



# CLIMATE ADAPTATION — POLICY BRIEF FOR UNGA 77

- Africa contains some of the countries most exposed to the effects of climate change, but with the lowest capacity to cope with these effects.
- Evidence from the IPCC AR6 report suggests that for Africa, GDP per capita for 1991-2010 is on average 13.6% lower than without climate change.
- Africa has contributed the least globally to climate change, even before removing countries like South Africa, Angola, Egypt, and Nigeria, all major energy sources for the Global North.
- African leaders travelled to Rotterdam to discuss climate adaptation ahead of COP27, aiming to raise \$25bn in adaptation investment by 2025 – but only \$55mn of new money was promised. Moreover, the only European leader in attendance was the Dutch Prime Minister – the host. This represents another missed opportunity.
- Europe needs Africa – both for its economic future and to fight climate change. Africa has the resources and potential to produce an enormous amount of clean energy, and the continent's young population bring the dynamism and drive to realise this potential.

## WHAT IS CLIMATE ADAPTATION?

Climate change is already affecting every region on Earth, in multiple ways. The impacts include more intense rainfall, flooding, droughts; continued sea level rise and coastal erosion; food insecurity; water scarcity, all affecting human health and livelihoods. The shifts in natural climate patterns leading to extreme weather events associated with loss and damage to human society, infrastructure, and ecosystems. According to the IPCC AR6 Report, human-induced climate change is increasingly contributing to humanitarian crises, causing displacement across the world, but particularly in the Global South. Human society is entirely reliant upon a healthy ecosystem for the rights to life, health, food, water and culture. It is clear that climate change is driving rapid and vast changes to ecosystems, and the longer adaptation efforts are put off, the more difficult and expensive both adaptation and mitigation become.

**“ADAPTATION, IN RESPONSE TO CURRENT CLIMATE CHANGE, IS REDUCING CLIMATE RISKS AND VULNERABILITY MOSTLY VIA ADJUSTMENT OF EXISTING SYSTEMS. MANY ADAPTATION OPTIONS EXIST AND ARE USED TO HELP MANAGE PROJECTED CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS, BUT THEIR IMPLEMENTATION DEPENDS UPON THE CAPACITY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF GOVERNANCE AND DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES” — IPCC 2022**

Across all sectors and regions, progress in adaptation planning and implementation has been demonstrated, resulting in multiple gains. Climate adaptation provides numerous additional benefits, including increased agricultural productivity, infrastructure and technological innovation, health and well-being, food security, livelihood, and biodiversity protection, as well as risk and harm reduction. Climate adaptation must be mainstreamed across multiple sectors to provide more policy coherence and implementation. However, for more ambitious adaptation development and activities, partnership and collaboration will be critical in the upcoming international engagements, serving to deepen relations between Africa and Europe and realizing their partnership agreement.

At COP26, developing countries vented their dissatisfaction and outrage over the unfulfilled promise of international climate finance to support adaptation and mitigation. [The Glasgow Climate Pact](#) which emphasised the urgency of scaling up action and support, including finance, capacity-building and technology transfer, to enhance adaptive capacity, strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate change in line with the best available science, taking into account the priorities and needs of developing countries, was a core output of COP 26, but leading into COP27 in Egypt, African nations are asking for even greater focus on finance, adaptation, and loss and damage.



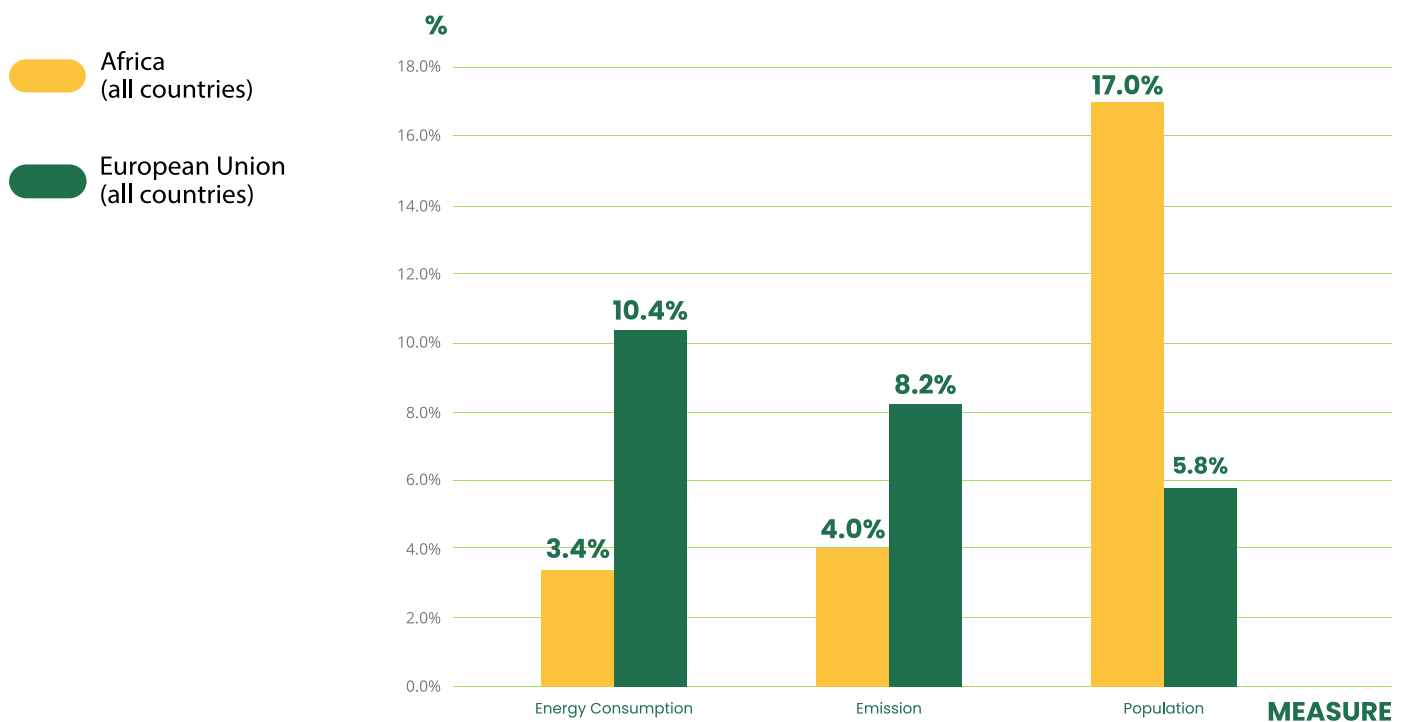
## WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR AFRICA-EUROPE RELATIONS?

Seven months on from last meeting of African and European leaders (the 6th EU-AU Summit in Brussels), the Africa-Europe Partnership remains plagued by a lack of credibility. The Global Gateway initiative has the potential to restore some trust between the parties, but finding common ground on adaptation and loss and damage would be a strong signal to countries across both continents that dialogues can lead to progress. As both Africa and Europe continue to diverge over questions of energy access, food systems, and responsibility for climate change, Africa-Europe partnership on the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA), Loss and Damage (L&D) and climate-resilient infrastructure can help to provide much needed finance for climate adaptation and mitigation in Africa, and position the EU as a global climate leader in the public and private sectors of the Global North.

**“AFRICAN COUNTRIES HAVE NO TIME TO WASTE. OUR WORK STARTS TODAY TO ENSURE WE TRULY OWN THE AGENDA AT COP27 AND PUSH FOR BOLD CLIMATE ACTION FOR AFRICA AND THE REST OF THE WORLD. LET’S USE OUR COLLECTIVE VOICE AND POWER TO MAKE COP27 A STORY OF RESULTS AND OUTCOMES, NOT JUST PROMISES, FOR AFRICA”**

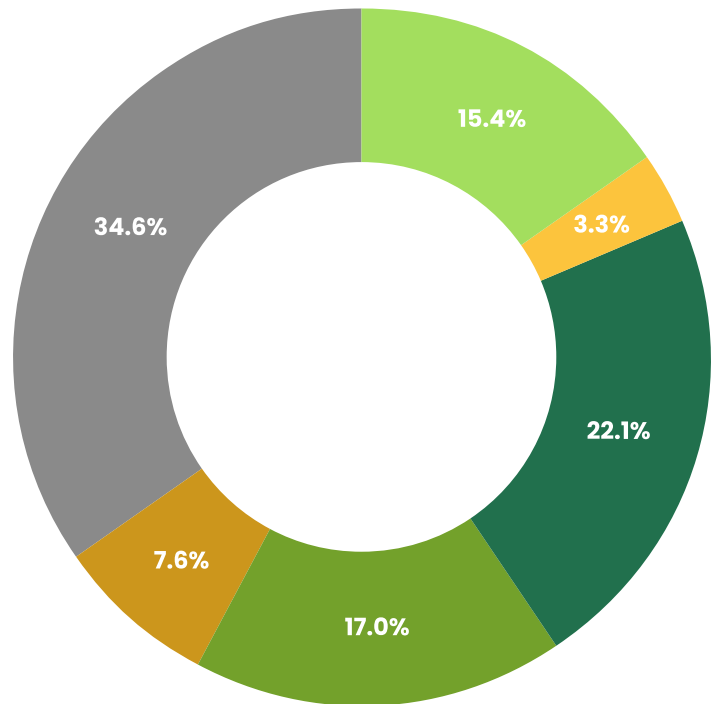
— Africa Center for Economic Transformation

## AFRICA & EU: SHARE OF GLOBAL ENERGY CONSUMPTION, CARBON EMISSIONS & POPULATION (2019)





## SELECTED REGIONAL GROUPS AND COUNTRIES: SHARE OF GLOBAL CARBON EMISSIONS (1960-2020)



Data compiled by the Mo Ibrahim Foundation

## AREAS OF ACTION

- Put focus on donors to fulfil existing commitments on climate finance, with first priority given to the \$100bn target that formed the core of the Paris Agreement, and which was missed in 2020. The recent floods in Pakistan, as well as extreme weather events across Africa and Europe have again highlighted the devastating impact climate change has on countries most vulnerable to extreme weather events, countries which in general have played the smallest role in creating the current challenge we face. Existing commitments must be filled to combat the growing sense of distrust and betrayal amongst countries on the frontline.
- Build on the work of the Champions' Group on Adaptation Finance to demonstrate the pathway to double adaptation finance by 2025 compared to 2019 and build on the delivery plan put together by Germany and Canada to fulfil the commitment of developed countries to mobilise at least \$100 billion per year by 2020.
- Redesign the multilateral system to better recognise and support key actors in the fight against climate change. Back the call of the AEF for the African Union to become the 21st Member of the G20, given the relevance for Africa to take a more active role in the global crises that are shaping the continent's destiny.
- Engage with the New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance to prepare the ground and agree on a post-2025 financial goal - Africa and Europe should be at the forefront of this movement and work jointly to direct funding towards projects that can demonstrate tangible results.
- Support the development of climate resilient infrastructure, including both the retrofitting of existing infrastructure and the development of new infrastructure. Structural adaptation measures such as new materials for roads and railways that better resist extreme heat, management measures such as early warning systems, and wholly new infrastructure such as sea walls are needed to protect lives and livelihoods from the physical impacts of climate change. Strategic investment in the transport and energy sectors in particular can also help reduce emissions, as seen with the German offer of near-free rail transport in July and August.
- Reaffirm the importance of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities (CBDR-RC) using the latest data on historical emissions and impacts of climate change on African and European countries. Jointly recognise the significance of losses and damages to livelihoods and economic GDP across Africa and Europe and acknowledge the urgent need for loss and damage to be centrally positioned as an item on the agenda in Sharm El-Sheikh.

- Explore the readiness of European and African countries to work together with continental and international financial institutions, and create a Loss and Damage Facility, towards which existing and new funding mechanisms could be directed. Europe needs to demonstrate a distinct shift in position, and offer prospects for recycled SDRs for loss and damage and debt-for-climate and nature swaps.
- Support the AU in implementing its new Climate Strategy, and jointly assess the points of contact and divergence between it and Europe's Adaptation, and Africa Strategies. By working together, the EU and AU could assess preparedness to address climate shocks, in terms of capacity, skills, technology and funding, in collaboration with the African Risk Capacity (ARC) Group, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), and national and regional enabling organisations.
- Offer support to African countries' capacities to access and use existing funding sources. This includes, among others, investing in the development of Direct Access Entities and engagement platforms for sub-national actors to implement adaptation strategies. National Adaptation Plans and Nationally Determined Contributions must be leveraged for developmental gains in African states, but this can only be done if there is a ready pipeline of activities that address adaptation requirements.
- Find common ground within the UNFCCC negotiating process, particularly on the GGA and L&D. COP27 will see a strong push from developing countries, particularly the African Group of Negotiators (AGN), on GGA and loss and damage. The EU and the AU should strive to partner on the GGA and L&D, with the aim to build adaptive capacity, strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate change.
- Fulfil commitments to food systems. Under the Maputo and Malabo declarations of the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP), African governments signed up to invest 10% of government expenditure in food and agriculture. However, a 2018 review showed that less than half of the countries in Africa had delivered on this promise. Despite the further squeeze on public finance caused by the pandemic, CAADP has helped many governments design national agricultural investment strategies and follow a food systems approach that needs further strengthening. Africa and Europe must work jointly towards this target and prioritise investment for the development of sustainable and local agri-food value chains to build food sovereignty.
- Invest in growing plant proteins for more resilient farming systems. The need to cut back on greenhouse gas emissions associated with farming can be helped by seeding more croplands with nitrogenous fixing plants, such as lentils, peas and beans. They fit well within mixed farming systems, offer valuable stover for animals, and enrich soils as they grow. They also provide cheap proteins for improving and better balancing human diets. Divesting from current agricultural staples such as wheat for millet or root crops such as cassava also makes better use of soils in Africa, and can potentially generate export markets.
- Develop inclusive cross-sectoral food strategies linking urban and rural areas, through investment in climate-smart infrastructure and agroecology, making it possible for small-scale producers in Africa and Europe to supply territorial markets and cover most of the needs of urban people and local industry.
- Listen to civil society movements such as the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA), and IPES-Food, who are asking governments and donors to reconsider funding priorities which increase reliance on foreign imports including fertilisers and pesticides. At a time when fertiliser supply is under strain due to the conflict in Ukraine, a move towards agroecology can help support food sovereignty and climate adaptation at the same time, and increase the strength of Africa's voice at global fora such as the UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS).

Climate change has been a central pillar of the Africa-Europe Foundation's work since its creation in 2020. This policy brief combines insights from the first Africa-Europe working group on Climate Adaptation, meetings of the AEF Strategy Groups, and orientations from the High-Level Group and Women Leaders Network in 2022.

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