**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**
28 OCTOBER 2021

**COP26: THE AFRICAN CLIMATE FOUNDATION URGES LEADERS TO PRIORITISE THE NEEDS OF THE WORLD’S MOST VULNERABLE**

*In a joint statement, the* [*African Climate Foundation*](https://africanclimatefoundation.org/) *(ACF) and the* [*Africa-Europe Foundation*](https://www.africaeuropefoundation.org/) *(AEF) urge world leaders to increase ambition and foster global cooperation on climate at the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference of Parties (*[*COP26*](https://ukcop26.org/)*).*

In a statement released a week prior to the much-anticipated climate conference in Glasgow, the ACF and AEF view the upcoming COP26 as a critical opportunity for the international community to draw lessons from the ongoing climate crisis and COVID-19 pandemic to prioritise the needs of the world’s most vulnerable people. As their work centres on greater socio-economic and climate resilience on the African continent, both foundations strongly support the African Group of Negotiators (AGN) in its call for greater emphasis to be placed on adaptation, loss and damage, and climate finance.

“We are encouraged by recent announcements by African leaders to take progressive and bold measures to respond to the objectives of the Paris Agreement. We recognise that while high-emitting African countries must work towards reducing emissions, international support is needed to minimise the transition risks inherent for developing economies. Importantly this necessitates an international climate and trade architecture that enables African countries to become producers and not just consumers of value-added low carbon technologies and products,” says executive directors, Saliem Fakir and Paul Walton.

To support their plea, the ACF is one of the official proud sponsors of the COP26 South Africa pavilion. Their rationale for supporting this platform is to ensure diverse participation by civil society and other non-state actors to raise African voices and ensure a strong civil society presence at the government pavilion.

In an effort to achieve this, the ACF in partnership with AEF will host a high-level hybrid debate on 5 November 2021 under the title *Reinforcing the Africa-Europe Climate Alliance: Looking Ahead to COP26 and onto COP27.* This COP26 side event, taking place at the South Africa Pavilion, will focus on strategically positioning the two continents on the international stage, hearing from an intergenerational panel of key voices to share their views on how to empower and accelerate the impact and reach of this partnership in the lead up to COP27 in Africa. This platform will furthermore allow civil society, business, governments, and emerging young leaders to exchange ideas and start working together to drive climate action and ensure human and economic development are encompassed in the lead up to the Africa COP.

“We believe that Africa’s potential to meaningfully contribute to lowering emissions, both current and future, will lie in its ability to catalyse economic diversification and enhance competitiveness through clean technologies,” state Fakir and Walton.

The statement is available for [download](https://africanclimatefoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/ACF_AEF-COP26-STATEMENT.-final.pdf). For regular news on COP26 and related side events visit [www.africanclimatefoundation.org](http://www.africanclimatefoundation.org). To secure interviews with leading experts in the field, contact the ACF Communications Coordinator - details below.

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