

EU-US Development Dialogue

Road map on Climate Change 2010-2011

US – EU Summit mandate

The US-EU Summit mandate commits us to work together in developing countries of mutual interest on effective and efficient actions that operationalize the Copenhagen Accord. Our joint efforts will be aimed at assisting the selected developing countries to achieve tangible results in both adapting to climate change and also mitigating its effects. By cooperating fully in operationalizing the Accord, the US and EU will contribute to pointing the way forward for achieving a legally binding agreement in the future.

Policy Framework for US-EU Cooperation in Climate Change

Addressing climate change in development efforts is necessary to achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Success in addressing climate change will depend on the implementation of aid effectiveness principles; attention to gender equality and women's empowerment; and emphasis on low emissions development and economic growth.

Our work on climate change should support and enhance country-led processes. The US-EU Dialogue provides a forum in which to address issues as they arise and to identify specific actions that could be advanced more rapidly through increased coordination. There is a significant need for better communication and coordination on the ground. The Dialogue process will help fill this communication and transparency need. The Dialogue also offers our respective development agencies the opportunity to agree on and carry out actions on the ground that will have the greatest impacts on both addressing climate change in development and for advancing the international process towards a new legally binding agreement.

Support for developing country actions under the Copenhagen Accord will involve both multilateral and bilateral sources of public funds, and over the long term will require significant private finance, including through direct investment and carbon markets. This support will include technology research and transfer, and capacity and institution building. With the increased funding flows under the Accord, it will be necessary for developed countries to both coordinate efforts and to increase transparency about such efforts.

Priority Areas for Cooperation

With this framework in mind the ministerial EU-US High Level Consultative Group on Development has decided to concentrate our joint efforts in three priority areas:

1. **Adaptation:** increasing capacity to adapt by improving decision making, implementing priorities identified in countries' National Adaptation Programmes of

- Action, and supporting the strategic integration of climate resilience in development policies and programs.
2. **Reducing Emissions from deforestation:** increasing capacities to measure, report and verify forest carbon stocks and fluxes, increasing capabilities for incorporating climate change considerations into forest governance, management and planning, increasing transparency and coordination on the ground.
 3. **Low-emissions development strategies:** In a significant change, the Copenhagen Accord notes that low-emissions development strategies are “indispensable for sustainable development” – in contrast to previously held views that low-emissions development was anathema to sustainable development.

Proposed Joint Action at the Country Level:

1. Adaptation:

Adaptation has risen to the top of public and political attention, but effective implementation of adaptation is still rather amorphous due to location- and activity-specific needs and solutions. Addressing adaptation needs in developing countries will require better climate information for decision making, increased capacities at all levels of government, and work with stakeholders and communities for effective implementation. The US and EU will identify opportunities for collaboration in these three areas.

Specifically, we will work together, starting with a workshop, to develop means to monitor adaptation efforts that are useful in the field. Using transparent criteria, we will identify a set of partner countries in which to collaborate on building capacities in government institutions to effectively address adaptation in development. We will work together to implement ClimDev Africa, including through promoting dialogue between ClimDev and SERVIR. Initial efforts will focus on capacity and institution building. Our joint efforts will build upon and add value to the ongoing support for the Africa Climate Policy Center in Addis and the African Development Bank’s agreement with African Center for Meteorological Application for Development (ACMAD), the leading institution for the continental effort.

Initial outputs:

- Not later than June 2010, we will on the basis of transparent criteria have identified three developing countries for which we will jointly coordinate and complement our support for country-led adaptation activities.
- By October we will have co-hosted a workshop to discuss and assess field-level indicators for climate vulnerability as well as reflect on indicators for monitoring the impact of adaptation efforts in the targeted community.

2. Reducing Emissions from Deforestation (REDD+):

A significant area of progress under the Copenhagen Accord was the inclusion of REDD+ (formerly excluded from the Kyoto Protocol mechanisms). Significant capacity building in forest management and policy reform, as well as technical assistance to estimate and report changes in carbon stocks and emissions will be needed for countries to reduce emissions or increase sequestration in a verifiable manner. Specifically, the US and EU will work together to address the significant need, and resulting opportunity, to facilitate REDD+ by assisting countries to produce transparent greenhouse gas (GHG) land use inventories. This would involve the application of appropriate technologies and systems to reduce the cost and increase the reliability of land cover data and forest inventories. The US and EU, together with other partners, will review the methodological guidance proposed within international climate change discussions, with a view to agree on an approach or approaches to assist developing countries to build capacity to accurately measure and monitor land use emissions and removals. Once a general approach that could be tailored for individual countries has been agreed on, the US, the EU and other partners will work towards a division of labor for systematically collaborating on piloting and evaluation of these methods in selected developing countries. US-EU activities will be coordinated with and add value to numerous ongoing REDD+ related activities, including the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility, the Forest Investment Program, and UN-REDD.

Initial output:

- Not later than June 2010, we will identify, using transparent criteria, up to three countries for which the EU and the US will jointly coordinate and complement our support for REDD+ activities.

3. Low-emissions development strategies:

The Copenhagen Accord's endorsement of low-emissions development strategies is significant; developed countries share a common interest in supporting ambitious and actionable, country-owned strategies. Developed countries will need to provide technical and analytic support to countries for the development and implementation of ambitious and analytically rigorous low emission development strategies (LEDS). Designed and led by partner countries, these strategies will catalyze cooperative public and private action to support the transition to low carbon economic development resulting in sustained growth in employment and investment, increased financial flows through carbon markets, reduced GHG emissions, and other social, economic, and environmental benefits.

Initial output:

- Not later than June 2010, the EU and the US will coordinate and complement our support for LEDS activities in up to up to three developing countries. The choice of countries will be based on transparent criteria and methodology and expression of interest from those countries.

The ministerial EU-US High Level Consultative Group on Development (HLCGD) has decided to delegate follow-up to a joint EU-US Senior Level Working Group... A technical level working group will develop a Joint Work Plan for country level collaboration for consideration by the Senior Level working Group. The EU-US technical level working group on climate change will review progress achieved and will advise the Senior Level Working Group on a Quarterly basis. The Senior Level Working Group will meet twice before the next HLCGD in 2011 with their first meeting in June 2010.

Through the upcoming year we will meet on the margins of key international meetings, including but not limited to the following, to oversee our joint activities and further coordinate our efforts in climate change:

- Commission on Sustainable Development – 3-14 May 2010; or the First meeting of the Preparatory Committee to the Rio+20 Conference, 17-19 May 2010
- G20 summit, June 26-27, 2010, Muskoka, Toronto
- COP-16, 29 Nov - 10 Dec 2010