



FINAL DECLARATION OF NIAMEY - CALL FOR ACTION
NIAMEY, NIGER JULY 7-8 2019

**ADOPTED AT THE END OF THE YOUTH AND CLIMATE CHANGE
SUMMIT: "TOWARDS A GREENER AFRICA: GREENING THE SAHEL" AT
THE MARGINS OF THE AFRICAN UNION SUMMIT**

1. We, the youth representatives of the African continent and the Diaspora, recognize that our generation has inherited a planet in crisis, due to human activities and policies that precipitated a dramatic climate change and associated global warming and extreme weather events, frequency of disasters, depletion of biodiversity, air and water resources pollution, threatened food security, increased vulnerability of public health and worsening armed conflict associated with limited natural resources and depleted ecosystems. We also recognize that impoverished communities are more vulnerable to effects of climate change and call on world leaders to take immediate measures to protect our earthly habitat.
2. During the UN General Assembly declaring the "International Decade for People of African ancestry 2015-2024" and the current African Union (AU) declaring the year 2019 as year of refugees, returnees and people displaced within their countries, it became clear that Pan-African response to the existential threat posed by climate change emerges as a vital imperative and the united voice of Africans across the continent and its diaspora becomes accordingly a powerful component of the global outcry against greed, corruption, recklessness, inaction and denial of climate change science which has plunged humanity in this global catastrophe.
3. It is unacceptable that Africa, as a minimal contributor to emissions of greenhouse gases, is subject to the combination of effluents and "secondary smoke inhalation" from industrialized pollutants from developing countries. Given the complexity of mitigation of climate change, it will be necessary to deploy interdisciplinary research and emerging technologies to monitor these impacts, prevent further damage and to develop adaptive strategies, including better access to remote sensing, high performance computing, the cyber infrastructure, computer systems, and fossil energy sources.
4. As a human being, we, young people, share with all other members of the family, responsibility for our planet and its well-being. We therefore commit to take due account of the work we do every day to minimize, prevent and combat climate change and its negative effects, and to encourage others to do the same. Women and girls, displaced

persons, the disabled and others traditionally underrepresented, bear the disproportionate burden of climate change effects. Their voices are crucial in the construction of Africa and the world we want. Accordingly, we undertake to ensure that their voices are heard and taken into account in the same way as those of others;

5. We welcome the initiatives that have already been taken to address aspects of the major problems, such as:

- The Great Green Wall of the Sahara and the Sahel, to mitigate desertification
- The African and Continental Free Trade Area (ACFTA) that promises to increase the overall competitiveness of the continent and hence the potential for sustainable development.

Furthermore, we will continue to strongly advocate for the following initiatives:

- The reintegration of participants wandering the country and strengthening the implementation of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change;
- Financing a Pan-African body on climate change that will provide scholarships and research awards to young people in order to advance the interdisciplinary skills in monitoring, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, the first and second cycles;
- Paid internships for young people to participate in collaborative research projects and implementation on climate change with national government agencies, multilateral organizations, private companies, philanthropic foundations and NGOs;
- Capacity building for climate research, education and community engagement in the institutions members of the Association of African Universities (AAU), Alliance of African Universities Research (ARUA), Association of West African Universities (AWAU) and the Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA), the National Association for Equal Opportunity in higher education (NAFEO), the United Negro College Fund (UNCF), the university Council 1890, the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU), the Association of Caribbean universities and research Institutes (UNICA);
- Building partnerships to collectively address major challenges related to climate change in Africa and in the Diaspora, for example:
 - Keenness, disaster risk management, early warning, mitigation, Adaptation and rapid response in case of drought, desertification, famine, storms, floods, forest fires, chemical spills and hazardous hydrocarbons, vector-borne epidemics and pollution incidents (air, water, soil).
 - Social protection networks against extreme poverty in Africa [ISS Today. "Climate change and Poverty in Africa," Daily Maverick,

21 October 2018: "Human activity has caused a rise in temperature of the Earth and its atmosphere by about 1 ° C above pre-industrial levels, causing fundamental changes in the physical resources of the planet and the social landscapes. On October 8, an Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warned that temperatures were increasing faster than expected and that 1.5 ° C above pre-industrial levels could occur as early as 2030 ... "

- Save the island nations and coastal communities of Africa, facing the imminent rise of sea level;
 - Strengthen the protection of African forests and endangered species.
 - Deploy resources for early warning and prevention of outbreaks of vector-borne diseases, given the increased migration and breeding season of disease vectors associated with global warming; Intensifying pressure on international policies and governments' practices, multilateral organizations and businesses that are contrary to the sustainability of the environment, economy, education, public health and human rights Africa.
 - Improve opportunities for promotion of women and girls and protect them against harassment and exploitation.
 - Develop employment opportunities for young people to advance and promote the United Nations sustainable development goals and popularize these objectives within the African communities and the diaspora.
 - Rush Africa's transition to sustainable energy systems and encourage international trade partners and foreign investors to adhere to sustainable practices.
 - Promote the use of innovative technologies in building and construction, including using local materials that offer greater energy efficiency and reduce the environmental footprint for the improvement of living conditions of the population (eg of Abou Construction Method that is already patented).
- 6.** We therefore commit ourselves, together with our brothers and sisters of the African Diaspora in the struggle for sustainable development in Africa, and called on world leaders to join us, world leaders of tomorrow, to implement in an urgent and effective ways, policies and initiatives to maintain and improve the quality of life for the present and future generations.

7. Finally, we are very pleased to appoint the President of Niger, His Excellency Mr. Issoufou Mahamadou as Champion and Spokesperson of the African Youth on Climate Change in recognition of his leadership and actions to mitigate the negative effects of Climate Change and the priority he has given to the youth. We will therefore symbolically handover to him the torch of the African youth from.

Niamey July 7th, 2019
The participants