



AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP
GROUPE DE LA BANQUE AFRICAINE
DE DÉVELOPPEMENT

**STATEMENT BY
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**DURING THE MINISTERIAL MEETING ORGANIZED
BY THE FRENCH MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
ON THE OCCASION OF THE MINISTERIAL
CONFERENCE
ORGANISED AT THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

PARIS

6 SEPTEMBER 2015

1. Your Excellency, Mr. Laurent Fabius, Minister of Foreign Affairs, France;

Your Excellency, Manuel Pulgar Vidal, Minister of Environment, Peru;

Honorable Ministers, Distinguished Participants.

2. First let me start by thanking the government of France for their boldness, leadership and vision in addressing the crucial challenge of climate change, and of course for hosting the forthcoming COP21.
3. Climate change is the most important development challenge of our time. **Evidence suggests that outcomes of COP21, if seen as equitable, can lead to more effective cooperation in addressing the climate challenge.** COP 21 presents a unique opportunity for a binding agreement to limit carbon dioxide emissions, charting the way for transformative partnerships in addressing the adverse effects of climate change.

Africa's voice is crucial to guarantee the success of COP21 and it must be heard.

4. Though currently a small emitters of green-house gases, African countries suffer disproportionately from climate impacts. This is largely due to lack of capacity to adapt. Without enough mobilizable resources to build and speed up Africa's capacity to adapt to climate change, the situation cannot but deteriorate. The impacts will be felt strongest in the agricultural sector, which provides subsistence to more than 70% of the African population. The expected and predicted impacts of climate change on the sector, including shifts in agro-ecological suitability of countries for productive agriculture, increasing variability in weather systems and extreme events, will considerably increase the vulnerability of Africa's poorest households. Millions of Africans who will be exposed to this increasing vulnerability cannot be abandoned. They must be supported.

5. For this reason, Africa must be supported, for instance through a global financing mechanism that will help to accelerate its adaptation to climate change. We need to support initiatives that address risks associated with climate change, with a view to building disaster

response capacity, and recovery programs for those who are most affected. This includes preserving their assets, providing guarantees in case of natural disaster, insurance schemes in case of bad weather, and weather index agriculture insurance schemes for crops and livestock, and the rural population.

6. Africa is speedily urbanizing with significant implications for climate change. We need to support urban renewals and build resilient cities with efficient water supply systems and smart infrastructure that is climate friendly.
7. We must also take into account the impact of our energy systems on climate change. Global CO₂ emissions from fossil fuel combustion and industrial processes contributed about 78% of total GHG emissions increase from 1970 to 2010. IPCC scenarios suggest that direct CO₂ emissions from energy supply systems are projected to double or even triple by 2050 compared to 2010 levels, unless we significantly improve the energy efficiency of our systems and deploy clean energy technologies.
8. Addressing these challenges requires strong political will, dedicated partnerships and ambitious financing

programs. The cost of inaction will be too high. We must act, and act decisively.

9. The African Development Bank is highly committed to help African countries access the best levels of financing to finance climate change challenges. As a Bank, we implemented a five-year (2011-2015) climate change support action plan. In this regard, we mobilized in excess of 6.9 billion dollars to support more than 150 climate change adaptation and mitigation projects. The Bank is also the agency charged with managing several climate change-related investment funds, including the Africa Climate Change Fund, the Congo Basin Fund, the CLIMDEV-Africa Special Fund and the “Sustainable Energy for All” Initiative in Africa. And the Bank will be accredited to implement the Green Climate Fund. Let me reassure you that the African Development Bank will work with other partners to intensify financing to combat climate change for the benefit of African countries. The future of millions of persons whose subsistence is threatened, especially those in fragile, small or island States, must be protected.

10. Let me then summarize:

a. Under my Presidency,

The African Development Bank will strongly support Africa's transition to inclusive and green growth.

b. The African Development Bank will strongly endorse Africa's position on the need for more resources to mitigate climate change and adapt to its impacts.

c. The Bank will champion the implementation of the Polluter Pays Principle.

d. As a Bank, we will work with our member countries and partners to support governance reforms, continental risk transfer and risk sharing schemes, which will foster greater economic and social resilience to climate change.

11. Specifically, the Bank will support African countries in solving its energy and food security challenges while ensuring inclusive and green growth. We will support African countries to reform their **energy, agriculture and land use systems**, with sharp focus on building integrated, smart, efficient and climate resilient systems. Together, we must put an end to the African energy crisis and unblock the continent's huge energy

potential, both conventional and renewable. For this reason, the African Development Bank supports the African Renewable Energy Initiative.

12. We deeply appreciate all the initiatives for addressing the energy and climate challenges facing Africa. To further deepen coordination that will enable us to obtain significant results, the African Development Bank will launch a transformative partnership for energy in Africa, in cooperation with all stakeholders. To fulfil Africa's deep aspirations and improve energy supply and access on the continent, the African Development Bank will launch a **New Deal on Energy for Africa**.

13. Allow me to point to the excellent work undertaken so far by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) under the remarkable leadership of the Egyptian Minister of Environment, Mr. Khalid Fahmy, the governments of France and Germany, ministers of all G7 and G20 countries as well as all other nations that passionately supported the development of the African Renewable Energy Initiative. I am very happy that the African Renewable Energy Initiative was able to map a more than necessary trajectory in support of Africa's transition to

green and inclusive growth. But we must be more ambitious and go beyond the 10 GWh additional renewable energy projected for 2020. It is my personal conviction that with the African Development Bank's New Deal for Energy in Africa, the renewed and extended support of the G7 and G20 for renewable energy in Africa, and enhanced synergies from our current efforts – especially the Sustainable Energy for All Initiative, the European Union Energy Initiative, the African Energy Leaders Group, the US Power Africa Initiative – we can hit even more ambitious targets within an even shorter time. Africa can no longer wait. I am sure that together, we can do more.

14. In conclusion, let me thank the governments of France and Peru, the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), the African Group of Negotiators, and all delegates for your vision and commitment in championing bold steps to address climate change.

15. We must act together now. We must show our leadership by arriving at a legally binding agreement at COP21, right here in this beautiful City of Paris. COP21 must be a success whose memory shall linger. The African Development Bank stands ready to work and

collaborate closely with France and other partners to achieve this vision.

Thank you.