

AFRICAN UNION

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DIRECTORATE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

### MESSAGE OF THE CHAIRPERSON ON COP17/CMP7



The African Union Commission continues to service AU Member States in various areas across the four pillars of peace and security, regional integration, institutional capacity building and shared values.

In this context, the Commission supports Member States to build resilience against the impacts of climate change and climate variability and to adapt.

In addition, the Commission supports Member States' efforts to participate effectively and benefit optimally from global climate change negotiations where the African common position is our rallying pint, under the guidance of the unified structure called the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC) coordinated by H.E Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of the Ethiopia. CAHOSCC is supported by the African Ministerial Council on Environment (AMCEN) currently led by Hon. Tiemoko Songare, Minister of Environment and Sanitation of the Republic of Mali and the African Group of Negotiators chaired by Dr. Tosi Mpanu-Mpanu of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

In this connection, and as mandated by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government, the Commission is working closely with the Government of the Republic of South Africa and partner institutions including the African Development Bank, will be mounting an African Pavilion in Durban, South Africa during CoP17, to show-case the climate change initiatives of the continent's nations and communities and to host multi-level and multi-stakeholder events and roundtables on the Theme ***Development First***.

While Africa endeavours to engage in climate smart development, we seek support of our development partners and we call upon developed and industrialized nations to step up measures to reduce green-house gas emissions responsible for global warming.