

# THE ACCRA ACTION AGENDA ON LOW EMISSIONS DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES (LEDS) FOR AFRICA

Accra, 31st MAY 2019

***We, the participants attending the EU-UNEP Africa Low Emissions Development Strategies (Africa LEDS) Project Experience Sharing meeting, 30 -31 May 2019 in Accra, under the theme: “Unlocking Socioeconomic Opportunities through Low Emissions Development Actions.”***

***Thanking*** all partners, organizations, institutions and persons who contributed to the success of this project.

## ***Noting that:***

1. While Africa is a negligible emitter, it stands out as the most vulnerable region of the globe to climate change, with the primary driver of vulnerability being the prevailing low levels of socioeconomic development;
2. Africa's leading priorities are socioeconomic in nature including food security, creation of income & job opportunities and expansion of macro-economic growth;
3. The policy and operational levels play a complementary role in scaling low emissions pathway, with policy driven by the state creating an enabling incentivising environment for operational actions driven by non-state actors establishing ground investment actions;
4. African Governments are the main drivers of creating enabling policies and laws to provide incentives for non-state actions including the private sector, to invest and enhance competitiveness and enterprise actions in up-scaling and out-scaling low emissions development;
5. Africa's youth at over 60% of the population, constituting over 720 million persons, constitute the most significant non-state actor constituency that can be leveraged for impactful climate enterprise actions in driving the low emissions development pathway.

## ***Recognizing that:***

6. The 24<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate (COP24) in Katowice set in motion a regime of accountability in actions to increase climate action ambition to realise the threshold set in Article 2 of the Paris Climate Change Agreement through adoption of the Rule Book, that establishes the ground rules for implementation;
7. Africa is among regions that have most ratified the Paris Agreement, with an up to 90% ratification rate of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), turning their intentions to act on climate change, into globally accountable commitments;
8. Countries in the region will be expected to join the rest of the globe in submitting revised, more ambitious NDC commitments following the 2020 stock take;

## ***Appreciating:***

9. The decision 16/1 of the Africa Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) at its sixteenth special session ministerial segment, held in Libreville, 15 - 16 June 2017, on “*Investing in Innovative Environmental Solutions for Accelerating Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063*” which set the continental high-level

policy agenda on the environment and climate action as accelerators of socioeconomic development in the continent;

10. The Third United Nations Environment Assembly Resolution on “*Investing in Innovative Environmental Solutions for Accelerating the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals*” which buttressed the need for climate action to become a solutions provider to priority socioeconomic challenges and by this incentivise increased ambition;
11. The results of the EU-UNEP Africa LEDS project which have demonstrated through ground actions and investment support tools, that strategic implementation of NDC priorities aligned to key socioeconomic sectors can maximise both climate and priority socioeconomic benefits simultaneously;

**Thanking:**

12. The European Union Commission for funding the Africa LEDS project, country partners for implementing the project and the UN Environment for its technical backstopping in guiding implementation at both strategic & operational level together with its technical partners, the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), the National Renewable Energy Labs (NREL) and the Africa & Global LEDS partnership with their affiliates;

**WE RESOLVE**

1. To request AMCEN to take note of results of the Africa LEDS project with the objective to drive a continental paradigm that the implementation of climate action take a different dimension to address socioeconomic priorities and realise climate action ambition.
2. To use policy decision tools, the policy planning studies generated by this project to inform revisions of our NDC commitments and ensure we ratchet up ambitions in a targeted manner that unlocks key socioeconomic priorities including food security, creation of income & enterprise opportunities and expansion of our economies.
3. To leverage the policy harmonisation taskforces generated by this project to convene policy implementation programmes across key productive ministries for coherent actions that implement NDCs as informed by the ground actions & modelling tools produced by the Africa LEDS project.
4. To call upon donors to build on the strategic trajectory to NDCs implementation that maximises both climate & socioeconomic aims as demonstrated by the Africa LEDS project in their work across the continent.

**WE DECLARE**

1. To urge Governments in Africa to create an enabling environment for low emissions development strategies uptake in Africa leveraging on strategic implementation of ambitious NDC commitments.
2. To request Governments and regional institutions, state and non-state actors, to leverage on low emissions development strategies as a business & enterprise opportunity including for the youth through tapping into strategic NDCs implementation as demonstrated in the Africa LEDS project.
3. To call upon the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) at its next session to take note of the low emissions development strategies project outputs and outcomes with intent for policy influence towards continental wide uptake.

4. To request UNEP to leverage on its existing inclusive framework initiatives on low emissions development to drive implementation of these results towards realising implementation of ambitious NDCs across Africa.
5. To submit the outcomes of this low emissions development experience sharing workshop to all Governments in Africa, the AUC, partners and collaborators through the AMCEN forum.

**ADOPTED** in Accra by the meeting, 31<sup>st</sup> May 2019