



PRESS RELEASE

August 10, 2009

From Bonn-3 to Copenhagen

Calling for a Climate Deal that Includes Agriculture, Forests and Sustainable Land Uses

Hon. Sindiso Ngwenya, Secretary General, COMESA

The Secretary General of COMESA, Hon Sindiso Ngwenya, on behalf of 26 African governments in central, east and southern Africa, calls upon the global leadership to act on poverty reduction, sustainable agriculture, forest management and climate change, to bring Africa firmly into the forest and terrestrial carbon debate.

A post- Kyoto deal without Agriculture is no deal for Africa.

The African led - Agriculture, Forestry Sustainable land Use (AFOLU) Initiative aims to generate African resources and mobilise funds from global carbon markets and donors to promote sustainable agriculture in Africa; recognizing that agricultural practices are intrinsically connected with the effort to reduce green house gas (GHG) emissions and reduce deforestation, encourage forest conservation and enhance terrestrial (soil, peat and trees) carbon stocks through sustainable management.

The AFOLU Initiative proposes that:

- The global deal on climate change will require the participation of the entire developing world. Their participation and the benefits which accrue to them are contingent on full bio-carbon being included in the global framework.
- Africa's active participation in the climate deal is essential if we are to meet the climate change mitigation goals we aspire to for mid-Century.
- Increasing demand for forest and agricultural products and biomass energy must be met from sustainable sources; Developing countries must be incentivised to actively reforest, afforest and keep their remaining forests. Poor farmers must benefit from carbon trade and also receive support for increased productivity through sustainable means

OR

- There will be no solution to global warming
- No Post-2012 treaty and,
- No functioning tropical terrestrial ecosystems by the end of the century.