

1st SA-EU Summit
25 July 2008
Bordeaux, France

Declaration on Climate Change

We acknowledge that climate change is a serious global challenge which demands urgent, cooperative and shared responsibility to act. In this context, we underline our joint commitment to the objectives and principles of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Kyoto Protocol. We agree on the necessity to conclude negotiations on a strengthened and effective global agreement for the climate change regime after 2012 by the end of 2009.

We affirm the urgent need to work closely together on the development of all elements of an agreement on the climate regime beyond 2012. We jointly underline the need to muster political will to take stronger action on climate change and to examine how the international framework could facilitate such action.

To avoid the worst impacts of climate change, all countries need to carry their fair share of responsibility to limit a global temperature increase to below 2°C, in accordance with the UNFCCC principles of equity, common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. In this context, we recognise that a global transition to a low-carbon economy and society is essential and that it is both affordable and achievable. We note that the transition presents many opportunities for developing the environmental economic sector and requires major efforts to enhance sustainable consumption and production patterns, as well as sustainable lifestyles. Given the global nature of the climate change challenge, we further note that this transition to a low carbon and sustainable economy requires a strengthened, equitable and effective global climate change agreement which enables and supports long-term cooperative international, regional and domestic action.

We therefore highlight that this global agreement should be informed by the best available science as set out in the IPCC 4th Assessment Report, that points to the need for a shared vision of achieving equitable and sustainable development, which includes a global long term goal for emissions to peak within the next 10-15 years and decline by at least 50% by 2050, compared to 1990 levels.

We further stress that, for this shared vision and long term global goal to be credible, it requires all developed countries to take the lead by committing to ambitious and comparable legally binding emission reduction targets. In this context, we call upon the international community to consider the most ambitious set of targets reflected in the 4th Assessment Report of the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change, which indicates the need for emissions reduction targets by all developed countries, as a group, in the range of 25% to 40% by 2020, and in the range of 80% to 95% by 2050 as well as emission reductions below “business-as-usual” emission trajectories in some developing country regions by 2020 and substantial emission reductions below “business-as-usual” emission trajectories in all developing country regions by 2050.

We realise that leadership of this nature by developed countries on its own would not be enough, it would also need to trigger a significant contribution from developing countries to the global effort, through measurable, reportable and verifiable actions to substantially reduce their emissions below “business-as-usual” emission trajectories. We further understand that enhanced mitigation action by developing countries will be supported and enabled by technology, finance and capacity building from developed countries, which is provided in a measurable, reportable and verifiable manner.

We confirm that developed countries need to commit to scale up financing to deliver new, adequate and predictable finance for adaptation and mitigation actions and related technology development, deployment and transfer. We highlight that some of the tools that could be considered as part of the financial and technology architecture up to and beyond 2012 include an expanded international carbon market, including expanding emissions trading and improving the Clean Development Mechanism; innovative financing mechanisms as well as the financial mechanism of the Convention. Climate and climate specific enabling environments at international, regional and national levels are considered crucial in this regard.

We acknowledge the EU’s decreasing emissions (-10,8% compared to base year levels) and take note of the EU’s efforts to further reduce emissions, particularly with regard to its recent “Climate action and renewable energy package” of proposals that will deliver on the European Union’s ambitious commitments to fight climate change and promote renewable energy up to 2020 and beyond. We also acknowledge the EU’s unilateral commitment to reduce its overall emissions to at least 20% below 1990 levels by 2020, and its readiness to scale up this reduction to as much as 30% under a new global climate change agreement if other developed countries make comparable efforts. We note the EU’s target of an increased share of renewables in energy use to 20% by 2020.

We acknowledge that South Africa is committed to undertaking measurable, reportable and verifiable nationally appropriate mitigation actions in the context of sustainable development. We note that enhanced mitigation action by South Africa to ensure that its emissions substantially deviate from business-as-usual trajectories will be supported and enabled by technology, finance and capacity building from developed countries.

South Africa's Long Term Mitigation Scenario (LTMS) study and planning will set the pathway for its long-term climate policy and will eventually inform a legislative, regulatory and fiscal package to give effect to this policy.

Both parties agree to work on appropriate incentives for action to enable mitigation and adaptation. We further agree to exchange information about policy options to address win-win potentials for adaptation and emission reductions, e.g. from energy efficiency measures as well as work to address barriers to implementation. We agree to engage in closer exchange on national climate change strategies and explore needs and tools for enhanced financial and technical cooperation. We agree to cooperate, among others, in the area of climate friendly development, adaptation, renewable energy, climate relevant research and development and in the design of innovative carbon market mechanisms to provide stronger incentives for deployment of commercial technologies.

We agree to cooperate and take strong measures to encourage low carbon technology development, deployment and dissemination. Both parties will work jointly to ensure that the technologies become affordable, particularly energy options. In this context, we agree to explore possibilities to cooperate in the area of near-zero emissions coal technology through carbon capture and geological storage.

We also agree to cooperate on capacities and capabilities in the area of policy and measures for monitoring and reporting with a view to establish national monitoring and reporting systems and identifying areas for improvement. We further agree to cooperate on activities relating to avoided deforestation as well as reforestation and afforestation.

We agree that even with the achievement of limiting climate change to 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, the global community will still suffer from unavoidable climate change and therefore adaptation must be treated with equal importance as mitigation. We recognize the leading role of developed countries in supporting effective adaptation actions in developing countries. In this context, we conclude that integration of climate change into planning and development strategies and into all relevant decision-making processes at all levels of society is an important element of effective adaptation at national level, while also acknowledging that



adaptation actions needed to protect global and regional public goods and services are a key priority for joint action by the international community.

We affirm that we will continue work in the context of the European Commission-South Africa Forum for Environment and Sustainable Development and its working group on Climate Change and note that this cooperation will strengthen cooperation and dialogue on climate change including clean energy, and promote sustainable development in agreed areas of cooperation. Furthermore, confirm their commitment to continuing the work in the context of the EU-Africa strategy and its EU-Africa Partnership on climate change with a view to build a common agenda on climate change policies and to address land degradation and increasing aridity.