

CONFERENCE COMMUNIQUE TO COP21 ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS IN EAST AFRICA

Final Draft

We, Participants of the 1st Climate Change and Opportunities for Sustainable Business in East Africa Conference, meeting in Kampala on November 12, 2015.

Concerned about the adverse effects on trade and business, social, economic opportunities and development, human health, the environment, and continental prosperity from the negative impacts of climate change;

Taking into account the already existing global efforts and policies aimed at directing development along a low carbon path as well as aspirations of the United Nations Conference of the Parties in particular the COP21 Conference 2015 in Paris, France to achieve a legally binding and universal agreement on climate.

Recognizing that sustainable solutions and technology can be harnessed to create business opportunities for the mutual benefit of East Africa and Norway in line with international targets including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Further recognizing the need for Academia, Private Sector and Government to come together in a triple helix alliance that can sustainably set the agenda to combat the foreseeable effects of climate change as well as address cross-cutting issues in business like mainstreaming gender, indigenous knowledge, HIV/AIDS, child protection, and disability;

Hereby Declare as follows:

1. We recommend that South-North collaborations especially in the areas of research and innovation which are key to attaining climate-friendly development and eventually developing sustainable business enterprises be prioritized and mainstreamed into national policy frameworks.
2. Based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, we recommend the urgent streamlining of climate financing initiatives including but not limited to carbon markets to enable up-scaling of existing technologies on a massive scale such as the use of solar energy, wind and thermal resources as well as energy saving clean cooking technologies.
3. We encourage and appeal to Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Faith-based organizations, the private sector and the media to embrace networking as a mutually beneficial avenue for sharing and disseminating business programs supported by national and regional policy frameworks as well as build capacity of stakeholders to implement viable climate change and business linkages
4. We recommend that the Academia, Private Sector and Government form a strong alliance that commercializes research findings, technology and technology transfer as well as innovative approaches towards climate-smart business opportunities at all levels.

We, delegates meeting at the Climate Change Opportunities for Business in East Africa Conference in Kampala, hereby submit this communiqué to the 21st meeting of the United Nations Conference of the Parties in Paris, France for consideration and action.