

Outcomes of 1st African Climate Summit 2023

Why in news?

The 1st Africa Climate Summit (ACS23) held in Nairobi culminated in the 'Nairobi Declaration', giving the continent a common voice ahead of upcoming key global engagements.

What is the African Climate Summit 2023 about?

- **Theme-** Driving Green Growth and Climate Finance Solutions for Africa and the World
- **Location** - Nairobi, Republic of Kenya
- **Host-** Co-hosted by the Republic of Kenya, the African Union Commission (AUC)
- **Aim-** To position Africa in solidarity with the rest of the world for global climate action.
- **Participants** - Government representatives, policymakers, civil society organizations, the private sector, multilateral institutions, and youth representatives from Africa and beyond
- **Focus areas-** Nexus between climate change and Africa's development reality, with special emphasis on increasing investment in climate action in Africa.
- The event was dominated by discussions about how to mobilize financing to adapt to
 - Increasingly extreme weather,
 - Conserve natural resources and
 - Develop renewable energy.
- **Nairobi declaration-** It will form the basis of Africa's negotiating position at COP28 climate summit in United Arab Emirates.

What are the focus areas of the summit?



- **Thematic areas**
 - Nature Capital
 - Climate Finance
 - Renewable Energy and Energy Transition
 - Green Minerals and Manufacturing
 - Sustainable Agriculture
 - Land Use, Oceans and Water
 - Sustainable Infrastructure and Urbanisation
 - Adaptation and Resilience
- The summit committed to achieve 3 climate finance goals
 - More financing
 - Targeted financing
 - Cheaper higher risk appetite financing

What are the key outcomes of Nairobi declaration?

- The summit culminated in the *Nairobi Declaration*, an eleven-point call to action proclaiming African States' unified stance on climate action.

Climate financing

- **Demands** - At the Summit, African leaders called for a significant overhaul of the global financial system and their demands included
 - Improved access to concessional loans
 - Fulfilment of a 14-year-old promise by developed nations to mobilize USD 100 billion annually for climate adaptation and mitigation
 - Establishment of a carbon markets initiative to fund renewable energy infrastructure.
- **Investments** - During the Summit, donor nations and multilateral organizations pledged approximately *USD 26 billion* for climate investments.

To meet the emission reduction targets outlined in the Paris Agreement, Africa requires a substantial USD 2.8 trillion by 2030.

Global taxes and funding mechanisms

- **Global Fossil Fuel Tax**- It advocated for targeted taxes on sectors like aviation and maritime, the removal of fossil fuel subsidies worldwide, and the implementation of a global fossil fuel tax.
- **Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanisms (CBAM)** - It can be deployed as a tax for targeted mitigation and adaptation efforts.
- **Financial Transaction Tax**- Exploring this tax on a global scale is another potential avenue for generating significant revenue.
- **Global Climate Finance Charter**- It will be developed through the UN General Assembly and the COP processes by 2025.
- **Debt** - It recommends extending the debt repayment period and instituting a 10-year grace period.

Decarbonisation

- **Urgent action**- The summit calling for immediate action by developed countries to reduce carbon emissions for equality and shared prosperity.
- **Steps to reduce emission**-
 - Adherence to [Paris Agreement](#),
 - Accelerate phasing down coal and
 - Operationalise Loss and Damage facility agreed at [COP27](#).

[G20 countries](#) are responsible for around 80% of global greenhouse gas emissions.

What are the shortcomings of the summit?

- **Western delegates** - The proliferation of Western delegates in the Summit is said to have compromised Africa's push for climate justice.
- **Carbon market**- Africa's endorsement to carbon market has been described by many countries as a "*bogus solution*," to the effects of climate change.
- A new report released by Power Shift Africa states that Africa should not adopt carbon credits as they are like a *silver bullet and painkillers for rich polluters*.
- **Exclusion of health**- Health is not included in the main agenda, despite extricable link with the climate change.
 - The exclusion happened against the backdrop of 23% of diseases globally being attributed to climate change, whilst the percentage is slightly higher in sub-Saharan Africa at 29%.

References

1. [Down to Earth- African climate summit ends with Nairobi declaration](#)
2. [African Union- Nairobi declaration](#)
3. [World Economic Union- Africa Climate Action Taxes](#)

