



Editor's Note, November 05, 2021

Wealthy countries must 'do more' to help Africa cope with the impact of climate change. This was the message from the continent's representatives during this week's COP26 gathering in Glasgow, Scotland.

The focal point is money.

Africa currently receives just 5% of global climate financing, and a 2009 pledge by rich countries to give developing economies \$100bn annually by 2020 to fund adaptation and mitigation efforts has been pushed back until at least 2023.

Not only must this be honoured according to leaders from the continent, but According to the African Group of Negotiators on Climate Change (AGN), the \$100bn figure needs to hit \$1.3tr annually by 2025 to make meaningful progress.

On what basis are rich countries expected to hand over this amount of money?

The basic argument is that the world has a moral obligation to Africa, having contributed the least to global emissions, while suffering most from climate change. Add to this the risk of its development being hamstrung by aggressive net-zero pledges and divestment from fossil fuels, it's simply unfair.

That's been the message from the likes of African Union Chair Félix Tshisekedi, who recently wrote that it's time for Africa 'to be compensated' for this inequity.

It's hard to argue with the moral reasoning behind this, but equally optimistic to expect rich countries to basically prioritise 'doing the right thing' over looking after their own interests.

Notwithstanding the obligatory rhetoric about helping developing countries, which has featured heavily in Glasgow this week, this sadly isn't the essence of international relations.

Whatever help trickles in from rich countries, the continent can't rely on moral arguments to meet its climate challenge. Meaningful action will come down to African-led initiatives, underpinned by better coordination among governments, and most importantly - effective implementation.

This week's Picks

From The Continent

Ethiopia this week declared a countrywide state of emergency, following reports that fighters belonging to the Tigray People's Liberation Front had made gains in a year-long civil conflict, and were planning to march on the capital Addis Ababa. This comes amid growing international concerns about instability in the country, which had been one of Africa's more promising economies before the hostilities started in November 2020. **More: [Al Jazeera](#)**

Sudan's military on Thursday said that the formation of a new government was 'imminent', following talks aimed at restoring a transitional government after a coup on October 25. The announcement comes amid intense international pressure to reinstate ousted prime minister Abdalla Hamdok. **More: [France 24](#)**

THE WEEKLY STAT

\$8,500,000,000

The amount South Africa will receive from the U.S., EU, and UK in a deal aimed at accelerating a planned shift away from coal. More: [Reuters](#)

The Global Perspective

The UN this week launched a new liquidity and sustainability facility (LSF), aimed at reducing borrowing costs for African governments. The move is part of efforts to curb soaring debt across the continent. **More:** [Financial Times](#)

The European Union (EU) has launched a two-year program to train Mozambique's military to counter an Islamic State linked insurgency in the country's north. Dating back to 2017, this has displaced over 800,000 people, and disrupted a \$20bn liquefied natural gas project led by France's Total. **More:** [Reuters](#)