



## ACT Alliance COP22 Position Paper

The Paris Agreement, under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was agreed to in December 2015 and ratified less than a year later. It represents a turning point away from the use of fossil fuels and towards a sustainable and resilient future. This is the first time in history that such a large number of countries have agreed universally to take action to tackle climate change by limiting the increase in global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels; to pursue further efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels; and to reduce emissions rapidly towards net zero in the second half of the century. However, the pledges for action that each individual country plans make in order to achieve these goals - the "nationally determined contributions" (NDCs), do not yet add up to deliver the target temperature rise limit, so there is still considerable work to be done.

The success of this new climate regime depends on the adoption of clear and transparent international rules that incorporate a just and rapid climate transition at national levels; as well as improved cross-sector and international cooperation.

Between 7-18 November, 195 countries will meet in Marrakech, Morocco, for the 22nd session of the Conference of the Parties (COP22) to the UN Convention on Climate Change. COP22 must set out a big shift towards turning the Paris vision and agreement into reality. With the early and fast ratification of the Paris Agreement, the political will is there. This must send a strong signal to negotiators in Marrakech to accelerate climate action in the pre-2020 period, while at the same time laying the foundations for the new post-2020 climate regime agreed in Paris.

**ACT Alliance** is a faith-based global network of churches and church-related development organisations fighting poverty, providing humanitarian support and promoting a fair and sustainable model of development. The Paris Agreement provides an opportunity for humanity to lift people out of poverty and preserve our environment for future generations through rapid transition to low carbon and sustainable lifestyle that is consistent with the stewardship

### **Overarching principles for robust technical rules and procedures in the agreement**

Climate change poses an imminent and significant threat to all of creation. The survival of people, communities and fundamental human rights are at risk. Climate change policy and action must have people, particularly those that are most vulnerable, at the centre. The elaboration and implementation of the Paris Agreement, including the anticipated energy and climate transition should not be carried out in a way that compromises or violates human rights and the principles of justice and sustainability. At COP22, Parties must provide further guidance on how human

rights shall be integrated, guaranteed and respected in the operationalisation of the Paris Agreement and the related decisions.

Particular attention must be paid to gender integration, so that gender differences and inequalities are not only recognised, but identified and addressed in manner that provides for accountability. Women's participation must be streamlined into all climate change policies and projects. ACT Alliance recognises that women often face the impacts of climate change more severely and directly as a result of gender inequalities. Women also have specific competences on resource management, such as water and energy management, because of their gender roles, and these roles are often overlooked because they fall outside the formal economy. Women, therefore, must be at the heart of the climate transition, at all levels of decision making, including at COP22 itself.

Biodiversity, environment and food production are already heavily impacted by climate change which has led to fundamental challenges for human well-being and survival. Policies and solutions for a just climate transition must ensure sustainability and security for all; and not bring any further damage to ecosystems.

The principle of equity, as embedded in the convention, must prevail as most populations impacted by climate change have least contributed to changing the climate and have least capacity and resources to survive climate change impacts. All countries and communities must take the path towards zero carbon development with those historically responsible and heavily industrialised taking a lead and contributing significantly to helping the others.

## **Key asks of ACT Alliance**

### **1. For a Low Carbon Development and urgent actions to keep global warming below 1.5°C**

The current commitments and targets presented by countries in form of NDCs are not ambitious enough to keep global warming below 1.5°C or even 2°C. With the entry into force of the Paris Agreement, Parties should use this momentum to grasp the urgency of action needed and collectively ramp up their mitigation plans, focusing on renewable energies and energy efficiency as two key elements to close the emission gap before 2020 and put the world on a climate ambitious course.

*Therefore, ACT Alliance calls for Parties to agree in Marrakech on:*

- The adoption of a process to facilitate and adopt robust and transparent rules for countries to assess their national contributions, in relation to ambition and equity. This must be done against a workable Equity Reference Framework that embodies the Convention's core equity principles, and within which individual countries mitigation and finance contributions can be contextualised and reviewed. These rules and processes will help to enable the first 2018 facilitative dialogue which will also serve as a model for the 5-year ratcheting up mechanism, which aims to enable governments to increase their ambition on carbon emissions and finance contributions;

- The revising and strengthening of current NDCs for 2025/2030, in particular for historically major large greenhouse gas emitting countries, before the next round of negotiations;
- The broadening of exciting and productive initiatives worldwide such as the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative and the Solar Alliance to include other non-African least developed countries (LDCs), small island states (SIDs) and Latin-American and Asian countries; and
- The adoption of further decisions related to the Climate Action Agenda, should integrate references to the respect for human, gender and environmental rights.

Furthermore, ACT Alliance calls for Parties to start preparing their mid-century zero carbon development strategies, with lower income countries being clear where they need technology and financial support to deliver. One of the elements of these strategies should be to strive for 100% renewable energy by 2050, with earlier targets for historical and big emitters. It is critical that these strategies including financing mechanisms to encourage research and development activities to expedite reaching 100% renewable energy. The earlier these strategies are adopted, the better prepared countries and economic sectors will be for the transition.

## 2. For a resilient society for all

The Paris Agreement is a vital step forward towards the urgent prevention of, mitigation of, adaptation to and response to climate change impacts especially for the most at risk countries. **Progress on adaptation** will be tracked with a specific qualitative goal and should be linked to the 5-year stock take mechanism. In order to ensure adaptation actions are efficient and responsive to the needs of the most vulnerable.

*ACT Alliance calls for COP22 to:*

- Define a strategic roadmap addressing how the adaptation qualitative goal will be defined and anchored to the 5-year stock take mechanism, including information and communication elements to be provided by Parties;
- Agree on clear guidance for scaling up financial support for adaptation until 2020, to ensure parity of support with mitigation and to agree on the place and role of the Adaptation Fund in the Paris Agreement; and
- To clarify the communications needs and requirements for adaptation which are inherently different from those for mitigation, and support for the most vulnerable and poorest, both women and men, to identify their needs and interests and to establish plans accordingly.

**Loss & Damage** is now recognised as a stand-alone issue in the Paris Agreement and a set of solutions must be developed over the next years to ensure that it is addressed adequately in order to avoid cascading disasters due to climate change-related events. As its operational body, the Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM) and its Executive Committee (ExCom) have started implementing its first two-year work plan despite delays.

*ACT Alliance calls for COP22 to:*

- Decide upon the modalities of the review of the 2-year plan of the WIM ExCom and to swiftly conclude this review in 2017 at the latest. It must be based on the reviewing processes of other UNFCCC bodies;
- Agree on elaborating a 5-year rolling work plan by next year at the latest, building on the ongoing 2-year work plan, in order to link it to the stock-take process and to better prepare for and deal with the adverse effects of climate change;
- Agree on the Terms of Reference for the Task Force on Displacement and a Clearing-house for Risk Transfer. Those must ensure equal representation of world regions and be provided with sufficient support to carry forward their mandate and develop sound solutions; and
- Dedicate time to discuss outcomes of the Standing Committee on Finance 5th Forum with mapping of relevant financial tools to address loss and damage risk, including the need to address social protection for the most vulnerable, and to continue discussion on loss and damage finance as separate from adaptation. Disaster response and humanitarian finance, financial tools to address loss of territory and forced displacement, amongst others, should be given particular attention.

### **3. For an adequate and predictable support package to the poorest and most vulnerable**

The Paris Agreement includes a support package and COP22 is a good time to discuss how best to deliver it. Ambitious implementation of the Paris Agreement in developing countries will significantly rely on increasing capacity and the provision of support by developed countries. Capacity building is essential for ambitious action and deserves particular attention.

*Therefore ACT Alliance calls for COP22 to:*

- Agree on the Terms of Reference for the Paris Committee on Capacity Building. The structure of this committee must ensure equal representation of world regions and be provided with sufficient support to carry forward its mandate and develop effective and coherent approaches;
- Discuss and agree guidelines to improve the effectiveness and coherence of capacity building approaches, preferably drawing on the extensive experience and lessons learned accumulated through international development assistance. To assess the need to improve data collection, availability, building measurement systems and to further institutionalise capacity building policies.
- Clarify resource needs, access to funds, funding local staff to keep institutional memory in the affected communities, reinforcing local ownership of solutions development for a better acceptance and compliance with local needs, including capacity development on gender analysis.
- Ensure financial support to strengthen the capacity of developing countries, with rich countries also committing to provide the required technical and technological support.

- Ensure that capacity building is provided for mitigation, adaptation, loss and damage, finance and technology to facilitate resilience.

For effective implementation of the Paris agreement **climate finance is key**. In addition to countries respecting their commitments, a definition of climate finance is essential to increase the transparency of existing climate finance flows.

*ACT Alliance calls for COP22 to:*

- Adoption of decisions to scale up and fulfill commitment to provide USD100 billion by 2020 for mitigation and adaptation, and the same amount annually for the period 2020-2025;
- Make progress in negotiations about guidelines to monitor, report and verify climate finance, with the establishment of a clear definition of climate finance as public support from developed to developing countries. Guidelines should include clear criteria for what to be counted as climate finance, as well as exclusion criteria, e.g. market-based loans;
- Make progress on improving developing countries, vulnerable communities and vulnerable groups access to climate finance by strengthening institutional support for capacity building and addressing key barriers; and
- Ensure climate funds from both public and private sources to be subject to strict social and environmental safeguards, and to create instruments that will directly channel funding to women and gender rights' groups.