

AFRICAN UNION

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Talking Points

H.E. Dr. Jean Ping,

Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union

At the

Roundtable Discussion on Climate Finance in Africa

07 December 2011

African Pavilion, Durban, South Africa



TALKING POINTS FOR THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMISSION OF THE AFRICAN UNION AT ROUNDTABLE ON CLIMATE FINANCE FOR AFRICA, 7 DECEMBER 2011

African Pavilion, Durban, South Africa

1. I wish to begin by expressing my gratitude to the Government of the Republic of South Africa and our Partners, the AfDB and UNECA, for the successful organization of the African Pavilion, which is home to a number of events since the start of the UN Conference on Climate Change, here in Durban.
2. The theme of Climate Finance is very central to the whole climate change negotiation agenda. It is absolutely crucial for Africa because it determines the extent to which adaptation and mitigation efforts – as part of its broader developmental agenda- can be successful.
3. Addressing the climate finance question adequately and fairly is also central in building trust and solidarity among developed and developing countries through demonstrating commitment in addressing this global phenomenon, climate change.
4. We all recall that Copenhagen had formalized an agreement to mobilize fast-start and long-term climate finance. The pledge was made by developed countries to provide new and additional resources approaching 30 billion in fast start finance for the period 2010-12. There are legitimate reasons to suspect that those pledges

have remained largely pledges, not real commitments; since very little of these has been made good.

5. A number of studies have confirmed that Africa needs substantial financial resources and technical capacities to push the adaptation and mitigation efforts forward.
6. But, for Africa it is not only the adequacy of climate finance that matters; it is also the issues of access. That is why African Heads of State and Government have opted for establishing a special window - African Green Climate Fund - to facilitate access to Green Climate Fund, and requested the African Development Bank to work with us on it. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Kaberuka, President of the AfDB for his leadership in the implementation of that Assembly Decision.
7. The Decision in Cancun to establish the Green Climate Fund was a historic decision. The Transitional Committee for the design of the Green Climate Fund has submitted its Report to the COP17 for consideration and approval. We understand that this Report has some elements for further improvement, but it is our considered view that it should be adopted, without reopening debate, if progress is to be made for operationalising it. Hence, this should constitute one significant deliverable for Durban.
8. We also believe that Africa should be appropriately represented in the governing bodies, including on the Board.

9. After all is said and done, the taste of the pudding is in the eating; i.e., the manner in which the Fund operates should enable Africa to address its development challenges in the context of climate change.
10. It is our hope that adequate amount of initial pledges that will be honoured would be made by developed countries to operationalise the Fund, with real commitments to regularly replenish it.

I thank you