



Response to the Petition from the Zero Emissions|Omissions Coalition

Request for the African Development Bank Group to align to the Paris Agreement goal of 1.5 degrees centigrade and to increase transparency

The African Development Bank Group would like to thank the 'Zero Emissions|Omissions Campaign' for taking an active interest in its work.

The Bank is committed to promoting sustainable economic growth and reducing poverty in African countries.

We recognise that Climate Change is a significant risk that threatens hard-won development gains. Specifically, Climate Change is a direct risk factor to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and associated targets adopted by countries in their 2030 Vision Documents and National Development Plans.

The Bank is committed to facilitating the transition to low-carbon and climate resilient development in African countries across all its operational priority areas – known as the High 5:

1. *Light up and Power Africa,*
2. *Feed Africa,*
3. *Integrate Africa,*
4. *Industrialise Africa and*
5. *Improve the quality of Life of all Africans.*

These commitments are articulated in the range of strategies, policies and action plans which are aligned to all Bank operations. These are available to the public. They include:

- The New Deal on Energy for Africa: This strategy aims to help the continent achieve universal access to electricity by 2025 with a strong focus on encouraging clean and renewable energy solutions; while recognising that during the transition, fossil fuels (particularly natural gas) will remain an important part of the energy mix for several developing countries as also articulated in Article 4 of the Paris Agreement which recognizes that peaking will take longer for developing country Parties in the context of achieving sustainable development and eradicating poverty.
- The Feed Africa – Strategy for Agriculture Transformation in Africa: the Bank is prioritising climate smart agriculture by implementing the Flagship “*Africa Climate-Smart Agriculture (ACSA) Programme for Food Security, Adaptation and Mitigation in Africa (2018-2025)*” in collaboration with partners including the FAO. The programme aims to: i) sustainably increase agricultural productivity and income; ii) adapt and build resilience to climate change; and iii) reduce and/or avoid greenhouse gas emissions.

- Climate Change Action Plan (2016-2020): The Bank's Climate Change Strategy provides overall guidance on the implementation of climate action in Bank financed operations and articulates the Bank's commitment to: supporting the implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions to the Paris Agreement. The Bank has committed to directing 40% of annual financial approvals to climate action, by 2020.

The Bank has made significant progress on the commitments mentioned above with increased investments in renewable energies in the 2017 Energy Portfolio, and directing approximately 30% of total financial approvals to climate action in 2018. Furthermore, in November 2018, at the COP 24 held in Poland, the Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) collectively made a commitment to align with the Paris Agreement. The MDBs will develop relevant methods and tools with the objective of presenting the joint Paris Alignment Approach whose progress will be reported during the COP 25 in 2019.

With regards to the recommendations made in the petition, the Bank has made significant strides and continues to undertake efforts towards enhancing its contribution to climate action and its performance. Specifically with;

1. **Access to information:** The Bank strives to make its strategies, policies, action plans publicly visible. Through its website and other platforms (including workshops and seminars), the Bank consistently communicates its contribution to climate action including through the joint MDB report on "Climate Finance tracking" published annually since 2012.
2. **Transparency on proposed investments and the portfolio:** The Bank strives to make information available on projects in the pipeline and in its active portfolio publicly available through the African Development Bank's website, websites of co-financiers and concerned governments. Key project documents such as the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (EIAs) summaries, and the Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs) that provide information on project scope and description. These documents aid this process as they are published for a minimum of 30 days and maximum of 120 days, in the case of public sector operations. With regards to portfolio emissions, the Bank has been piloting a greenhouse gas accounting tool since 2017. This tool is currently being improved and will enable the Bank to consistently report on emissions from 2020 onwards;
3. **Transparency on Energy Efficiency Strategy:** Promoting energy efficiency is a core priority in the New Deal on Energy Strategy alongside renewable. Through policy dialogue with governments and other stakeholders, the importance of investment in energy efficiency is emphasized. For example, through funding from the African Climate Technology Centre (hosted by the Bank), Ghana is receiving support to improve energy efficiency in commercial and public buildings.
4. **100% renewable energy projects, and sustainable, low-emission agriculture and infrastructure:** The Bank will continue to prioritize investment in renewables, as demonstrated in 2017. Concerning agriculture, the aforementioned "*Africa Climate-Smart Agriculture (ACSA) Programme for Food Security, Adaptation and Mitigation in Africa (2018-2025)*" will promote scaling up of climate smart agriculture activities.

With regards to sustainable infrastructure, the Bank's Annual Development Effectiveness Report provides an account of its Key Performance Indicators,

“percentage of projects with climate informed design” (which takes account of both emission reductions and resilience measures). In addition, the Bank implements a Green Bonds Programme which has raised US\$ 1.5 Billion since 2013, which direct financing to projects that reduce emissions and enhance resilience to climate-related shocks.

5. **Roadmap to reduce portfolio-wide emissions and align with the 1.5°C goal:** The MDBs have jointly made a commitment to align their activities with the goals of the Paris Agreement . The framework comprises of 6 building blocks (BBs):
1. Alignment with mitigation goals;
 2. Adaptation and climate-resilient operations;
 3. Accelerated contribution to the transition through climate finance;
 4. Engagement and policy development support;
 5. Reporting;
 6. Aligning with internal activities.

Implementation of the roadmap to alignment is a work in progress, with the MDBs working to develop a common approach in 2019. The Bank’s own internal building blocks include the Climate Change Action Plan (2016-2020), and a range of internal climate funds, for example, the Africa Climate Change Fund, the new Gender and Climate Fund, and the Africa Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) Hub.

Specifically, the Africa NDC Hub, supports the African countries through three approaches, namely; (i) Strengthening national climate policies & translating NDCs into country programs, (ii) Mobilizing resources for NDC implementation and (iii) coordinating, advocacy, and partnership to increase the pace and scale of reach for Africa’s NDC commitments.

The African Development Bank has made significant progress in several areas of putting strategies in place to meet the global climate change objectives as demonstrated above. The Bank recognizes that more can be done, particularly through partnerships with like-minded institutions, including civil society and will endeavour to further enhance dialogue with civil society organisations for purposes of mutual learning and promoting transparency and accountability for all stakeholders.

Thank you.