

FINAL DECLARATION OF ELYSEE SUMMIT FOR PEACE AND SECURITY IN AFRICA

The Elysée Summit for Peace and Security in Africa was held in Paris on 6-7 December. It dealt with peace and security in Africa, the economic partnership and development, and climate change. Fifty-three delegations from African countries and France took part in the summit, as well as representatives from the United Nations, the African Union, the European Union, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the African Development Bank.

The heads of state and government welcomed the proposal to hold another summit, in Mali.

Climate change

27. The heads of state and government recalled the vital importance of acting swiftly on the goal of limiting global warming to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels. They highlighted their joint commitment to drawing up, at the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21) to be held in Paris in 2015, a new binding agreement under the convention, which will apply to all parties and must enter into force by 2020 at the latest.

The heads of state and government further recalled the urgent need for all parties to initiate or intensify domestic preparations for their intended nationally determined contributions, without prejudice to the legal nature of the contribution, towards achieving the overall objective of the convention, in the context of adopting a binding agreement, and to communicate them well in advance of COP21 here in Paris. France expressed its readiness to provide support to African countries which so wish, to prepare their contributions in due time.

28. The heads of state and government highlighted the need for a balanced climate agreement in Paris in 2015, focusing both on mitigation and adaptation, and including the means of implementation, in particular strengthening technology transfer, capacity building measures for the most vulnerable countries, and the provision of financial resources for Africa in accordance with the convention.

29. In this regard, the heads of state and government welcomed the convening by the United Nations Secretary-General of a climate summit to be held on 23 September 2014 aimed at mobilizing efforts and ambition in the climate change area. The European Union-Africa Summit in April 2014 will provide an opportunity to address the themes of economic partnership and climate change.

30. The heads of state and government stressed the importance of promoting a positive agenda for the fight against climate disruption, based on cooperation between parties, in order to maximize the opportunities provided by the fight against climate change for poverty reduction, sustainable socio-economic development, access to energy, the fight against desertification, deforestation and soil degradation and support for agriculture which is resilient to climate change.

The heads of state and government recognized that Africa has enormous potential in terms of renewable energies and they commit to working together to drastically reduce the cost, with the aim of halving it. They affirmed their support for the United Nations Secretary-General's Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) initiative. They particularly welcomed its aims to ensure universal access to modern energy services, to double the rate of improvement in energy efficiency and to double the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix. France will support countries which commit to national and regional SE4All plans through a technical assistance facility aimed at speeding up the development of sustainable energies in Africa.

31. The heads of state and government highlighted the importance of immediately implementing actions to adapt to climate change over the long term in Africa, taking into account the specific

needs of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs). They called for adaptation actions to ensure that critical infrastructure in Africa is made more climate resilient with the involvement of all stakeholders, including bilateral and multilateral development banks and the private sector. With this in mind, France will ensure that all infrastructure projects which it finances in Africa can cope with the impacts of climate change from 2015 onwards.

32. France committed to helping African countries which so wish to gain access to financial resources and international instruments to prepare and implement climate policies and action plans, and to expanding its own bilateral support programme to this end.

33. The heads of state and government recalled the importance of improving the accounting of public and private financing in the fight against climate change and highlighted that it is urgent to build a simple, effective and ambitious financial architecture based on the principle of country ownership, promoting direct access to financing in Africa. France commits to working with its partners to increase the transparency, predictability and sustainability of means of implementation mobilized by developed countries.

The heads of state and government supported the recent decisions adopted by the Board of the Green Climate Fund and COP19 and called for the work of the Board to continue in order to ensure an ambitious capitalization and effective operationalization not later than COP20 in December 2014, which would be a significant contribution to mobilizing support for Africa. They requested that multilateral, bilateral and national development banks fully integrate climate issues, both as regards mitigation and adaptation, and called on these actors to collaborate so that climate financing can be used more effectively. They recognized that redirecting fossil fuel subsidies should benefit climate change actions, taking into consideration the stakes for poverty reduction, social equity and energy access.

34. They recalled that in the light of the major additional financing requirements to fight climate change, it is essential to continue identifying various sources of finance, including innovative finance, such as the financial transaction tax established by France in 2012, part of which is allocated to combating climate change in developing countries.

France commits to contributing to the Green Climate Fund, and the national finance law has already allocated to the fund part of the revenue from its financial transaction tax. It will also continue to support the development of specific renewable-energy and energy-efficiency projects via the Agence française de développement (French Development Agency, AFD) and the French Global Environment Facility (FFEM). France is thus undertaking to carry out the essential qualitative redirecting of financial flows to support sustainable development that contributes to climate change mitigation and adaptation in Africa.