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To:

European Council President
EU High Representative/Vice-President
European Commissioner for International Partnerships

Cc: Permanent Representatives of EU Member States, COREPER II

Ahead of the meeting to progress negotiations on the new EU Africa Partnership Strategy between European Union and African Union Leaders on 9 December, Climate Action Network Europe would like to the role of climate action in multilateralism and building back better.

The COVID-19 crisis has demanded a reorientation of the new EU Africa Partnership's strategic priorities, and underscored the need to address systemic inequalities and vulnerabilities. Africa is now facing its first recession in a quarter of a century. At the same time Africa is severely exposed to climate risk, which amplifies economic, environmental and social challenges, including Covid-19.

The European Union must therefore ensure that its future partnership is orientated around supporting African countries make a green and resilient recovery, and around developing alliances to advance multilateral solutions to the climate and biodiversity crises.

Financing just, green and resilient energy systems

Resilient energy systems will form the backbone of a green recovery and can support improvements across key recovery sectors including health, digital and agri-food systems. Different regions face different challenges, but all financing and investment should be guided by the energy efficiency first principle, and target 100% renewables based energy systems across the African continent. The Partnership Strategy should support African leadership and ownership in the energy transition through multi-stakeholder partnerships and civil society participation. Existing Africa-owned initiatives should provide important insights on how to frame priorities and enhance collaboration.

Financing and support for the just energy transition should address local level needs and small scale actors, and should be accessible to SMEs and micro entrepreneurs. Energy access should be developed to suit small-scale agriculture, micro- and SMEs, and community services. CSO dialogues

and multi-stakeholder partnerships with local and regional governments, inclusive and sustainable businesses can help to achieve this. Finally strong social, human rights and environmental safeguards are needed to ‘do no harm’ to people, communities or biodiversity, and no support for fossil fuels.

Advancing climate alliances in multilateral fora

The African Union includes many countries who are advancing global dialogue and momentum on climate action, including through the Climate Vulnerable Forum and individual commitments on ambition. To advance momentum toward COP26 and ‘the African COP27’ in 2022, the EU should seek to develop strategic alliances with the African Union and ambitious countries. Alliances should be based on commitments to equitable international policies and frameworks which build synergies between biodiversity, climate action and Agenda 2030. Climate commitments should support the Paris Agreement through joint commitments to ambition, adaptation, and finance, based on Common But Differentiated Responsibilities, the equity principle, commitments to rights-based approaches and gender responsiveness. Key to this, the EU should commit to enhance its ambition, through at least 65% emissions reductions by 2030, and to delivering on the \$100 billion annual climate finance goal from 2020 and significantly scaling up finance in following years, and achieve a balance between mitigation and adaptation finance. The EU should also commit to delivering loss and damage finance, to support people to deal with the increasing impacts of climate change across the African continent.

We see these as essential for the development of a resilient and future-orientated Partnership Strategy and we trust that you will take forward these considerations.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Wendel Trio', written over a horizontal line.

Wendel Trio
Director, Climate Action Network (CAN) Europe