

DECLARATION OF YAMOUSSOUKRO

June 25, 2015



We, African Cities and Regions, Presidents of Regions, Mayors, local elected officials and representatives of local governments, having met at the Climate Summit for African Cities and Regions, in Yamoussoukro, Ivory Coast, on June 24-25, 2015,

With a view to establishing and promoting a common position on climate change for Regional and Local Governments (LRGs),

With a view to taking part in the elaboration of a common position on climate change for local governments which will meet at the World Summit Climate & Territories in Lyon on July 1-2, 2015.

Approve of the conclusions of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) fifth report, especially the results presented in chapter 22 dealing with the African Continent and the recommendations submitted to central and local governments in Africa,

Aware that African territories and populations are vulnerable to climate change, especially women and children, even though Africa remains the lowest greenhouse gas emitter with less than 4% of global emissions,

Aware that the preservation of human and environmental rights, the resilience of human beings and ecosystems as well as the promotion of environmental security are essentially local issues which call for relevant and efficient projects and funding at this level of action,

Acknowledge that measures in risk and disaster management are needed to reduce this vulnerability, as well as adapting our techniques, technologies and infrastructures, and that our ability to implement them will only be made possible through a financial and institutional framework,

Take into account that the success of the Paris 2015 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) will depend on the mobilisation of all stakeholders, including African local governments, in order to prepare the follow-up to Paris 2015,

Aware of the importance of a dialogue on climate change between African local governments, as well as tangible actions, in order to ensure that Paris 2015 will emphasize the role of territorial policies in climate change adaptation and mitigation,

In the light of this, considering the framework of action and of territorial, national and international consultation on climate which paved the way for this Summit,

- We recognize the founding principles of sustainable development, as expressed in the Declarations of Stockholm in 1972, Rio 1992, Johannesburg 2002 and Rio 2012;
- We recall that the Member States of the UNFCCC, from the 2009 Copenhagen Accord to the 2014 Lima Conference, have consistently reaffirmed their will to:
 - i.* act on global warming by containing the increase in global average temperature below 2°C , by the end of the 21st century (in comparison to that of pre-industrial times);
 - ii.* take measures in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions during the COP21 in 2015;
 - iii.* facilitate the technology transfers related to climate change adaptation and mitigation;
 - iv.* ensure the implementation of financing mechanisms amounting to USD 100 billion a year before 2020;
- We recall that African governments have made commitments towards local governments and Member States of the UNFCCC during :
 - i.* the Summits of African States for Climate;
 - ii.* the Conferences of African Ministries of Environment;
 - iii.* the UNFCCC, where the African Climate Group of Negotiators took a common position;
 - iv.* We acknowledge the proposals made by networks of local governments which were published in:
 - v.* the Local Governments Climate Roadmaps of Bali 2007 and Nantes 2013;
 - vi.* the Paris Declaration of the R20's 2014 World Summit of Regions for Climate;
 - vii.* the declarations of Local Governments and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) to the UNFCCC,

We affirm our commitments regarding :

1 - Governance:

- i.* To develop the principles of good environmental governance, and to include the dangers and opportunities created by climate change in local development plans and strategies.
- ii.* To mobilise local, national and international agents in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, to adapt to climate change and to preserve ecosystems.
- iii.* To establish alliances and partnerships between local governments, in Africa and around the world, in order to preserve the planet from the harmful consequences of global warming.

- iv. To develop local and national regulatory policies for both effective decentralisation of competencies and increasing public-private partnerships in order to mobilize financial resources and to take the necessary actions to facilitate climate change adaptation and mitigation.
- v. To involve each stakeholder in the elaboration and implementation of efficient territorial policies aimed at fighting climate change, as well as environmental governance strategies linking local authorities to the private sector, in order to develop climate change partnerships and to preserve environment.
- vi. To develop a permanent information and consultation platform on climate for African Cities and Regions, in order to facilitate the sharing of knowledge and the interaction between African local governments.

2 - Clean energy and energy efficiency :

- i. To encourage the development of a local renewable energy mix, assuring the sustainable provision of energy services that are vital to the population, the transportation and sustainable consumption of energy, as well as the development of transport infrastructures and distribution logistics.
- ii. To take part in the creation of regulatory, dynamic, participative and motivational frameworks, allowing the mobilisation of local energy resources, and to encourage the development of clean energy models capable of accessing available funding.

3 - Resilient farming and food security :

- i. To promote the development of sustainable agriculture based on a sustainable management of soils and water supplies, the preservation of ecosystem services, biodiversity, the promotion of agricultural, domestic and industrial waste, the limited use of fertilizers and chemical phytosanitary products.
- ii. To develop integrated farming policies that take climate resilience into account when dealing with spatial planning and land allocation, as well as the development of suitable infrastructure for transformation, conditioning, transportation, preservation and commercialisation.
- iii. To strengthen the climate resilience of family farming by promoting new farming techniques and practices, by facilitating access to credit and management of land rights, by developing the use of geo-environmental information systems and by establishing adequate channels of product distribution.
- iv. To promote urban and suburban farming, encouraging the creation of small farms integrated to new commercial systems to increase food self-sufficiency.
- v. To implement new fisheries surveillance and fish stock monitoring strategies – a source of concern that affects the whole national maritime area, but also local governments.

4 - The management of natural resources threatened by climate change (land, water and forest resources):

- i.* To develop Integrated Soil Management (ISM) strategies for our territories by organizing political support for sustainable land management, by creating motivational frameworks to develop agricultural entrepreneurship for farmers and young generations, by capitalizing on the knowledge of local communities and by promoting research on soil restoration and preservation.
- ii.* To develop Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), based on their inventory and protection, on planning their use and management, involving the civil society in the elaboration of local policies and decisions regarding water management, on adequate institutional, legal and financial local mechanisms in order to achieve our ambitions in water management on a territorial, national and international scale.
- iii.* To develop strategies in order to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+) in the affected areas, by strengthening technical and organisational infrastructure in the municipalities, by adopting a participative approach for the governance of local forest resources, by involving populations and interest groups in order to set up multi-player partnerships whose economic activities will use and protect forest resources, by conducting studies on the economic value of forests and by organizing the REDD+ instruments of economic and financial governance for our municipalities.
- iv.* To stimulate the creation of urban, municipal, regional and cross-border forests; to encourage the creation of reservations for medicinal plants and biodiversity threatened by climate change.
- v.* In arid and semiarid territories especially, to fight desertification, land degradation and the populations' high degree of vulnerability, through anti-erosion measures, the creation of hedge-separated fields and traditional pastoralism, by coordinating migrating movements caused by climate change in order to reduce the risks of conflicts inside and between the communities; meanwhile, promoting cultural values and ancient customs that were developed to organise social life in these difficult environments.
- vi.* To develop adequate land strategies to support sustainable management policies in urban, suburban and rural territories.

5 - The management of urbanisation and urban services:

- i.* To take into account the magnitude and pace of urbanisation in Africa and to reaffirm the key role of cities in the fight against climate change, by reducing the huge gap observed in public utilities and infrastructure development, through sustainable projects that are essential to local economic development.
- ii.* To agree with the promotion of a sustainable city approach, by being involved in the reflection and the actions to be undertaken, especially by consistently resorting to professionals of the built environment when it comes to urban planning and housing development, including the development of clean and smart transportation systems.

- iii.* To stress the importance of building fine structures while being conscious of the environment and of our cultural specificities, and by highlighting the necessity to provide for the needs of everyone.
- iv.* To take measures for the management and valorisation of household, farming and industrial wastes, in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; to refuse that Africa becomes the dustbin of the world because of the dumping of obsolete products and of waste produced by other countries; to encourage the creation of import licences that can guarantee the absence of environmental hazards; to this purpose, to finally create platforms for exchange, work, dialogue and experimentation between African and worldwide local governments, while stressing the need to ban the use of plastic bags.
- v.* To elaborate and establish a joint strategy for sustainable urban and architectural development, taking resource efficiency into consideration, and more precisely energy efficiency, by promoting, among others, the use of renewable energies.
- vi.* To adopt an approach promoting sustainable cities, supported by technical assistance, with a view to develop projects and programs that can qualify for the SE4All (Sustainable Energy for All) funding.

6 - Information and communication technologies :

- i.* To encourage the development and production of geo-environmental facilities by promoting the collection, treatment, production and sharing of information, by mapping the location and evolution of human activities, natural resources and environmental factors, by producing tools to assist environmental decisions and sustainable development planning.
- ii.* To mobilize telecommunications and digital information systems and technologies to improve the management of knowledge and local know-how related to the environment and sustainable development, to facilitate the digital integration of the rural world in a world where knowledge and digital organisational modes are essential.
- iii.* To take advantage of these communication and observation capacities in real-time or near-real-time, in the creation of local platforms capable of forecasting and managing climate risks and disasters, associated with communication capacities facilitating the actions of public safety services and warning the populations in case of extreme events.

7 - Financing :

- i.* To integrate the adaptation to climate change to local governments' planning and budgeting systems, and to guarantee the performance transparency, traceability and monitoring.
- ii.* To encourage the development of favourable conditions for long-term investment against climate change, by ensure financial decentralisation allowing local governments to invest (stable and predictable allocations, increased fiscal power, management competency for productive infrastructures, etc.).
- iii.* To promote the creation of necessary regulatory and legal frames promoting local investments, particularly regarding the capacity to manage local governments' indebtedness, to establish public private partnerships between for a green and climate-resilient economy.

- iv.** iv) To develop appropriate financial instruments and tools – such as the adequate intermediation instruments promoted by RIAFCO or the R20 Green Fund for Women – and to promote existing tools – such as the French “1% water and 1% waste” mechanism – and to encourage participatory funding platforms to provide access to the existing resources of environmental finance for local authorities.
- v.** v) To support local governments’ access to capital markets, when the context allows it, and, when local capacities or conditions cannot grant access to complex financial tools, to assist the most vulnerable territories in strengthening their resilience through public grants to ensure climate resilience.
- vi.** vi) To create a “African Climate and Territories Fund” consisting of 1% of the budget of each local government, in order to initiate the dedicated funding capacities and to request additional allocations by national and international Development Funding Institutions (DFIs); and to collectively support the formulation of a wider African Local Governments funding strategy against climate change.

We, African Cities and Regions, Presidents of Regions, Mayors, local elected officials and representatives of local governments, having met at the Climate Summit for African Cities and Regions, in Yamoussoukro, Ivory Coast, on June 24-25, 2015,

Finally assert our commitment to multiply initiatives and projects materialising our common will to take action on climate for our territories, to adopt an inclusive and multi-level approach for their implementation, and to guarantee their promotion to all stakeholders.

The fight against climate change is a global priority. On a local scale, African local governments can testify of their will to fully take part in this, by responding to the particular challenges and needs of their territories, fully aware of the necessity to act in a united way with other continents and of the single destiny shared by Earth and Mankind.

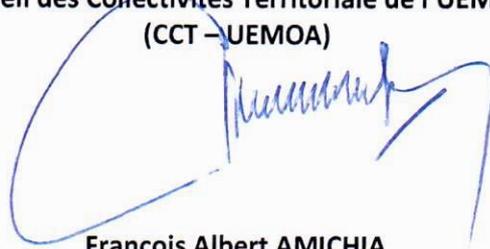
We thank the organisers of the Summit of Yamoussoukro and ask them to draw the outlines of a permanent information and consultation platform on climate for African Cities and Regions, facilitating knowledge sharing and interaction between African local governments.

We request the organisers and the host country of this Summit to present this Declaration at both the World Summit Climate & Territories in Lyon on July 1-2, 2015, and the Congress of Local and Regional Governments (LRGs), before the COP21, which will be held from July 4-7, 2015, and then at the 21st United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Paris (COP21).

Declaration of Yamoussoukro, Summit
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Climate, June 25, 2015

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