The 12th session of the Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development

Item 5 of the Provisional Agenda
Implementation of the Mandate and Programme of Work –
Consideration of Thematic Studies
Palais des Nations, Room XVI, Geneva

Climate finance: vulnerability and responsibility

Monday 27 October 2025, 15:00–16:00

Transcript of statement by Mr. Raphael Danglade,
Africa-Europe Foundation

Please check against delivery

My name is Raphael Danglade. I lead the work of the Africa-Europe Foundation on climate and development, and I'm very pleased today to address this audience in the context of this meeting in Geneva. As I start my remark, I'd like to thank you first for the opportunity to contribute with some key message on behalf of the Africa-Europe Foundation.

Africa and Europe agree that climate change is a defining global challenge of our time, threatening lives, ecosystems, and economic stability worldwide. It poses profound challenges to human rights and the right to development. In this context, Africa plays a pivotal role in the global climate response, with communities and ecosystems being on the front line of climate impacts and solutions. Europe, responsible of 25% of historical emissions and 6% of today's annual emissions, has a responsibility to address it, contributing with solutions, voluntary or compliance based, as well as to provide climate finance to the developing world.

As the two continents move towards COP30 and the 7th AU–EU Heads of State Summit to take place in Luanda, Angola, both have a role to play in advancing a new vision, a vision geared towards shared prosperity, competitive interdependence and climate positive growth. The shared Africa-Europe vision must ensure Africa is not a passive supplier of cheap credits, but a direct contributor of high quality, high integrity carbon credits at a fair price. Building on latest development in the context of the Africa-Europe Partnership, it is important to remember the adoption of Article 6 in the context of COP29, as well as the opportunity this represents to build a solid carbon market infrastructure that benefits both society, the environment and the economy. It is important to build on latest developments, including from COP29 on Article 4, to ensure the two continents can trade carbon on fairer terms. Through this process, try to build a solid carbon market infrastructure that benefits the whole of society and environmental approach. The possible inclusion of carbon trading within the forthcoming EU NDC to be adopted in the next days should provide a political signal to African nations. But beyond the political signal, Africa needs true demand to invest in its own carbon market infrastructure. As one look towards the next chapter of cooperation between Europe and Africa, one can expect carbon pricing to also play a critical role. Instead of relying on voluntary carbon markets alone, why not considering establishing compliance-based system to collect revenues from high polling sectors?

As a reminder, not only the EU has the right to do so, and despite the emergence of compliance scheme in a number of countries such as Turkey and India, Africa remains poorly visible beyond South Africa. It is time to expand the scope of cooperation on carbon markets and pricing between the two continents.

Building on latest developments, this includes Article 6 cooperation under the UNFCCC process, EU NDC and plausible carbon trading by 2036 carbon pricing action and diplomacy through the EU

global climate and energy vision. In that context, the task force that the EU has established could play a great role in ensuring cooperation expands to Africa, and lessons can be shared to ensure the African continent do not miss the second wave of the carbon markets economy. This task force on carbon pricing and market diplomacy has a role to play in supporting existing initiatives, such as the Coalition to Grow Carbon Markets, to which a number of African governments are members but the EU is absent.

As one look to expands cooperation on fairer terms, it is important to recognize the work of AUDA-NEPAD, the African Union Development Agency, in developing the African integrity and equity principles for carbon markets, setting a new benchmark as Africa's gold standard to ensure that carbon markets in Africa are fair, credible, impactful, and that African countries are willing to engage in better terms. With COP30 and the 7th AU–EU Heads of State Summit approaching, the following opportunities could prove useful in advancing the Africa-Europe Partnership on carbon markets and pricing.

First, it is important for the EU to clarify and provide EU demand signals, defining eligible sectors, volumes and quality threshold for carbon credits under its forthcoming EU NDC, support Africa's institutional readiness, investing in national registries, legal frameworks and technical capacity to enable sovereign participation, advanced Article 6.4 cooperation, co-developing implementation strategies with African partners, emphasizing transparency and governance, aligning standards with equity, balancing ambition with inclusivity, to exclude and to avoid excluding African countries, and champion benefit sharing by embedding fair pricing participatory governance in market design. Finally, it is important to build trust and transparency as well as to build fair market design, defining and implementing standards that ensure African countries benefit fairly from high integrity credits.

To conclude, a deepened Africa-Europe cooperation on carbon markets and pricing is a strategic opportunity, but not without risks. If anchored in equity, integrity, and shared ownership, it can unlock climate finance at scale while empowering African countries as rule shapers, not just credit suppliers. We need clear signals. Human cantered development, transparency, equality, sustainability, pragmatic design and trust building must now guide the path towards COP30 and the future of Africa-Europe cooperation.

Thank you very much for listening in, and I look forward to next steps together with you.

* * * * *