



## AFRICAN YOUTH POSITION PAPER ON COP22 NOVEMBER 2016

*We, the African youth working under the platforms of African Youth Initiative on Climate Change (AYICC) and the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC) Youth Programme on Climate Change (CYPCC),*

In line with the 23<sup>rd</sup> African Union Summit of Heads of State and Governments Decision on the High Level Work Programme on Climate Change Action in Africa (WPCCAA) **Assembly/AU/Dec.538(XXIII)**, Malabo 2014;

Recognizing the need to elaborate on the implementation of the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC) Youth Programme on Climate Change (CYPCC) including Youth participation in climate change negotiations and continental projects and activities related to youth engagement in climate change actions;

1. *Having* organized the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the African Youth Conference on Climate Change held on October 14 – 15, 2016 in Nairobi – Kenya with the theme ***‘Making Climate Finance work for African Youth’*** and having participated at pre-COP22 meetings at national and regional levels, welcome the opportunity for engagement and appreciate the space to have our voices heard;
2. *Emphasizing* that though the youth represent current and future generations most at risk of climate change, they are often disenfranchised from policy and decision making and are often faced with challenges of unemployment, poverty, irregular migration and displacement as a result of climate change;
3. *Considering* that youth have innovative ideas and huge potentials that can be harnessed for the successful implementation of Africa Agenda 2063, Sustainable Development Goals and the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs);
4. *Concerned* about the under-representation and participation of youth in climate policy making, negotiations and implementation frameworks;
5. *Strongly encouraged* by the decision of the Committee of African Heads of States on Climate Change (CAHOSCC) on the elaboration of youth engagement within the climate change negotiations;

**Hereby call upon National Governments, African Union Commission and partners to:**

6. Invest in capacity building of Youth in research and policy engagement on Climate Change Adaptation, Mitigation, Renewable Energy, Climate Smart Agriculture, Waste Management, Disaster Risk Reduction;
7. Integrate youth in climate-related policies, plans, projects and programs at national, regional and international levels;
8. Build capacity of youth on climate science and negotiations in order to increase their participation and influence on climate governance;

9. Collaborate with AYICC and launch the CAHOSSC Youth Programme on Climate Change in January 2017 on the margins of the African Union Summit

### ON CLIMATE FINANCE AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER,

10. Urge the Green Climate Fund to provide financial and technical support for youth-led and/or youth-focused climate actions and green projects;

11. Identify youth best practices on climate change, waste management and climate smart agriculture that can be replicated across the globe using eco-friendly technology;

12. Provide incentives (grants, exchange programmes, scholarships, speaking roles, loans, among others) to encourage youth to identify and document innovative ideas, exchange ideas and best practices on climate change;

### ON MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTIONS (NDCs) AND YOUTH ENGAGEMENT IN CLIMATE NEGOTIATIONS

13. Call for integration, capacity building and Financing Youth participation in climate change negotiation processes at national, regional and international levels;

14. Support the Creation of a CAHOSSC Youth Group of Negotiators (CYGN) to be integrated in national and regional government delegations to Climate Negotiations starting with the UNFCCC COP 22 in Morocco, November 2016. The CYGN should be supported by existing frameworks such as the African Group of Negotiators, African Youth Initiative on Climate Change, the ClimDev-Africa Youth Platform and UNFCCC;

15. Advocate for the support of innovative and creative campaigns for and by the youth who are walking the talk on action against climate change such as the Arts and Media for Climate Campaign and The African Youth Conference on Climate Change (AfriYOCC) held annually.

16. We, the African youth support the decentralization of the Green Climate Fund while also supporting Namibia and other African countries in their bid to host the Secretariat of the African Regional Green Climate Fund Hub.

*We are young leaders of today and trustees of the future for the next generation. We need your support to take concerted actions to protect our planet.*

### Supporting Partners



Special thanks to the following organizations for promoting and supporting youth participation in climate change actions and sustainable development in general.

**Disclaimer: Supporting Partner logos are not endorsements and reflect the message of the supporter only.**