

ACP-EU JOINT PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

ACP-EU/100.739/10/ fin.

RESOLUTION¹

on post-Copenhagen: technology transfer, new technologies and technical capacity building in the ACP countries

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Kinshasa (Democratic Republic of Congo) from 2 to 4 December 2010,
- having regard to Article 17(1) of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and in particular Article 4(5) thereof,
- having regard to the UN Millennium Declaration of 8 September 2000, which sets out the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as criteria established jointly by the international community for the elimination of poverty,
- having regard to the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement, signed in Cotonou on 23 June 2000, and in particular the second revision of the Agreement, signed at the EU-ACP Council meeting in June 2010, and specifically Article 32 bis (Climate Change) thereof,
- having regard to the report by Nicholas Stern entitled ‘The Economics of Climate Change. The Stern Review’ (‘the Stern Report’) of 2006,
- having regard to the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), released in Valencia, Spain, on 17 November 2007,
- having regard to the Bali Action Plan (Decision 1/COP 13),
- having regard to the fifteenth Conference of the Parties (COP 15) to the UNFCCC and the fifth Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (COP/MOP 5), held in Copenhagen, Denmark, from 7 to 18 December 2009, and to the Copenhagen Accord,
- having regard to the draft text on ‘Enhanced action on technology development and transfer’ of 15 December 2009,

¹ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 4 December 2010 in Kinshasa (DRC).

- having regard to the EU’s Global Climate Change Alliance and the provisions for enhanced cooperation with developing countries in the fight against climate change,
 - having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 10 February 2010 on the outcome of the Copenhagen Conference on Climate Change (COP 15)²,
 - having regard to the Communication from the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions entitled ‘International climate policy post-Copenhagen: Acting now to reinvigorate global action on climate change’ (COM(2010)86), of 9 March 2010,
 - having regard to the Council report on ‘Financing climate change: fast start financing’ of 11 May 2010,
 - having regard to the ACP-EU cooperation programme in the field of science and technology, launched in June 2008,
 - having regard to the Africa-EU renewable energy cooperation programme, planned to be launched by the end of 2010,
 - having regard to the Joint ACP-EU Declaration on Climate Change, adopted at the 35th Session of the ACP-EU Council of Ministers held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, on 22 June 2010,
 - having regard to its resolution on the financial and economic impact of climate change in ACP countries³, adopted in Tenerife on 1 April 2010,
 - having regard to COP 16, held in Mexico in December 2010,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Economic Development, Finance and Trade (ACP-EU/100.739/10/fin.),
- A. whereas it is essential to accelerate research, development and transfer of low-carbon technologies (LCTs) in ACP and EU countries in order to halt global warming (after initially limiting it to no more than 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels) create low-carbon economies based *inter alia* on the production of clean energy and enable everyone to adapt to the adverse impact of climate change and to effectively combat climate change, the loss of biodiversity and the widespread pollution worldwide,
- B. whereas the principle of ‘common but differentiated responsibility’ for global warming should be taken into consideration in the field of LCTs transfer to ACP countries,

² Texts adopted of that date, P7_TA(2010)0019

³ ACP-EU/100.6420/fin.

- C. whereas technology transfer must serve to complement and enhance all efforts, including mitigation, capacity building and adaptation, that are being pursued at global level in the fight against climate change,
- D. whereas ACP countries are among those that have contributed the least to, but are at the greatest risk from, the adverse effects of climate change; whereas the limiting of energy consumption in the industrialised and emerging countries, combined with the rapid development and transfer of LCTs to ACP states, would help avert the consequences of global warming for these countries,
- E. whereas most technology cooperation is still taking place primarily at national rather than international level and only 2% of joint patents are shared between companies and institutions from developed and developing countries,
- F. whereas developed countries pledged in Copenhagen in December 2009 to provide ‘scaled-up, new and additional, predictable and adequate funding’ for an initial amount of USD 30 billion over the period 2010-2012 and USD 100 billion by 2020⁴ to support action on mitigation, adaptation, technology development and transfer and capacity building; whereas the EU has committed to deliver EUR 7.2 billion out of the USD 30 billion for 2010-2012,
- G. whereas biomass is the main renewable energy source in least developed countries, but its extensive and unregulated use is not sustainable and it has a wide range of negative effects on the environment and human health,
- H. whereas, at the same time, only a small fraction of Africa's vast sustainable renewable energy potential is exploited⁵,
- I. whereas most of the pesticides sold by companies from the richest countries to ACP countries, and the intensive and non-regulated use thereof, have numerous adverse effects on the environment and human health; whereas chemicals technology exchange should make it possible for agricultural producers in ACP countries to purchase low-cost products that are as environment-friendly as possible,
- J. whereas the massive exporting of waste of all kinds from the developed and richest countries to ACP countries poses a serious threat to the ecological balance of ACP countries, which, moreover, do not have appropriate, efficient technology to deal with the reprocessing, reconditioning and recycling of such waste, ranging from harmless to highly toxic materials,
- K. whereas extending decentralised renewable energies in ACP countries could reduce poverty by increasing access to energy supply, thus presenting better opportunities for rural development and forest conservation and lead to direct benefits for human health and employment opportunities; whereas currently only 0.2% of EU Official Development Assistance (ODA) targets investments in decentralised renewable energy supply,

⁴ Copenhagen Accord.

⁵ Only 7 % of the hydro and 1 % of the geothermal potential is exploited.

- L. whereas all policy, institutional, financial, commercial, as well as information and human-capacity related obstacles to the transfer of LCTs to ACP countries should be eliminated,
 - M. whereas technology and innovation deficits in ACP countries are often addressed as symptoms of market failures instead of indicators for the need to improve international cooperation in technology development,
 - N. whereas the important role of information and communication technologies in the process of technological diffusion should also be recognised,
1. Underlines that the scaling-up of research and innovation in ACP and EU countries and the diffusion, and transfer of pertinent technologies and know-how to ACP countries are key elements of any effective international response to the global challenge of climate change;
 2. Regrets that, despite the fact that development and transfer of technology for mitigation and adaptation to climate change was one of the building blocks of the Bali Action Plan and a key point in the UN climate change negotiations in Copenhagen 2009, COP 15 failed to come up with a mechanism for green technologies development, transfer and cooperation;
 3. Considers that a successful international agreement on climate protection needs to include robust institutional rules and regulations for technology development and non-prohibitive transfer in order to facilitate public and private investments in this field; to this end, calls on COP 16 to already take specific decisions on technical capacity building and technology development and transfer, building on the provisions in this area from the UNFCCC process;
 4. Points out that the Technology Mechanism, proposed at COP 15 in Copenhagen, should be further developed in any future international framework for climate protection; calls also on the negotiators to ensure that adequate funding within the Copenhagen Green Climate Fund is earmarked specifically for technology development and transfer to secure the effective implementation of the Technology Mechanism;
 5. Notes that, for the success of the development and transfer of technology, as well as capacity-building projects in ACP countries, research and development national needs, experiences, barriers and endogenous opportunities should firstly be identified; stresses that the approaches undertaken should be customised to specific country conditions and should increase country ownership of those activities;
 6. Points to the need to consider the special conditions of the fragile economy of the Least Developed Countries and highly indebted middle-income countries, and the vulnerability, remoteness and little opportunity to create economies of scale of the Small Island Developing ACP States;
 7. Calls on developed countries to support the development and further strengthening of institutional, scientific, technological and human capacity and know-how in ACP countries, following the example of the ACP Science and Technology Programme, to enable them to absorb, adopt and develop appropriate LCTs;

8. Notes that capacity support remains fragmented and is dependent on national characteristics such as labour intensity and decentralisation of services; stresses that capacity building for technology development and transfer in ACP countries must be considered a priority goal, rather than a measure to advance near-term project outcomes; emphasises that it is a long-term process, which requires a systematic approach, taking cognisance of country- and sector-specific circumstances and linking together institutional, organisational and human capacity developments; also underlines that capacity building should foster the demand for the development and/or transfer of technology among ACP countries;
9. Points to the need for the provision of training programmes to enhance endogenous capacity on project development, management, operation and maintenance of technologies; notes, however, that there is an urgent need to tackle the reasons that lead to an outflow of trained staff in some ACP countries, namely, low salaries and poor working conditions;
10. Considers that a clear and far more ambitious approach towards the development of LCTs should be adopted to facilitate and speed up their diffusion and the ending of fossil energy dependence; notes the need to strengthen the capacities of existing national and regional public institutions in assisting this approach;
11. Calls on developed countries to actively support research and development in ACP countries, in order to allow public and private actors from developing countries to participate as owners in the growing global market for low-carbon technology; encourages the setting up of national institutions working on innovative systems that could lead to the endogenous development of technologies; points out that initiatives should link technical and social areas, ensuring that projects are locally owned and meeting local needs; underlines that issues relating to property rights should also be considered;
12. Emphasises the need to capitalise on the innovative potential of EU businesses and EU public services in renewable energies and technologies, including energy efficiency technologies and advanced ICT, to promote through trade agreements a gradual shift towards a low-carbon economy worldwide, thus ensuring new opportunities to sell EU products and know-how in this area to developing countries, or to transfer this know-how to them where applicable;
13. Considers diversification of energy sources, supply routes and infrastructure, and the interconnection of networks for oil, gas, and smart grid as key to the long-term security and sustainability of energy supplies to both the EU and ACP countries; recalls that these policy trends are also instrumental in fostering new energy technology developments and job creation in the EU and ACP countries;
14. Reaffirms the importance of increasing joint EU-ACP research and capital injections in building and modernisation of energy infrastructure in both the EU and ACP countries, notably through public-private partnerships and joint ventures, or public-public partnerships where applicable, thus encouraging mutually beneficial trade in energy or technology transfer, and promoting energy-mix diversification in ACP countries;

15. Calls on the ACP countries to tailor and implement national climate change innovation strategies according to their own needs and policies, also taking into account their positive spill-over effects on health, education and employment;
16. Calls on the EU to support the innovative solutions and projects already in progress in ACP countries;
17. Calls on the EU and its Member States to bring pressure to bear and impose binding legislation on European companies present in ACP countries so as to ensure that they set an example as regards sustainable development, low CO₂ emissions, respect for the environment and the avoidance of soil and water pollution; considers that this may also consist in a form of technology and expertise exchange by example;
18. Calls on the ACP countries to impose sanctions on EU companies present on their territory which do not act in accordance with the aforementioned principles, and which are thus not involved in such exchanges by example;
19. Underlines the importance of mutually beneficial cooperation between developed countries' companies, public sector bodies, research institutions and their counterparts in ACP states, and encourages the creation of technological partnerships between them; calls for improved knowledge on already existing cooperation arrangements in the area of technology transfer, as well as for the setting up of a register for such actions and a global database on licensing data and best practises;
20. Calls for the enhancement of partnerships with intergovernmental and international institutions; stresses that cooperation at a lower local level, including non-governmental and community-based organisations, should also be promoted;
21. Emphasises the need for the establishment of a Climate Technology Centre and a network to boost international cooperation on key technologies and provide technical assistance, training and joint capacity building; underlines that the new global architectures for climate change technology transfer should be less burdensome and bureaucratic;
22. Notes the importance of South-South cooperation, which could lead to technological self-reliance and thus avoid possible conflict stemming from IPRs; encourages the ACP countries to set up regional R&D cooperation platforms/networks of existing domestic research institutions for climate change technology development, to permit the sharing of resources and costs for R&D;
23. Urges EU and ACP governments to develop further and increase funding for climate change research in their universities and research institutions and improve linkages between them in order to find joint solutions for common problems (e.g. by developing water-saving and water-reuse technologies);
24. Calls for the promotion of public-private partnerships in the area of technological research, development and deployment as well for the creation of joint ventures between EU and ACP companies; calls also on the EU and its Member States to provide financial and technical support for investments in

ACP countries in technology development and transfer, thus offering incentives for business cooperation;

25. Calls for thorough involvement of local NGOs in technology diffusion and capacity-building processes; emphasises the importance of NGOs' knowledge of local environments for the successful implantation of new technologies;
26. Points out that ACP countries comprise a great number of isolated communities and islands and calls, therefore, for the promotion of locally produced energy to become a priority;
27. Points out that particular attention should be paid to the development and transfer of energy-related and environmentally sound technologies; considers that ODA should focus more on developing energy efficiency technologies and decentralised renewable energies in ACP countries, and that this would reduce poverty and increase employment opportunities; recalls that nuclear energy is not a solution to secure low-carbon development; stresses that technologies should also prove to be efficient and economically viable and that their adoption should require a holistic approach with various dimensions of sustainability, including health, environmental, technological, economic, socio-cultural and institutional aspects;
28. Emphasises that EPAs must impact positively on promoting technological diffusion and enhancing innovation capacity in ACP regions, as set out in the draft text on enhanced action on technology development and transfer;
29. Emphasises that ACP countries should draw greater benefits from the potential of the Clean Development Mechanism, which is to be reshaped in the post-Copenhagen scenario;
30. Underlines the need to focus specifically on the technology potential to address mitigation and adaptation to climate change in ACP countries;
31. Stresses the need to ensure that development and transfer of technology, as well as capacity-building project activities, are routinely tracked, monitored and evaluated; calls for the preparation of periodic reports on status, opportunities and any need for further improvements, in order to frame recommendations on the basis of evaluation findings; underlines the importance of sharing lessons learned;
32. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council of Ministers, the European Parliament, the European Commission, the African Union and the UNFCCC secretariat.