

One Voice on Climate Change

“For the first time in its history, Africa will field a single team empowered to negotiate on behalf of all the member states of the African Union” announced PM Meles Zenawi at the Special Session on Climate Change of the Africa Partnership Forum, held in Addis Ababa on September 3rd. Africa has formed one team representing over a quarter of the world’s states, backed by a common position. It follows the creation in July of a Committee of African Heads of State & Government on Climate Change, consisting of Algeria, Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mauritius, Mozambique, Nigeria and Uganda, plus the Chairs of the AU, the AU Commission and of the Ministerial Commission on the Environment, with Meles as its newly appointed coordinator.

At the heart of the common position is insistence that rich countries agree at Copenhagen to aggressive and binding emission cuts in line with UNFCCC recommendations. Africa will have to live with unavoidable climate change, “but what we are not prepared to live with is global warming above the minimum unavoidable level” said Meles.

Africa also expects adequate, additional and predictable funding for adaptation, support for mitigation, notably to exploit massive clean energy opportunities, and accelerated transfer of technology, whether for adaptation or mitigation, including for energy generation, forests and land use. “We will use our numbers to delegitimize any agreement that is not consistent with our minimal position” said Meles. This is tough talk and, many would argue, overdue.

A challenge will be to maintain the common position, given both AU politics and that Africa embraces oil producing, middle income as well as least developed countries. How it will play with the G77 is also an issue.

Donors on the whole welcome a common African position, while pointing out that the big emerging economies such as China share responsibility for capping emissions, and that African countries must strengthen policy and institutional capacities. As ever, the big issue will be finance: how the cost of adaptation is measured, how much money is needed; how it is raised; how it is managed; and accessed.

Agreeing to one position, one team and one voice is a breakthrough. The challenge now is ensure this voice is heard.

G20 Update

G20

[G20 Finance Ministers met in London 3-4 September to discuss the economic recovery.](#)

[The latest G20 statement shows agreement that emerging economies, such as India and China, should have a greater say in the running of the IMF and World Bank, but did not offer up any formula of how this should be achieved.](#)

AUSTRALIA

[The ‘Africa Down Under Mining Conference’ was held on 3 September in Perth. In attendance were several African Mining Ministers and senior officials providing an excellent opportunity to strengthen commercial links in the sector.](#)

BRIC NATIONS

[BRIC Nations \(Brazil, Russia, India and China\) oppose protectionism, while demanding greater say in global financial system.](#)

CHINA

[AU Commission Chairman Jean Ping met with high-level Chinese government officials, including Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao, in Beijing while on an official visit from 7-11 September as part of a China-AU Strategic Dialogue.](#)

JAPAN

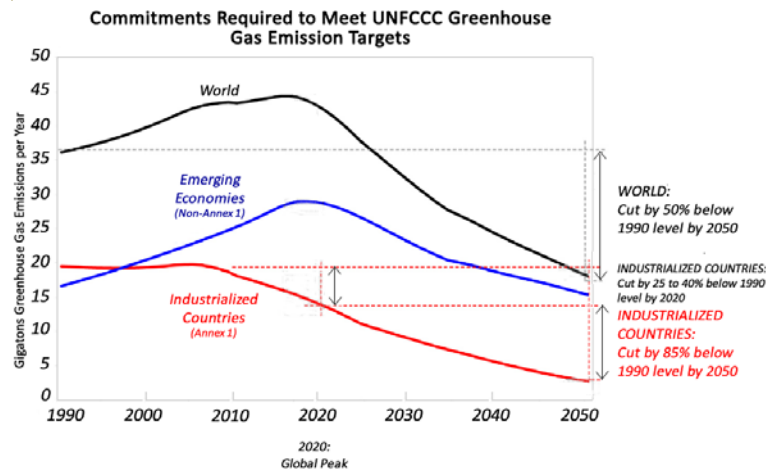
[Yukio Hatoyama, Japan's prime minister elect promises to reduce CO₂ emissions by 25% below 1990 levels by 2020.](#)

SOUTH AFRICA

[South Africa expressed its concern to the G20 members at the meetings in London 3-4 September about the impact of the financial crisis on low income countries, particularly those in Africa.](#)

UK

[DFID doubles road funding to DRC to £76 million.](#)



Quote

// **We will use our numbers to delegitimize any agreement that is not consistent with our minimal position.** //

H.E. Ato Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister of Ethiopia, at the Special Session of the African Partnership Forum on Climate Change in Addis Ababa on 3 September.

News Overview

[French President Nicolas Sarkozy congratulated Gabon's new president, Ali Ben Bongo, on his election victory, despite calls from the opposition for a recount of the disputed poll.](#)

The Africa Partnership Forum held a special session on climate change at the Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa focusing on Africa’s concerns and expectations in the current UN negotiations, which will culminate at COP15. Experts and stakeholders from both Africa and member countries of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) [concluded the meeting with a joint statement.](#)

Following auditing of the Central Bank of Nigeria, [four of the five bank chiefs sacked three weeks ago by Governor Sanusi Lamido Sanusi over the huge non-performing loans of their banks are charged.](#) The Governor of Central Bank of Nigeria announced the injection of [\\$2.75 billion to save the banks.](#)

[According to World Bank Report “Doing Business 2010”, Rwanda is the star and the world’s top reformer of business regulation, making it easier to start businesses, register property, protect investors, trade across borders, and access credit. It marks the first time a Sub-Saharan African economy is the top reformer.](#)

[President Kagame of Rwanda challenges Africa on health, at the 59th Session of the World Health Organization \(WHO\) Regional Committee for Africa.](#) He called on African leaders to develop clear political purposes and policies in order to positively impact health and development more broadly.

[The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies \(IFRC\) have appealed for US\\$26 million to augment humanitarian assistance for vulnerable groups in Zimbabwe.](#)

[Taking the opportunity of the inauguration of the new President in Guinea Bissau, Secretary General of the UN, Ban Ki-moon, reiterates UN support for peace and development in the country.](#)

Multilateral Organizations

AfDB

[President, Donald Kaberuka, delivered one of the keynote addresses to the European Parliament's new development commission.](#)

AU

[The high-level African Union panel appointed to help end the Darfur conflict is reported to be advocating a South African-style "truth and reconciliation commission" and special court to try war crimes suspects in the region.](#)

EAC

[The East African Community Secretariat launched a three week series of consultations on the establishment of the East African Monetary Union \(EAMU\)](#)

EU

[The European Commission allocates a further 53 million euro in humanitarian aid for drought response in Africa.](#)

IMF

[The IMF is giving Zimbabwe \\$400m Special Drawing Rights \(SDRs\) to boost its foreign currency reserves, and a further \\$100m which will only be accessible once the government has repaid its \\$1bn debt.](#)

[The IMF transferred SDRs worth \\$2.2 billion to Africa's biggest economy, South Africa, to help it deal with the financial crisis.](#)

[The IMF has loaned Malawi \\$80 million, from its Global Liquidity Fund, which will be used to help build up its low foreign reserves.](#)

[The IMF has issued SDRs amounting to \\$240.6 million to Ethiopia, to allow it to pay its accumulated debt.](#)

SADC

[African leaders discussed political progress in Zimbabwe during SADC Summit, and concluded by calling for the removal of sanctions against the unity government.](#)

UN

[A United Nations report recommends a new Marshall Plan of more than \\$500 billion per year, to help developing countries ease the impact of global warming.](#)

WB

[Uganda and the World Bank signed three pacts worth a total of \\$325 million on Thursday to fund infrastructure, education and peace and recovery projects.](#)

Election Watch

Côte d'Ivoire: Election Commission announced election date remains on 29 November 2009.

Burundi: First post-war election scheduled for 2010 is estimated to cost \$43m, of which **83% will come from development partners.**

Gabon: Ali Bongo, son of Omar Bongo wins with over 40%

Guinea: General Dadis Camara will run in upcoming elections on 31 January despite his promise not to be a candidate ([Article in French](#))

Guinea Bissau: President Malam Bacai Sanha is inaugurated 6 months after the assassination of former President Vieira ([Article in French](#))

Opinions

[Mail and Guardian Online](#) - South Africa is joining a "green rush" for the African continent. The Republic of the Congo has offered the South African company Agri SA 10 million hectares for South African farmers to produce maize and soya beans as well as to establish dairy and poultry farms. 200 local farmers may be relocated as a result.

[AllAfrica \(USA\) - Gabon: What Ali Bongo Must Do.](#) In this article, Paul Ohia, from Global Unification International, explains what to, his opinion, Ali Bongo should do to avoid following his father's steps.

[Business Day \(SA\) – All too Familiar:](#) In this paper, Zuma is criticized for being too weak in his assessment of the situation in Zimbabwe since the coalition was created.

[New York Times \(USA\) –](#) Kristof and WuDunn make a compelling case for and highlight the growing recognition that girls and women are not the problem, but the solution to poverty and development.

New York Times (USA) - [If the world thought the colonel had changed his views after 40 years in power, Qaddafi proved otherwise.](#)



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APP Activities

Kofi Annan, speaking at the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) World Climate Conference 3 (WCC3) in Geneva on the 31 August 2009 [called on the international community to create ways for people to defend themselves from climate change.](#) ♦ **Tony Blair** [spoke about faith and development in the inaugural seminar hosted by the Tony Blair Faith Foundation, DFID, Islamic Relief, World Vision and Oxfam.](#) ♦ **Graça Machel** commented on the [new partnership between the Foundation for Community Development, VillageReach, Oasis Fund and the Ministry of Health](#) in Mozambique. She called upon women to fight for their rights in order to change attitude, practice, belief and value systems at the [Law Society of the Northern Province women's conference in Pretoria](#) on the 3 September. ♦ **Michel Camdessus** was appointed as France's 'Pay Czar', charged with supervising the pay of the country's top bankers and traders in line with G20 ambitions to better regulate the financial industries. He will head a new [commission to study pay structures at banks in receipt of state aid.](#)

On the blogs

[Reuters Africa Blog- A tussle over trousers in Sudan](#)

Andrew Heavens describes what is seen by human rights activists as a test case in Sudan for the hundreds of women that get picked up every year for 'indecent exposure' due to their dress code.

Calendar

- 10-11 September** EU-South Africa summit in Cape Town
- 15 September** 64th UN General Assembly opens in New York
- 21 September** International Day of Peace.
- 22 September** UN High-Level Event on Climate Change
- 23-26 September** Clinton Global Initiative Annual Meeting in New York
- 24-25 September** G20 Summit Meeting in Pittsburgh, USA
- 24 September** World Bank launches its 'Doing Business 2010' Report in London.

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