

**ACTSA Press Release**  
**Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2009**

**ACTSA calls on northern countries to meet South Africa's request on Climate Change.**

On 6th December South Africa stated it was willing to commit to lowering its carbon emissions by 42 per cent in the next 15 years. The announcement was made at the beginning of the Copenhagen climate change conference.

Although South Africa is a low emitter of carbon in comparison with many developed countries, it is, as the largest economy in Africa and with considerable coal reserves, the largest emitter of carbon in Africa. South Africa is however attempting to reduce its reliance on coal fuelled power stations whilst ensuring it prioritises energy access and security.

South Africa stated it is willing to lower its carbon emissions by 34 per cent below current levels by 2020 and then by 42 per cent by 2025. This is conditional on a fair and effective agreement as well as financial and technological support for both adaptation and mitigation strategies.

Southern Africa contributes little to climate change but suffers disproportionately from its effects. It is one of the most vulnerable regions to the negative effects of climate change and faces great challenges to sufficiently respond in both its rural communities and urban centres. Recent droughts and flooding have demonstrated the region's vulnerability to food and water insecurity, health consequences, migration and displacement.

ACTSA is campaigning for the establishment of a sizeable new fund to support developing countries with the adaptation and mitigation strategies determined by developing countries. The fund should be additional to current international development assistance and financed by developed countries, since they bear the historical responsibility for the causes of climate change- man made rapid global warming.

On Friday 4th December ACTSA presented hundreds of postcards to 10 Downing Street calling on the Prime Minister to push for an effective and equitable agreement on climate change, which addresses its causes but does not limit the ability of southern Africa countries to reduce poverty and gross inequality and support the establishment of a fund to support developing countries mitigate the causes of climate change and deal with its consequences.

On Saturday, 5th December ACTSA supporters joined tens of thousands of people on the streets of London and Glasgow as part of the Wave, the largest climate change demonstration that Britain has ever seen.

Tony Dykes, Director of ACTSA said "South Africa with the great challenges it has in reducing poverty and inequality has shown real leadership on climate change. South Africa's initiative must be matched by a commitment from developed countries to the action and funding needed to make this a reality. Southern Africa is already feeling the effects of climate change and it is vital that its concerns are listened to and acted on in Copenhagen."