



## Press Release: The United States releases statement to African Union endorsing the Africa Adaptation Initiative

**February 9, 2019**

The United States has endorsed the Africa Adaptation Initiative (AAI) in a statement to the African Union's (AU) Peace and Security Council Open Session. Speaking at the Session on February 9, 2019, the spokesperson representing the US said that:

***“The United States recognizes the African Union, as the leading regional organization on the continent, has a significant role to play in advancing climate adaptation efforts. We applaud the AU and member states for their ownership of the Africa Adaptation Initiative”.***

Describing the challenges of extreme weather and natural disasters, the US recognised that:

*“Many of our nations have suffered some form of extreme weather or natural disaster in recent years, from hurricanes to tsunamis to droughts. They lead tragically to loss of life, destruction of property, and displacement of citizens. Secondary impacts, from food insecurity to disease outbreaks, are often even more devastating.*

The US acknowledged the particular challenges faced by African countries as a result of climate-related events:

*While weather disasters do not discriminate based on GDP, developing nations are often hit the hardest economically, exacerbating vulnerabilities and instability. Changing weather patterns have intensified food and water insecurity in many African nations”.*

Finally, the US committed to invest in, and partner with, African countries to respond to the climate challenge through resilience building:

*The United States is committed to investing in Africa, supporting access to cleaner and more efficient energy sources, sustainable land use practices, and other activities that contribute to resilience. We encourage and stand ready to partner with AU member states to invest in measures that make your countries more resilient, such as adopting innovative technologies that strengthen food security, bring access to cleaner and more efficient energy sources, and respond to natural disasters. Together we must transform our development model to build resilience, the cornerstone of peace and security.*

*Read the statement in full here: <https://www.usau.usmission.gov/statement-by-the-united-states-to-the-peace-and-security-council-open-session-climate-change-funding-in-line-with-the-africa-adaptation-initiative/>*