paris agreement represents a symbolical victory that must now be strengthened in order to limit GHG emissions and stabilize global temperature rise to 2°C, tending towards 1.5°C. The urgency of a fair implementation of the Paris agreement must be a priority for political leaders as climate change threatens directly living conditions all over the world and hinders the development of the most vulnerable countries, especially in Africa and Small Island

Developing States (SIDS). The multiplication of extreme weather events –shown by the increasing intensity and frequency of hurricanes and record high temperatures in 2017-, the progression of hunger worldwide and the increasingly alarmist calls from scientists on climate² are signals requiring an ambitious political response. **In order to ensure a fair implementation of the Paris agreement, it is necessary to drastically reduce GHG emissions as quickly as possible and to help the poorest populations to adapt to the impacts of climate change.**

COP 23 is the conference of the last chance, and requires the proactivity of Parties, an ambitious implementation of the Paris agreement and international solidarity for climate justice. The Fiji islands, representing one of the most affected countries by climate change, are the incoming Presidency for COP 23. They should therefore take into account the most vulnerable populations by allowing them to fulfil their climate ambitions. Access to funding, implementation of adaptation projects, consideration of gender and human rights issues, access to renewable energies and food security are priorities for African populations. COP 23 should not only reaffirm that these issues ought to be taken into account in the drafting of the implementation rules of the Paris agreement; it should also first and foremost enable their concrete realisation in developing countries by providing them with the required institutional and financial support. More than ever, climate urgency requires the reinforcement of international solidarity.

COP 23 is also the anchoring point to define the method and conditions of the implementation of the Paris agreement: it is during this occasion that implementation guidelines must be drafted. These rules shall form a strong basis for an ambitious and fair implementation of the Paris agreement, based on transparency and inclusive governance for all the concerned actors. 2018 facilitation dialogue is an opportunity to increase national climate commitments and should be launched by the end of the year in order to spring a political dynamic towards increased ambitions.

Réseau Climat & Développement (RC&D) – Climate and Development Network - prepared recommendations for Parties to COP 23 to enable an ambitious and just implementation of the Paris agreement that would address the needs of the most vulnerable.

1. UNFCCC, *Paris agreement - Status of Ratification*, http://unfccc.int/paris_agreement/items/9444.php

2. Schneiter Elisabeth, "L'avertissement des scientifiques sur le climat : dans trois ans, il sera trop tard", *Reporterre*, 7 juillet 2017, <https://reporterre.net/L-avertissement-des-scientifiques-sur-le-climat-dans-trois-ans-il-sera-trop>

1. REINFORCE THE INCLUSION OF NON-STATE ACTORS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT

Non-state actors - especially NGOs, local authorities and local populations- have a key role to play in order to enable the consideration of people's needs, to promote increased political ambition and to help the development and diffusion of efficient and innovative field projects. The bottom-up dynamic of climate action launched by the Paris agreement via the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) requires effectively taking into account non-state actors in the different processes.

FOR COP 23, RC&D ENCOURAGES COUNTRIES TO EFFECTIVELY IMPLEMENT THE PARIS AGREEMENT AND RECOMMENDS:

- ↳ Ensuring that the implementation rules of the Paris agreement have non-state actors inclusion mechanisms and recognize the importance of their involvement through the addition of robust rules for reporting, transparency and state conformity issues;
- ↳ Ensuring the involvement of non-state actors ahead and during the 2018 Talanoa dialogue, as well as throughout the various Global Stocktakes. Participation must be granted at all levels and extended to specific technical and political events;
- ↳ Implementing mechanisms enabling access to information on the work programmes, negotiation agendas and negotiation progresses on the implementation guidelines of the Paris agreement, the Talanoa dialogue and the Global Stocktakes ;
- ↳ Granting inclusive governance mechanisms for initiatives stemming from the Paris agreement for non-state actors, especially for the African Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI) and the Africa Adaptation Initiative, through capacity building and better involvement of non-state actors in decision-making processes.

2. INCREASE PARTIES' AMBITION AND COHERENCE BY 2020

In 2017, Parties stood together and denounced the announced withdrawal of the United States from the Paris agreement. We, non-state actors, members of RC&D, denounce vehemently any withdrawal from or renegotiation of the Paris agreement towards potentially lowered ambitions. More than ever, global climate ambition must be reaffirmed and united. This ambition must be translated into the implementation of a clear framework enabling an upward revision of national commitments starting today. We encourage states to already start increasing their NDC in order to reduce their GHG emissions. This increase must be supported by developed countries through funding, capacity development and technology transfer and development, as provided by the Paris agreement³.

FOR COP 23, RC&D REAFFIRMS THE NEED TO:

- ↳ Launch the Talanoa dialogue planned in 2018 right after COP 23. The dialogue should build on consultation mechanisms and on actions carried at the regional and local levels and use the information provided by IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) report on 1.5 C°;
- ↳ Reaffirm the sheer importance of increased climate ambition for countries as early as 2018, especially from the biggest GHG emitters, for the most vulnerable populations to successfully face climate change;
- ↳ Reinforce the dialogue not only between the different processes of UNFCCC (NDC, NPA, etc.), but also with development programmes (such as Agenda 2030 relating to the Sustainable Development Goals, and for Africa, the African Union's Agenda 2063) in order to facilitate an efficient implementation of the Paris agreement;
- ↳ Consider the Global Stocktakes as a tool to clearly establish the situation for each country by identifying their current position towards greenhouse gas emissions, the objectives and the required means to reach these objectives, collectively or individually;
- ↳ Support the most vulnerable countries in the implementation of the NDC by adding in the implementation guidelines capacity building and technological & financial transfer mechanisms from developed countries to developing countries.

3. Articles 9, 10 and 11, Appendix, Paris agreement, ibid.

3. TURN ADAPTATION AND LOSS & DAMAGE INTO A PRIORITY IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT

The increasing intensity and frequency of climate change directly impacts the most vulnerable populations and their development. 4 out of the 5 most vulnerable countries to climate change are in Africa⁴. It is absolutely vital to implement climate adaptation measures in these particularly vulnerable regions, bearing in mind that climate change is not a simple GHG emissions-related technical issue, but a wider phenomena with political and social consequences. According to a UNEP report⁵, the adaptation costs could reach \$ 500 bn/year by 2050, regardless of the loss & damage recognized as an issue going beyond adaptation, as provided by article 8 of the Paris agreement. Therefore, COP 23 must reaffirm the necessity to develop a long-term vision and to take into account adaptation needs and development priorities.



IN ORDER TO DO SO, RC&D RECOMMENDS TO:

- Better take into account loss & damage as well as adaptation, including through a strengthening of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage (WIM)'s financial capacities to implement its work programme, which also goes through the improvement of its action plan.
- Ensure that the fight against climate change enables progresses in the agriculture and food security sectors, including by clarifying land use-related norms through transparency and accountability rules, increased fight against false solutions and a reinforcement of traditional and family agriculture through a work programme on agriculture;
- Implement the Gender Action Plan with dedicated funding and clearly identified mandates in order for gender to be fully integrated into all adaptation and mitigation measures, as well as to enable representation of women in the delegations and the implementation of local projects, through capacity development programmes;
- Implement the platform dedicated to sharing the traditional knowledge of indigenous people and local communities for the adaptation and mitigation of climate change.

4. INCREASE AND EASE ACCESS CLIMATE FUNDING TO PROPERLY ADDRESS NEW ISSUES

International climate action must face a double urgency: first of all to allow the most vulnerable countries to adapt to climate change and secondly to mitigate environmental impacts while developing low-carbon and resilient societies. States and non-state actors should have the sufficient capacity and support to fulfil their ambitions. The promise of the Paris agreement according to which developed states must provide \$ 100 bn/year to developing countries by 2020 must be reaffirmed. Climate finance should be predictable and scaled up over time. Thanks to relevant mechanisms, non-state actors should be able to ensure a monitoring of climate finance, including a respect of their use according to the priorities defined beforehand.



FOR COP 23, RC&D RECOMMENDS:

- Developing clear, transparent and joint modalities of accounting for climate finance including the nature of the allocated funds (instruments, allocation) in order to obtain more information on the quality of the funds provided and received, to prevent double-counting and to guarantee the amount of public funding provided as grants;
- Implementing a quantified goal for adaptation finance by 2020 (so far only 16% of financial flows go to adaptation), with the objective to reach a balance between adaptation and mitigation;
- Easing access to climate finance for the most affected countries, while increasing public finance to prevent conflicts of interest between the private sector and adaptation/mitigation measures;
- Ensuring the development of renewable energies in Africa by acknowledging their importance in the decisions of COP 23, including in decisions related to technological and financial mechanisms.

4. Maplecroft, Climate Change, Vulnerability Index 2017, <http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/verisk%20index.pdf>

5. UNEP 2016. The Adaptation Finance Gap Report 2016. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Nairobi, Kenya.