

ALLIANCE FOR FOOD SOVEREIGNTY IN AFRICA (AFSA)
ALLIANCE PANAFRICAINNE POUR LA SOUVERAINETE
ALIMENTAIRE (APSA)

Challenges African leaders on Climate Change

WE THE **ALLIANCE FOR FOOD SOVEREIGNTY IN AFRICA (AFSA)**, representing small holder farmers, pastoralists, hunter/gatherers, indigenous peoples, citizens and environmentalists from Africa salute the strong and unified approach that African leaders have played in the run up to the UN Climate Negotiations.

However, we believe that the current African positions do not go far enough to protecting Africa's Food Sovereignty, Biodiversity, and the Culture and Livelihoods of its people.

Many of the so-called solutions proposed by the developing countries to address the climate crises are False Solutions. These include: biochar, agrofuels, hybrid and GM drought tolerant crops, GMOs, carbon trading and so forth.

The developed countries' positions are calculated to distract Africa from pursuing genuine solutions towards empowering communities towards attaining Food Sovereignty, conserving and sustainably using biodiversity and increasing the resilience of Africans to cope with the challenges posed by Climate Change.

We demand that African Leaders:

- Champion Small African Family Farming Systems based on agro ecological indigenous approaches that sustain food sovereignty and the livelihood of communities while not neglecting appropriate external farming models.
- Protect the rights of the African people to indigenous seeds, plant and animal genetic resources and combat biopiracy
- Resist the Corporate Industrialization of African agriculture which will result in massive land grabs, displacement of indigenous peoples especially the pastoral communities and hunter gatherers and the destruction of their livelihood and culture
- Reject the corporate takeover of African land, food production systems, Indigenous knowledge and resources
- Bring to an end the continued exploitation of African resources to the consumerist demands of the North

Africa will be watching its leaders at the upcoming Climate negotiations in Copenhagen in two weeks time and will hold them to account for their engagements and decisions. Remember that what we do now will have an impact on the current and future generations.

Signed by:

African Biodiversity Network (ABN)

African Centre for Biosafety (ACB)

Coalition for the Protection of African Genetic Heritage (COPAGEN)

Comparing and Supporting Endogenous Development (COMPAS)

Eastern and Southern African small scale Farmers' Forum (ESAFF)

Indigenous Peoples of Africa Co-ordinating Committee (IPACC)

Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Regional Desk

Organisation: AFSA will be a network of NETWORKS. It was agreed that there is a need to have a light organization to allow other networks to join.

- ↳ The **AFSA/AFSA working group**: One (1) representative for each network or organization. This is an **open group** that can accommodate new networks coming on board.
- ↳ Global Facilitating Organizations: ESAFF and IPACC
- ↳ Specific co-ordinations for 2010:
 - ↳ **Documentation on models that work: COMPAS**
 - ↳ **African Convention on Nature and Natural Resources: ABN**
 - ↳ **Agro-Ecological alternatives to AGRA: COPAGEN**
 - ↳ **Capacity Building on Biosafety: ACB**
 - ↳ **Google Group** (all messages have to be translated into English, French and Portuguese) and
 - ↳ **Google Calendar** : ABN
 - ↳ **Adaptation to Climate Change: IPACC**
- ↳ A need to have a **mapping of events** at sub regional and pan African levels to have a clear picture on where we can work together (Common voice from AFSA/AFSA).

A BRIEF PROFILE ON THE MEMBERS OF THE ALLIANCE FOR FOOD SOVEREIGNTY IN AFRICA (ASFA)

African Centre for Biosafety (ACB)

ACB is an NGO in South Africa campaigning for food sovereignty by opposing GMOS, Bio-Piracy and agro fuels. ACB concentrates on Africa and work with several national, regional and international organizations

African Biodiversity Network (ABN)

The ABN has a membership of 36 organizations in 12 African countries Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Togo, Benin, Ghana, Zambia, Mozambique, South Africa, Botswana and Malawi.

ABN works on indigenous knowledge, ecosystems protection, climate change, recuperation of indigenous seeds, campaign against GMOS, agro fuels, AGRA and promotes endogenous development.

Coalition for the Protection of African Genetic Heritage (COPAGEN)

COPAGEN comprises a membership of farmers' organizations, trade unions, women organizations, youth groups, academics, NGOs in ten countries; Benin, Burkina Faso, the Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Guinea Conakry, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Togo, and the Ivory Coast.

COPAGEN works on the following issues: GMOS, farmers' rights, land issues, agrofuels, agricultural policies and food sovereignty.

Comparing and Supporting Endogenous Development (COMPAS) International

COMPAS Membership /Coverage is in eight countries in Africa; Ghana, Uganda, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo, Benin, Burkina Faso. COMPAS also has a membership in Latin and Central America, Asia and Europe and includes 15 universities from these countries

COMPAS is promoting an inter-cultural approach to addressing issues of climate change, food sovereignty, governance and local economic development.

Eastern and Southern Africa small scale Farmers' Forum (ESAFF)

ESAFF is a network of grass root farmers' forums in 12 countries namely: Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia, South Africa, Lesotho, Madagascar, Seychelles, Zimbabwe and Botswana.

ESAFF supports the promotion of sustainable agriculture, organizational development of farmer forums, organization development, advocacy on governance, farmers' visibility, the right to food, advocacy on land rights, campaigns against GMOS, unfavorable regional and international trade agreements and climate change.

Indigenous peoples of Africa Coordinating Committee (IPACC)

IPACC is a network of 150 indigenous organizations in 20 African countries focusing on:

- The promotion, recognition & identity of indigenous peoples in Africa
- Enhancing participation and inclusion of indigenous people in the UN and other forums at all levels
- Building capacities of indigenous peoples' on climate change issues
- Strengthening sub regions networking strategies for lobbying & advocacy on the rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples'.

Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Association

PELUM has a membership of 207 organizations spread over ten countries namely; Botswana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe

PELUM works on the following issues;

- Ecological land use management
- Markets and fair trade
- Access to resources
- Campaign against GMOs
- Climate change adaptation