



OUTCOME STATEMENT

Parliamentarians Dialogue at the Africa Climate Summit 2023 “Forging Parliamentary Pathways for Effective Climate Action”

4 & 6 September 2023 in Nairobi, Kenya

Version: Adopted

“African countries vulnerable to climate change are increasingly missing out on opportunities for greater energy independence as well as access to green investment and export opportunities. The continent needs to strengthen its mechanisms and frameworks for responding to and influencing the climate change agenda nationally, regionally and internationally by leveraging all stakeholders including Parliaments. A resolute response is called for, one that encompasses comprehensive approaches, incorporating the acceleration of adaptation through stronger international climate finance, widespread adoption of renewable energy sources, prioritising energy efficiency, fostering the development of sustainable energy infrastructure and creating economic opportunities at the same time. To achieve these objectives, it is imperative to instate judicious policy interventions that expedite necessary reforms, bolster investments, drive decisive climate action, and ensure equitable access to clean, affordable and available energy resources. In this multifaceted pursuit, Africa can pave the way toward a greener, more sustainable future.”

African parliamentarians, including from the Climate Vulnerable Forum’s Global Parliamentary Group and the African Parliamentarians Network for Climate Action, convened a Parliamentarians Dialogue on 4 & 6 September 2023, during the Africa Climate Summit held in Nairobi, Kenya, to discuss the pressing issue of climate change. The main objective of the Dialogue was to identify key areas for strengthening parliamentarians’ capacity to ensure effective oversight of the implementation of climate action, and to build consensus on parliamentary action at continental level to champion the outcomes of the Summit in the run-up to COP28 and beyond. We welcome and support the Pan-African Parliament Declaration of African Parliamentarians to the Africa Climate Summit, issued on 1 September 2023.

We welcome and endorse the commitments made in the African Leaders Nairobi Declaration on Climate Change and Call to Action.

Following a discussion around the following three themes, the Parliamentarians Dialogue outlined its pathways for effective climate action as follows:

Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation

Recognising the urgent need for collective action to address the challenges faced by the African continent, the Parliamentarians Dialogue underscored the proactive role that parliamentarians must play in implementing and advocating for climate-resilient policies and strategies.

The Dialogue welcomed Decision 19/5 of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) on Item 9 of the Provisional Agenda to urgently deliver climate finance commitments at scale by developed country Parties under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement, as well as the need for grant-based resources for African countries, particularly for the implementation of adaptation action.¹

The call to swiftly operationalise the Global Goal on Adaptation was reiterated during the Parliamentarians Dialogue.² The participants pledged to support the full realisation of the Africa Adaptation Acceleration Program (AAAP) and the successful implementation of the Climate Adaptation Country Compacts, owned and led by African countries. To bolster these initiatives, it is imperative that the roles of parliamentarians in their legislative, budgetary, and oversight functions remain integral, functioning as vital cornerstones to ensure government accountability and contributing to the achievement of the AAAP.

Acknowledging the pivotal role of parliamentarians in advancing climate adaptation, the Dialogue committed to establishing a specialised African Parliamentarians' Working Group on Climate Adaptation within the broader African Parliamentarians Network for Climate Action, with the aim of strengthening the capacity of African parliamentarians to ensure effective oversight of the implementation of climate adaptation action.

Renewable Energy and Just Transition

The energy transition based on renewable energy was recognized as the most realistic solution to combating climate change in the Parliamentarians Dialogue, which also echoed the desire of countries to commit to tripling renewable energy capacity worldwide. The potential of renewable energy to mitigate climate change and ensure energy security was acknowledged by the attendees. The Dialogue agreed to work towards policies that encourage and accelerate the transition to clean and sustainable energy sources that align with Africa's unique circumstances and respect the continent's development agenda. The importance of African minerals in the global energy transition was underlined, as was the role of parliamentarians in securing effective oversight of the extractive industries to deliver economic benefits and minimise environmental impacts while contributing to climate change mitigation.

The Dialogue emphasised the need for implementation measures, including financial support, technology transfers, and capacity-building, to ensure the effective adoption of renewable energy solutions. Capacity-building, particularly among parliamentarians, plays a vital role in enhancing understanding of the energy transition through continuous learning and information sharing. Therefore, advocacy for capacity-building initiatives that contribute to the enrichment of knowledge repository was strongly supported.

Green Growth and Sustainable Production

¹ AMCEN (19/5) Decision 2.

² AMCEN (19/5) Decision 3.

Acknowledging Africa's unique vulnerability to the impacts of the changing climate, the Parliamentarians Dialogue affirmed the vital link between climate change and agriculture, and pledged to support policies that promote climate-resilient agricultural practices, sustainable land management and equitable access to food resources.

The Dialogue further stressed the importance of conserving biodiversity, forests and water resources, and committed to address deforestation, promote ecosystem restoration, and protect vital ecosystems through legislative measures.

In forging legislative pathways for climate action, the Parliamentarians Dialogue recognises the also highlighted the following commitments as key points of collaborative efforts:

- 1. Commitment to Climate Action:** Recognising the role of legislation in driving change, the parliamentarians pledged to promote strong climate action in their respective country and in Africa as a whole, and to strive to adopt policies that contribute to sustainable development, adaptation and mitigation.
- 2. Youth Empowerment and Inclusion:** The parliamentarians recognise the energy and creativity of Africa's youth in shaping the climate discourse and agreed to provide platforms for youth engagement, including young parliamentarians, valuing their perspectives and fostering their leadership in climate-related initiatives.
- 3. Gender-Responsive Approaches:** Acknowledging the gender-related aspects of climate change, the parliamentarians will ensure that climate policies are both inclusive and attuned to addressing the specific needs and roles of women, who often bear a disproportionate burden of climate impacts.
- 4. International Collaboration:** The parliamentarians will actively engage in international climate discourse, advocating for African interests and contributing to the global dialogue on climate solutions.
- 5. Accountability and Monitoring:** The parliamentarians pledge to hold themselves and their governments accountable for the commitments they make at national, regional and global levels. By convening the first Accountability Summit for Parliamentarians at COP28, they will establish mechanisms to monitor progress, assess the effectiveness of policies and drive continuous improvement.

As African Parliamentarians, we congratulate the Kenyan Parliament for hosting a successful Parliamentarians Dialogue. We stand united in their determination to combat climate change, safeguard the environment, and create a sustainable and prosperous future for all people. Colleagues, governments, civil society, and the international community are called upon to join this crucial endeavour.

African Parliamentarians at the Africa Climate Summit [6 September 2023]

* Co-Chairs summary of the Parliamentarians Dialogue at the Africa Adaptation Summit co-chaired by Hon. **Moses Kajwang**, MP, Chair, Parliamentary Caucus on Climate Change, Kenya Parliament; Hon. **Jacqueline Amongin** Uganda MP, Chair African Parliamentarians Network for Climate Action; and Hon. Dr. **Emmanuel**

Marfo, Chair, CVF Global Parliamentary Group and Chair of the Environment Science and Technology Committee: Ghana Parliament.