

COP21

**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS UNATTAINABLE UNLESS
GLOBAL WARMING IS KEPT BELOW 1.5°C**

FROM NOVEMBER 30 TO DECEMBER 11, 2015,

the States Party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) will negotiate a binding, universal agreement that will enter into force in 2020. Coordination SUD and its members expect the States to make ambitious commitments compliant with IPCC recommendations and will be calling for decisions that bring about vital, in-depth transformations to our economic model. At the end of September, these States adopted the Agenda for Sustainable Development, with 17 goals to be implemented by 2030. They cannot refute this Agenda during the COP21 by subscribing to commitments that fall short of the related stakes and challenges.

Poor people and countries are the first to be affected by climate change. Development efforts for both rich and poor countries will fail unless adequately funded solutions that induce systemic change and are guided by clear principles, particularly in terms of human rights, are adopted.

THE CURRENT SITUATION REQUIRES IMMEDIATE DECISIVE ACTION BY THE STATES:

- **2015 was the hottest year in the world, measured against global mean figures since 1880, with record highs that demonstrate the reality of climate change.**
- **800 million people suffer from chronic hunger; there will be an additional 600 million by 2080 if the pace of greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) is not reduced.**
- **an additional 100 million people could fall below the poverty line by 2030 because of climate change if adequate development policies are not adopted, according to a World Bank report published in early November 2015.**
- **150 million people live less than one meter above sea level. What is now considered as the inevitable rise of the oceans together with the increased frequency of extreme climate-related events make it essential to take account of people displaced due to climate change in an environment already heavily taxed by hundreds of thousands of refugees.**

The current strong mobilisation of the civil society, local communities, and some business companies that are anxious to take action and have demonstrated real commitment is evidence of readiness to enter a phase of change.

THIS IS WHY IN ANTICIPATION OF THE 2015 PARIS CLIMATE CONFERENCE, COORDINATION SUD AND ITS MEMBERS ARE PRESENTING THEIR MAIN DEMANDS.

The 21st Conference of the Parties is the last event of a series in 2015, marked by the adoption of new 2030 Sustainable Development Goals by the UN General Assembly in September and the adoption of a roadmap for financing development by the UN's 195 countries in July.

That is why the relationship must be clearly established between the COP21 Agreement and other UN agreements, and also with the Rio Conventions (Biodiversity and Desertification) and the Committee on World Food Security (CFS).

¹cf. NASA report –<http://www.nasa.gov/press-release/nasa-science-zeros-in-on-ocean-rise-how-much-how-soon>

²Alteratiba Meeting in Paris on the 27th of september <https://alteratiba.eu/> end the World Summit Climate and Territories in Lyon on the 1st of july 2015 : <http://en.rhonealpes.fr/1202-world-climate-summit-2015-fr.htm>



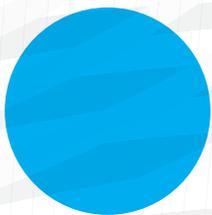
AN AMBITIOUS AGREEMENT THAT INCORPORATES THE ESSENTIAL PILLARS OF THE FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE

NATIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS THAT MEET THE CHALLENGE AND ARE SET OUT IN LEGALLY BINDING PERFORMANCE-RELATED OBLIGATIONS

Coordination SUD is pleased that 158 countries, that produce close to 89% of global emissions and represent 88% of the world population, have submitted their Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) prior to the COP21. Developing countries, including the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), have submitted proposals, some of which are very ambitious; this should encourage the richer countries to commit to a roadmap that greatly increases funding for the fight against climate change and for emissions reduction in their own countries.

However, these commitments are much too weak as they lead to a scenario where global warming is above 3°C.

- **This explains the urgent need for the richest countries to revise their plans upwards and adapt their lifestyles and production to more energy-efficient models in order to remain below +1.5°C.**
 - **The obligation to review their figures before 2020, and revise them every 5 years as of 2020 must be specified in the Agreement.**
 - **The Agreement must also set out long-term objectives to guide the actions of States and investors towards a sustainable carbon-free economy. To ensure the development and improvement of renewable energies and energy efficiency, they must be central to the Agreement.**
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CLEAR INFORMATION ON MOVING AWAY FROM FOSSIL FUELS AND ENTERING THE ENERGY TRANSITION PHASE

Fossil fuels are responsible for 80% of the world's CO₂ emissions and 67% of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, yet the Agreement does not mention them, and some countries continue to base their development largely on fossil fuels.

- **It is vital to send clear signals on this issue. The Agreement must schedule an end to the use of fossil fuels by the year 2050. This means eliminating subsidies that are now close to \$ 530 billion per year, with a definite timetable. It must also plan to leave two-thirds of oil and gas reserves in the ground, in other words, phase out production. A clear message should be sent to investors to redirect their investments towards renewable energy.**
- **This also applies to developing countries, taking into account the States' capabilities and the urgent energy-access needs of the vulnerable populations.**

THE INCLUSION OF «FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY» ISSUES IN THE AGREEMENT

Agriculture and the land use are responsible for nearly a quarter of global GHG emissions, and are also the sectors most vulnerable to climate change. But not all agricultural models are equally guilty: the biggest contributors to climate change are the farming systems with intensive use of chemical inputs, fossil energy and capital. As of 2011, agriculture was included in the negotiations, but was only discussed in the SBSTA (*Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice*) and only as of this year.

COORDINATION SUD WANTS

- **Agriculture, especially small-holder farming, to play a full-fledged role in the climate negotiations. The perspective must be expanded to include food security and nutrition, with special focus on the dangers of climate change for the right to food. With this in mind, the Paris Agreement should not only dwell on food production; it must ensure that all actions against climate change contribute to food security, particularly for the most vulnerable, and to soil fertility protection.**



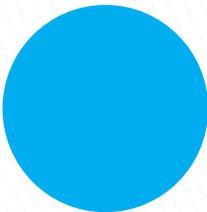
I AN AGREEMENT BASED ON RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

In October 2014, mandate-holders of the Procedures of the Human Rights Council (United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights) wrote to the States Parties to the UNFCCC. They emphasised that climate change is a major threat to fundamental rights such as the right to food, health or housing.

These connections have been further clarified since then, partly through field studies. Similarly, there have been an increasing number of calls for change from the abovementioned representatives, the civil society, and even from States Parties.

THUS, IT SEEMS ESSENTIAL THAT:

- **States undertake to respect, protect, promote and fulfil human rights, as well as gender equality, the full participation of women, a fair transition for the workforce and intergenerational equity in all actions against climate change. To do this, these linguistic elements must be repeated in both the operational component of the Agreement (Article 2) and in the Preamble.**
- **The Lima-Paris Action Agenda (LPAA) and all existing and planned financial mechanisms on climate issues include social and environmental safeguards as well as mechanisms for monitoring and ensuring accountability. The obligations and standards for human rights, which guarantee efficiency and sustainability, should be mandatory for public and private investors.**
- **The importance of having decisions made with the full participation of a free and informed civil society including representatives of the affected populations be recognised.**



These three points are essential to ensure that the Agreement contributes to the fight against all forms of discrimination, exclusion and inequality. It does not mean creating new obligations for States that have already ratified treaties on human rights, but does mean reconciling and ensuring coherence between existing obligations under the UNFCCC and international human rights standards. It is also important to ensure the involvement of a wide range of actors (UN agencies, States, civil society, etc.) in the process.



I ADAPTATION, LOSSES AND DAMAGE

The lack of ambition in terms of mitigation has a direct effect on current and future needs for adaptation and on the level of losses and damage. "Loss and damage" refers to a level of irreversible impact to which the affected populations cannot adapt. This can include the loss of homes, lands, crops, and, sometimes even lives, meaning that certain men and women pay the highest prices for climate change.

Adaptation to climate change and the question of loss and damage have long been the backwoods cousins of climate negotiations. Coordination SUD therefore welcomes the fact that adaptation has been given pride of place in the current version of the Agreement. However, there are still major issues to be discussed so that this does not remain just talk.

- **The link between the level of emissions reduction and the level of needs and financial and technical support for adaptation must be clearly recognised.**
- **A process to review the adaptation goals should be introduced and linked to emissions reduction cycles and to funding.**

Developed countries have traditionally blocked progress on the issue of loss and damage for fear of being financially "accountable" towards developing countries.

- **The Paris Agreement must include a specific section on loss and damage that must not be rejected under any circumstances.**
- **This section should anchor the Warsaw mechanism in the Agreement, which could then evolve according to changing needs. It could also enable the establishment of a specific loss and damages funding mechanism as well as help to coordinate the movements of populations due to climate change.**
- **The EU, which has been very silent on the topic of loss and damage in recent months, must take a clear-cut position that ambitiously – as proposed by the G77 – seeks to have this point included directly in the Agreement and not only in the "Decision".**

SECURING ENOUGH FINANCING TO MEET CLIMATE URGENCIES

The funding issue is non-negotiable:

the States least responsible for climate change cannot sign an agreement which does not give them or significantly contribute to, the financial resources to adopt resilient, low-carbon development measures and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

Lessons must be drawn from the Copenhagen Agreement: in 2009, the developed countries committed to mobilise \$ 100 billion per annum between now and 2020. According to the OECD report published in October 2015, climate funding amounted to \$ 61.8 billion in 2014, 71% of which came from public funds. But this encouraging figure hides a less rosy reality: this \$ 40.7 billion in public financing includes both subsidies and loans, some of which are not even concessional. In fact, the use of loans means that more climate financing is used for mitigation activities, which are more profitable than adaptation activities, although adaptation is very necessary for the most vulnerable countries. The OECD confirms this since 16% of international climate financing is earmarked for adaptation (77% for mitigation), even though funding is badly needed for adaptation.

- **The Paris Agreement should include mechanisms for setting collective goals for funding. These goals should be reviewed every five years. Contributing countries should make financial commitments regularly to achieve these common objectives.**
- **The Paris Agreement should also include a specific goal on public funding for adaptation activities. This goal should guarantee not only that funding for the poorest countries will continue to grow after 2020, but that it will respond specifically to their needs and furthermore will be adjusted to reflect the country's effort in reducing emissions and thus the real and expected level of impact.**
- **With regard to funding by the year 2020, contributing countries should commit to increasing their funding for adaptation substantially in order to offset the present deficit.**

The current financial tools are therefore not able to meet the challenges, in particular with regards to adaptation, for the most vulnerable countries. **However, the cost of inaction will grow exponentially** because there is a mechanical effect between lack of ambition with regard to mitigation and the coverage of adaptation, losses and damage due to growing impacts. Thus by 2050, adaptation costs could reach \$ 50 billion annually in Africa if we stay below 2°C, and up to \$ 100 billion per year in a scenario at +4°C⁵.

⁴Report Africa's adaptation Gap du PNUE – 4th of march 2015 - <http://www.unep.org/newscentre/Default.aspx?DocumentID=26788&ArticleID=34788&l=fr>
⁵HRW, "There is No Time Left". Climate Change, Environmental Threats, and Human Rights in Turkana County, Kenya, October 201⁵

I CAPITALISING AND PROMOTING TRANSFORMATIONAL SOLUTIONS

REJECTING SOLUTIONS THAT MERELY POSTPONE OR MAY AGGRAVATE THE PROBLEM

Since 2014, States and international organisations have been trying to emphasise the non-state actors' actions against climatic change through efforts that took shape during the Climate Summit organised under the auspices of Ban Ki Moon in September 2014 in New York, and the COP20 in Lima at the launching of the "NAZCA" (Non-Actor Zone State for Climate Action) platform and the Paris-Lima Action Agenda (LPAA). LPAA brings together some of the initiatives put forward in New York and some of the collective initiatives presented by the NAZCA platform. The French Presidency wants to make the LPAA one of the pillars of the Paris Agreement that is supposed to contribute to accelerating the reduction of GHG emissions and adapting to current and future impacts in the immediate and longer-term future. However, given the weakness of the LPAA framework, it is difficult to measure the real, current impact of these initiatives and ensure that they do not directly or indirectly harm the environment and/or human rights. Principles and criteria should be applied to exclude approaches and technologies that perpetuate our dependence on fossil fuels, do not allow for the sustainable reduction of greenhouse gases, do not improve the resilience of our societies, and/or pose real threats to local populations (human rights, food sovereignty) and ecosystems.

Using the LPAA to approve non-transformational approaches would send a very negative message to the COP21. It could harm the valuable solutions and actors whose references are scientific and who are working within the LPAA. This approval could inhibit the use of genuinely good solutions and block their implementation, all with the consent of the UN and the French government. It is therefore urgent to strengthen the foundations of the Action Agenda, based on the principles of the Climate Convention and on science, otherwise the civil society may delegitimise it even before it has been implemented.

COORDINATION SUD AND ITS MEMBERS WOULD LIKE TO EMPHASISE THE LIMITS AND RISKS OF CERTAIN INITIATIVES THAT COULD BE DEVELOPED VIA THIS AGENDA:

• **The Global Alliance on Climate Smart Agriculture (GACSA) was launched in September 2014 at the Climate Summit in New York. A large majority of civil society organisations, including Coordination SUD and its members, expressed great doubts about this alliance. A year later, 355 organisations from civil societies the world over denounced it as an agenda primarily established to "green" the activities of agribusiness and "business as usual." Some of the major criticisms of this Alliance are that: the practices promoted are not bound by any criteria or social/environmental standards; differences between various agricultural models and their specific needs are not identified; the actors involved do not uphold a North/South balance (10 of the 12 member states of the steering committee are from the North); 60% of the private sector representatives in the Alliance are from companies in the chemicals sector; no monitoring and evaluation mechanism has been set up within the Alliance. Finally, references to human rights are sorely lacking.**

→ **For further information, see Coordination SUD's Note on GACSA¹⁰.**

⁹Coordination SUD's Position paper following the New York Climate Summit <http://www.coordinationsud.org/wp-content/uploads/Note-N--3-Retour-sur-le-Sommet-Climat-de-BKM-October-20141.pdf>

⁸June 2015, <http://www.cidse.org/publications/just-food/food-and-climate/climate-smart-revolution-or-a-new-era-of-green-washing-2.html> - ⁹The same

¹⁰GACSA Note: <http://www.coordinationsud.org/document-ressource/les-notes-c2a-ccd-global-alliance-for-climate-smart-agriculture/>

- **Another initiative in the agricultural sector, the “4 for 1000” aims to improve the organic matter content and promote carbon sequestration in soils through agricultural practices adapted to local conditions. This initiative is currently in the design phase, but does not hold promise of being ‘transformational.’ Therefore, the final goal of ‘4 for 1000’ must be redefined. Clear criteria must also be established beforehand regarding the intended agricultural practices, governance, funding, and the protection of land rights. It is important that this initiative leaves no room for land grabbing, which would be particularly dangerous for local communities, where degraded lands remain useful for gathering, pastoral activities, etc. The implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure (2012) as well as the Principle of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) should be primary prerequisites.**

→ **For further information see Coordination SUD’s Note on the 4 per 1000 initiative¹¹.**

PROMOTING EFFECTIVE, FIELD-TESTED SOLUTIONS

Regarding agriculture: placing sustainable land management and agroecology at the heart of food safety issues.

Coordination SUD wishes to highlight the continued application of agricultural models that harm the land and prevent ecosystems from providing services that are essential for a significant percentage of the world population; 52% of agricultural lands have been degraded since the beginning of the 20th century while the availability of arable land per person decreased from 0.45 to 0.20 ha between 1961 and 2011, and widespread competition for land by international players has added more pressure. It has become clear that the fight against climate change must entail due attention to soil use since it is the cause of 30% of the emissions. Agricultural practices have a great potential for reducing emissions and for storing carbon, and also for mitigating local climatic conditions. Fighting land degradation, thus, is essential since it is the key to many environmental problems (protection of forests

and biodiversity, food security, etc.).

The implementation of public policies that embrace agroecology and agropastoralism, and protect small-holder farming by guaranteeing the right to food, as defined by the United Nations, is urgently needed and could involve the rehabilitation of 500 million hectares of available degraded lands.

To encourage sustainable governance and good land management requires efforts to put a stop to all future land degradation.

Thus faced with fashionable concepts and principles, such as Climate Smart Agriculture, driven in part by the giants of agribusiness that do not question production-oriented approaches.

COORDINATION SUD AND ITS MEMBERS WISH TO EMPHASISE

- **That agroecology is a productive model that is effective, resilient and sustainable. This model addresses the challenges of both adaptation and mitigation, especially for small-holder farming.**
- **The agroecology model should be broadly adopted and well supported. The multiple benefits of this knowledge-rich approach have been proven in the field. As practiced in small-holder family farming, agroecology optimises the potential of ecosystems and natural biomass cycles by including household waste and other carbon-rich organic waste. It is also a useful form of land management since it accommodates various environmental, social and economic components.**
- **Favouring the autonomy of local people and the preservation of natural resources.**
- **It contributes to reducing the use of synthetic inputs, thereby increasing “carbon sinks” in the organic matter of the soil and biomass resources, which ultimately reduces GHG emissions.**

→ **See the statement from civil society at the end of the forum on land degradation faced with climate change¹⁴.**

¹¹The 4 per 1000 Initiative Note: <http://www.coordinationsud.org/document-ressource/note-de-la-cdd-n8-initiative-4-pour-1000-soyons-vigilants/>

¹²English version: <http://www.coordinationsud.org/wp-content/uploads/Innovations-agro--cologiques-Afrique-VEng-VDebray-2015.pdf>

¹³UNCTAD, 2013. Wake up before it is too late: Make agriculture truly sustainable now for food security in a changing climate, http://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/ditcted2012d3_en.pdf - ¹⁴<http://www.coordinationsud.org/wp-content/uploads/Note-N7-The-Da15-Forum-September-2015-VEng-vf.pdf>

REGARDING ACCESS TO ENERGY: ON LARGE-SCALE DEVELOPMENT OF RENEWABLE ENERGY

Access to energy services for all is a priority goal for development. In a world that is setting sustainable development goals, Africa is still heavily dependent on fossil energy that is expensive and polluting, and does not allow the continent to develop access for all to other sources of energy. This also severely limits the possibility of achieving the poverty reduction goals: 700 million Africans still lack access to electricity; 80% of the population of sub-Saharan Africa depends on biomass resources such as charcoal for cooking; 600,000 Africans die every year because of pollution caused by the use of biomass resources for cooking and the lack of appropriate cooking technology. Energy is a major vector for developing and strengthening resilience to the impacts of climate change: the economy, health facilities, security, etc. directly depend on energy supplies. Viable solutions exist and are known: renewable energy and energy efficiency, and they alone, can limit global warming while allowing access to energy for all, even in the remote areas.

The renewable energy and energy efficiency sector is full of opportunities for Africa, a continent with a largely untapped potential in this area. However, renewable energy and energy efficiency, the main levers of action, are not even included in the draft version of the Agreement - just like fossil fuels, the main elements responsible for climate change.

TO SATISFY BOTH DEVELOPMENT ISSUES AND THE FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE, COORDINATION SUD ASKS THAT:

- **Substantial, long-term investments be made to ensure access for all to sustainable energy services. The financing gap to meet the SDGs for energy in Africa is estimated to be at least \$ 55 billion per year between now and 2030. This investment must be secured urgently, to avoid the construction of highly emissive infrastructures in an attempt to cover the immediate needs of a rapidly growing population. Such investment would create a lock-in effect over the next 40 years which would make the goal of staying under +1.5°C absolutely impossible.**
- **The question of renewable energy and energy efficiency be effectively included in the text of the Paris Agreement.**

REGARDING ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE: ENCOURAGING THE PRODUCTION AND TRANSMISSION OF QUALITY CLIMATE INFORMATION

Increased variability in precipitation and temperature patterns, increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, as well as the spatial and temporal uncertainty of weather forecasting are major challenges for the populations most at risk and dependent on natural resources.

High quality climate information accessible to all and Early Warning Systems are essential today to allow people to adapt their practices. These tools consist of detailed information on past, present and future climate conditions, whether from an empirical or scientific source. This information must be correlated with socio-economic vulnerability indicators to better meet specific needs and must be transmitted to people through communication means that are adapted to specific cultural contexts (use of local languages, radio announcements and other traditional means). Coordination between different actors is essential to enable appropriate responses especially when there are risks of natural disaster.

These tools have been put forward in several international frameworks including the Hyogo Framework for Action (2005) on disaster risk reduction and, most recently, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015), and have already been used effectively in the field by NGOs.

COORDINATION SUD RECOMMENDS THAT THESE TOOLS BE DEVELOPED AND IN PARTICULAR THAT:

- **Reliable climate information be produced by weather stations that cover the territory and by the study of endogenous knowledge. This information should be acted upon and monitored at all institutional levels, and accompanied by an understanding of vulnerability factors.**
- **Climate information be transmitted through appropriate communications channels to the target groups to ensure that all communities are informed about impending risks in a timely manner.**
- **Communities' capacity to interpret data be enhanced thereby facilitating shared decision-making. These recommendations should be taken into account when establishing the CREWS (Climate Risk Early Warning System) initiative, which especially France will be promoting at COP21.**

→ **For further information see Coordination SUD's Note on – Early Warning Systems¹⁵.**

¹⁵<http://www.coordinationsud.org/wp-content/uploads/Note-N--5-EWS-climate-Information-May-2015-VEG1.pdf>



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Association (created under the 1901 act), founded in 1994, Coordination SUD brings together over 160 NGOs, ¼ of which are part of six networks (CLONG-Volontariat, Cnajep, CHD, Crid, Forim, Groupe Initiatives). They carry out a wide range of activities: humanitarian aid, development assistance, environmental protection, the defense of human right for disadvantaged people, global citizenship and solidarity education and advocacy.

The Climate and Development Commission (CCD) of Coordination SUD works to influence the strategies of the development actors , to pass on good practices and to influence international negotiations. It brings together about 20 international solidarity NGOs: Acting for Life, Action Contre la Faim, Agronomes et Vétérinaires Sans Frontières, Association la Voûte Nubienne, ATD Quart-Monde, CARE France, Centre d'Actions et de Réalisations Internationales, CCFD - Terre Solidaire, Electriciens Sans Frontières, Fondation Energies pour le Monde, Fondation Good Planet, Groupe Energies Renouvelables, Environnement et Solidarités, Gevalor, GRDR, Gret, Initiative Développement, Institut de recherches et d'applications des méthodes de développement, Médecins du monde, Oxfam France, Peuples Solidaires, Planète Urgence, Secours Catholique-Caritas France, WWF.

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