



COP27: Key outcomes and what they mean for Africa



Under the theme: delivering for people and the planet, the 27th Conference of the Parties (COP) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change

was held in November 2022 in Sharm-El-Sheikh, Egypt. Every year, the UN Conference of the Parties takes place and has a planning led by various key items, which are being discussed between all the parties. The five items announced towards the COP27, which took place from the 6th to the 18th of November 2022, have been nature, food, water, industry decarbonization and climate adaptation.

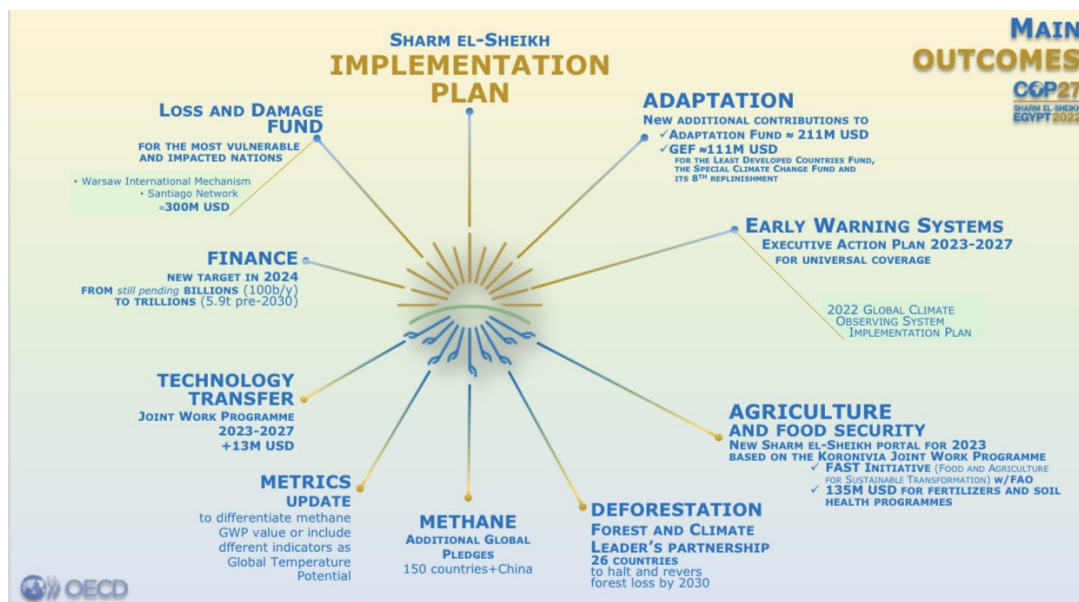
COP27's topics bringing hope to Africa

Industry decarbonization, as part of the mitigation process, is not directly addressing the African challenges. However, water, nature and food can be seen as part of loss and damage, as starvation, droughts and floods caused by natural disasters are affecting Africa heavily. Climate adaption brings hope, as it is clearly part of the African objectives. Some of the major goals for COP27 was to deliver a comprehensive ambitious mitigation work program, achieve and capture meaningful progress on the Global Goal on Adaptation, address the Loss and Damage deficit including through finding a solution to the funding issue, and effectively address the climate finance challenge in a manner which creates trust in the process.

COP27 strongly recognized the need to move from negotiations to implementation through specific, measurable, impactful initiatives to be delivered and implemented by countries. One key and critical question is whether these goals were achieved and what implications they have for the African region.

Key Outcomes and their implications for Africa

One of the key outcomes of COP 27 is the Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan, which aims to realize ambitious, just, equitable and inclusive transitions to low-emission and climate-resilient development in line with the principles and objectives of the Convention and other relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties.[1] The Plan points toward the need for \$4-6 trillion a year to pursue the global transformation to a low-carbon economy, and states that this money should come from the developed countries to the developing countries in a context of increasing needs regarding climate adaptation.



Loss and damage fund for developing countries



The COP 27 ended by delivering a breakthrough agreement on a new dedicated funding arrangement on loss and damage for vulnerable countries that are hard hit and highly affected by climate driven disasters.

The fund will play a critical role in enabling developing nations to respond to loss and damage in their local contexts. This fund was established as a culmination of decades of pressure from climate-vulnerable developing countries. The fund aims to provide financial assistance to nations most vulnerable and impacted by the effects of climate change. Creation of a transitional committee to make recommendations on operationalising this funding arrangements was a further important step moving forward. The creation of this fund can be seen as a good effort towards climate justice for vulnerable countries and communities who are already being devastated by the accelerating climate crisis in Africa and other developing regions. Realizing and operationalizing this facility however, will depend on the level of commitment by developed countries and corporations most responsible for the climate crisis to make the financial contribution to the facility.

Agriculture as a key theme

It is also important to point out that, for the first time in its 27-year history, COP27 dedicated a day to the theme of agriculture. This resulted in the launch of the Food and Agriculture for Sustainable Transformation initiative with the aim to improve the quantity and quality of climate finance contributions to transform agriculture and food systems by 2030. In this relation, the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture won a 4-year extension, with a debate surrounding food security and sustainable agriculture, but the final text includes no mention of the sustainable food systems advocated by non-governmental organisations (NGOs).



Source: CGIAR