

BRITISH NGOS MEETING

**POST KYOTO - THE SEARCH FOR A GLOBAL POLITICAL
STRATEGY ON CLIMATE CHANGE.**

AFRICA'S POSITION ON POST KYOTO

BY

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Kenya wishes to thank the British Prime Minister, Right Honourable Tony Blair, for his efforts in putting Africa and climate change in the forefront in the international arena during the G8 Summit, “AFRICA AND CLIMATE CHANGE, GLENEAGLES, SCOTLAND, 6-8 JULY 2005”, **last year**.

Africa is the continent that has suffered the most in human history from slavery to colonialism and now threatened by the impacts of climate change. All these catastrophes have not been caused by Africans but have been visited on us by outsiders.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), a body of 2,500 scientists has stated that Africa will suffer the most from the impacts of climate change. Yet Africa is known to only emit 3-4% of the greenhouse gases responsible for global warming.

As we speak, Africa is already experiencing the impacts of climate change. We now have frequent and intensive droughts leading to frequent famines and threat to our food security. African countries such as Kenya, where we rely mostly on hydro-generated electricity, at 80% of our total energy consumption, our industrial base are seriously threatened.

Even most affected are the snowcaps on Mount Kilimanjaro and Mount Kenya, whose cover has been declining at an alarming rate and now stands at 35% of the amount that was available at the turn of the 20-th century (1903).

We are also experiencing frequent flooding which is responsible for the destruction of the little infrastructure that we have managed to put in place, e.g., the transport network. Also adversely impacted on is the agricultural sector, with most staple crops unable to do well in extremely wet and at other times extremely severe drought conditions. This results into serious threat to food security and environment degradation. But even more adversely impacted on is the health sector whereby we now have highland malaria in places where there never used to be such diseases. We have also had to come to terms with waterborne related diseases such as cholera and typhoid. Equally, lives and properties have been lost during such occasions.

With this level of vulnerability, and the current trend of the forward march of climate change, it is estimated that in excess of two hundred million (200,000,000) people in Africa will, in future, be at high risk of survival due a higher frequency and high intensity of extreme weather and climate events (droughts, excessively long and heavy precipitation, tropical cyclones, etc) resulting from climate change and leading to more severe adverse impacts which will include: famines, floods, diseases, HIV/AIDS and others worsening the already poor state of poverty in Africa.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is important to stress that given the meager resources at our disposal, we are unable to cope with these calamities. Therefore, something must be done and quickly in order for Africa to survive. We urge Europe to take the lead in this issue.

We are aware that deeper cuts in greenhouse gas emissions by industrialized countries are proving to be economically difficult. That is why even the most proactive economic and political bloc in the climate negotiations, the European Union, has not been able to come anywhere near meeting its Kyoto target of 8%. **We therefore wishes to support the principle of Contraction and Convergence and emissions allocations on a per capita basis. This is an equitable arrangement, if globally agreed to, so that developing countries can meaningfully cooperate in greenhouse gas emissions reductions.**

Developing countries would then trade their unused environmental space in return for financial and technological resources to invest in sustainable development programs.

It would be a great service to Africa if developed countries particularly those in Europe and Americas would support the principle of Contraction and Convergence.

The present international arrangement under Kyoto Protocol is inequitable and makes regions, which have not contributed or contribute least, to the problem of climate change, to continue to suffer disproportionately.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is important to reiterate that the future of humanity depends upon those who have caused the problem, have the means, both financial and technological, but lack the moral and political will to act.

Coming from Africa, I would only like to ask: How much more should Africa suffer at the hands of others? I further ask: Would anybody care if Africa dropped from the globe?

Thank you.